



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Monday 9th December at 6pm**

Present:

Andrew Wakely (Tennis Chairman)
Lorna Bhasin
Lily Brown
Oli Golding
Emily Monson
Howard Spence
Nick Yates
Sandra Drum

In Attendance:

Dan Lott (Racquets Director)
Nik Snapes (Tennis Manager)
Paul Lindsay (Racquets Manager)
Peter Bradburn (Course and Grounds Manager)

1. **Apologies:** Mark Young, John Sinik and Marc Newey

2. **Minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes of the AGM held on the 2nd October 2024 were discussed and approved.

AW welcomed Oli Golding and Emily Monson to the TC and Sandra Drum as a padel tennis representative.

3. **Reports**

Course and Grounds (PB)

All courts and surfaces are fine and performing well. It's not been as wet as in previous years which has helped.

Courts 7 – 10 Proflex Surface

Had some problems with the air handling unit. The main issue has been fixed but we are not happy with some elements of the system still. Reillo are coming in to fix any problems.

Courts 12 to 14 Poraflex Surface.

Some of the seams need attention which shall be done while the bubble is up. The airhall handling unit is working well but the back up generator is not kicking in when it should, so Chris Hughes is in process of resolving the issue.

HS asked if members were supposed to sweep the smash courts after play. AW stated this should be happening and signs are up asking members to do it. It was suggested that we put signs up on the inside of the courts that will remind members to sweep the courts on their way out.

Action – DL to arrange signs for the inside of smash courts.

Padel and Pickleball Hub Update

- Tim Freeman (Trevor May Ltd)) has drawn up the 5 padel court plan that would sit on the same area of 3 tennis courts and showed us visuals of what the canopy roof would look like when it covers 3 of the courts.
- There are now 2 areas being looked at for the padel courts – courts 12 – 14 and courts 25 - 28.

Courts 12 – 24

- The working group are looking to put 5 padel courts on this area with a canopy roof for 3 of the courts padel courts. This allows a spectator and events area within the space.
- Using courts 12-14 for padel would depend on getting an airhall over courts 4-6 so we can have 10 indoor courts all together in a row in the winter.
- Tim Freeman has measured the area on courts 4-6 and reported that it would be very difficult to put an airhall in this area due to smaller runs offs and with the path narrowing as it leads closer to the ITC it would be difficult to add another air handling unit.
- To replace the 3 covered courts on 12-14 we would then look at if its possible to have a 7 court airhall over courts 4 – 10 (this would help solve the issue above). This would give us 7 seasonal indoor courts in a row. The advantage red surface would need to be changed as its not possible to have this under an airhall.
- We would then replace the 3 lost tennis courts by turning 3 grass courts into advantage red courts with floodlights. This would probably be on courts 25 – 28. If we used the other block of grass courts (19 – 21) we would not be able to get floodlights due to planning restraints plus considerable opposition to playing on the courts all year round.
- All the above would be more costly and each aspect of the project would depend on various planning decisions going our way.

Courts 25 -28

- Due to the complexities and rising costs of the plans above we have revisited the idea of putting padel on courts 25-28.
- This was the original idea; We know the planners will not allow us to cover the whole area (originally, we proposed 1 large canopy covering 5 padel courts and 4 pickleball courts). However, as we would only be looking to cover 3 padel courts out of the 5 our planning consultants (LUC) feel it is worth revisiting this idea.
- This would be much simpler in terms of planning as we would only require one decision.
- It would also be a lot cheaper and a lot faster in terms of completing the project.
- It keeps padel and potentially pickleball (in the future) further away from other sports so less noise impacting other areas of the club.

- It would also allow us to potentially go ahead with the 7 court airhall (over courts 4 – 10) in the future. This would give the tennis section another 3 indoor courts in the winter. We would upscale the airhall to a double skin that could be heated with an air or ground source heat pump.

Action - There will be a pre planning meeting in January/February that will investigate the options that are viable from a planning perspective. This will be discussed with the padel/pickleball working group. Once we have a firm plan of what is possible with associated costs involved it will be presented to the TC and then the Membership.

Racquets Directors Diary – Dec 2024

Airhalls

The airhalls went up on the first week of half term. Chris Hughes and his team did a great job doing having the courts in play ready for the 2nd half of the term. We have had some more issues with the air handling unit in airhall 2. However, Chris is monitoring this and has spoken to the company who deals with this to check the system and fix any potential issues.

Courts 15-18

I have had various feedback from members asking if we can leave the side gates on courts 16 and 17 open so they can enter the courts through them. These gates were only ever for maintenance access therefore we have asked Tim Freeman to put doors at the end of the courts so each court will be accessible with a gate at the back of the courts on the southside.

Indoor Court Booking Time Slots

It's been proposed that some indoor courts at weekend peak times should be limited to 60 minutes as a maximum booking time. For example, on a Saturday morning courts 12-14 in airhall 1 could be set to 60 minutes instead of 90 minutes from 9am to 1pm. This would allow more booking slots for members. Committee to discuss in meeting.

Coach ed day Thursday 5th December

Simon Wheatley will be delivering a Coach Education Session on Thursday, 5th December. This will be a valuable opportunity for professional development, and all coaches are asked to attend. In addition, there will be a Parents' Evening at 6:00pm. This session is specifically for parents of junior competitors and provides crucial information to help them support their children's tennis journey.

I have also organised a tennis clinic with 12 ladies in the morning to run with Simon.

Coach Rates Update – Effective January 2025

Following a thorough benchmarking process over the past month, I proposed to the Tennis Committee that our coaching rates be reviewed and adjusted. The Committee has agreed on a rate increase, which will take effect from **1st January 2025**.

This adjustment reflects our commitment to ensuring our rates remain competitive with other clubs while recognising the value and quality of coaching provided at Roehampton club.

Number of Players Level 3 Coach Level 4 Coach Level 5 Coach

1 or 2	£55	£60	£65
3	£20	£22	£24
4	£16	£18	£20
5	£14	£15	£17

For coaches to be able to take bookings from January 2025 I will make these changes on the booking system on 20th December so the updated rates can be charged. Information regarding the rate change will be sent out in the next recorder.

Padel and Pickleball Hub

Update in meeting.

Tennis Programme

The adult tennis programme is again continuing to expand with 6 LiveBall sessions a week that are fully booked. We are also running pay and plays, cardio and adult beginner sessions. I have also organised a Xmas LiveBall special with 21 members signed up on the 17th December. This will involve 90 mins of LiveBall over 3 courts and then Xmas drinks in the bar.

I continue to organise one off clinics and courses that remain popular with the adult members. I have had requests to do more of these in the evenings and at weekends to cater for members who work in the day. So, I will continue to add this to the programme over the Winter term.

Meanwhile, our junior program is close to full capacity. Nik has put together all the renewals for the winter term and these will be sent out on Monday 2nd December along with the health club and golf activities for next year. We have also asked all coaches to send an email to the groups they coach to outline what they have been working on the past term to improve the communication between the coach and the parents.

We have also put together some junior socials that will be open to all junior members. So far these have not been well attended. However, I have planned a parent and child Christmas event on the 8th December that seems to be popular so far.

Pickleball

England - European Champions!

Over the weekend, Member, James Chaudry and Golf and Games Manager, Louis Laville, were a part of the England Team, representing the country in the European Championships in a team of 12.

Mixed Doubles took place on the Saturday and England played unbelievably well all day to go unbeaten in both Open and Senior Open to win 2 Mixed Doubles Golds. This put England in a strong position but still had work to do on Sunday in Gender Doubles. The team pulled through on Sunday, and despite not winning a gold on the Sunday, all four divisions won silver. The only team to make it to every Final, gave England enough points to win the European Championships.

A huge congratulations to the team, the support from Roehampton Club Members throughout the weekend was fantastic!

If you want to watch some of the pickleball back, please click below:

MIXED DOUBLES: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuJqnSVSGWs>

GENDER DOUBLES: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT0-OEEBDIc&t=35288s>

Team England:

Open Women: MOli Knaggs, Thaddea Lock & Molly O'Donoghue.

Open Men: James Chaudry, Peter Hitchman & Louis Laville.

Senior Women: Marcia Audibert, Anna Linton & Julie McCauley.

Senior Men: Lee Harper, Richard Love & David Youngs.

Coaches: Sam Basford & Rob Williams

Team Manager: Elaine Shallcross.

We are hugely excited to be able to watch the European Champions in action at Roehampton Club in January for the [Premier Pickleball League](#), taking place on the 4-5 January.

Please see information regarding the event and how to be a part of it below:

Friday 3rd January

- Member Social – Play in with PPL Players - [Click Here To Sign Up](#)

Saturday 4th January

1. Challenger and Masters (50+) divisions - includes Roehampton Club Members, Sue Burns and Carolyn Laville
2. Pro Exhibition Matches, featuring all National and European Champions!
3. Curry to follow the exhibition matches - [Click Here To Sign Up](#)

Sunday 5th January

1. Pro Pickleball Clinics hosted by National and European Champions, Thaddea Lock, James Chaudry and MOli Knaggs - [Click Here To Sign Up](#)
2. Premier Pickleball League Premier Division - watch the top players in the Country and Europe battle it out!
3. Pickleball courts for a social festival throughout the day - [Click Here To Sign Up](#)

Tennis Termly Update (NS)

Juniors

Tournament Successes

- Lucas Ebert for winning 2 back-to-back 18&U ITF double titles in Lithuania
- Matthew Ground for picking up his first 18&U ITF ranking points
- Tommy Gabor for winning 11&U National Championships.
- Well done to William Czyzyk, Theia Tong, Jaspar Karim-Brown, Beatrice Robson, Lola Brown, Juan Solari & Nicholas Ellinghorst who have won county & Regional events.

National Representation

- Hannah Klugman for representing Great Britain in the junior Billie Jean Cup.
- Lola Brown & Tommy Gabor who represented England in October in the 12&U category.

County Representation

- Matthew Ground & Martha Ground who played adult county cup along with Holly Dulieu who all came out of the mini red tennis programme.
- Samuel Riley, Tommy Gabor, Beatrice Robson & Lola Brown for being in the Surrey/Middlesex County Cup junior teams.
- Henryk McWilliam, Geordie MacLean, Rafa Corbett, Hugo Moran, Achille Andretta, Jemima Barket & Beatrice Czyzyk who have all been selected for the Surrey County 8&U Squad.

Adults

Tournament Successes

- Men's 1st Team for becoming National Champions in September
- To Men's 55 & Men's 30 Teams who have made National Championships Final.
- Henry Patten- Who won an ATP 250 and made semifinals of the ATP Tour finals finishing the year world number 14.

- Lloyd Glasspool- Who won ATP 500 in Tokyo
- Anton Matusевич- Winning ITF Pro-Series moving up to 388 ATP
- Oliver Bonding & Ben Gusic-Wan who achieved their first ATP points at 17 years old.
- Will update on seniors ITF achievements in December

National Representation

- Henry Patten for representing GB in Davis Cup
- Joe Salisbury for being selected for the GB United Cup
- Alex Ward for being named as the GB United Cup Captain

County Representation

- Ben Gusic-Wan, Matt Short, Nicholas Brookes, Matthew Ground, Ruaridh Fraser, Ryan Storrie, Martha Ground, Johnny Binding, George Houghton, Rob Leck, Harry Lazzel, Georgie Axon Mason Dace, Holly Dulieu & Rosie Speed. All represented their counties at the winter county cup.

Padel Report (PL)

The Padel programme continues to remain very active.

With the likelihood of two courts for 2025 PL had circulated some considerations/suggestions for the programme to NY, SD, AW and DL.

There were no real comments at the Tennis Annual Meeting, apart from more courts from the Membership. The message of knowing we need more courts to accommodate all play within Padel and increased offering seems to be communicated well to Members.

PL has spoken to numerous members who understand the situation when explained to them.

Short term, with winter weather, the programme remains the same for Jan to March 2025.

Come March/April programme PL will look to introduce more social opportunities with 1 off Americanos, Parent and Child events.

The option of another Pay & Play with Chris to be considered too as the O60s is well subscribed so could be option for mid-morning general offer of P&P.

Men's Team Training on Friday with 2 courts will look to be organised fortnightly after Easter with Chris organising. This will help with players wanting to improve, team selection and commitment.

The Women's Team Training will remain on Wednesday lunchtime, 2 courts, and with 1 court in the evening (occasionally 2).

Court maintenance – the courts, weather allowing, are being hand brushed at least once a week.

Some more sand was added with the covered court on 21 Nov but the wet conditions have meant the open court will have to wait for more sand.

PL is conscious to be more cautious this winter when frost is on the surface and to make sure the courts are fully playable so to avoid injury and damage to the court pile with play in slightly frosty conditions.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

December 2024

A.O.B

Indoor court booking time slots

It was requested by a member that the indoor booking time slots at weekends should be looked at. It was proposed that in one of the indoor centres/airhall the booking time slots should be changed to a maximum of 60 minutes instead of 90 minutes. For example, at the weekend from 7am to 1pm the maximum time members could book would be 60 minutes. Then from 1pm they could book 90 minutes as usual.

The TC discussed this and voted to keep the current system for the moment.

125 Celebration Ideas

The TC discussed tennis ideas for the 125 celebrations in 2026. Ideas discussed are as below:

- 1901 Tournament – members would dress in tennis clothes from this era and use the wooden rackets etc.
- 125-year team competition – teams of 4 with the ages having to add up to 125.
- CTC Tournament – Invite other CTC clubs (that are all over 100 years old) and play an event at the club with a dinner after.
- Historical Speaker – to talk about tennis, players, tournament, Roehampton.

Action - MY from the 125-committee representative will gather all ideas so they can decide on what events to run.

Number of courts allocated for coaching and events

This was discussed and DL explained this provision is the right balance and the provision for coaching etc will not be increased in 2025. The coaching courts are restricted to using one indoor centre. Sometimes we switch it from airhall 1 to 2 depending on demand in busy times.

The meeting ended at 7:45pm.

Date of next meeting TBC.