

FAMILY FORUM MEETING

10th January 2025 at 1.30pm in the Art Studio

- Forum: Joy Stevens, Oliver Milton, Colin Hector and Marie-Laure Parker
- Online: Susie Hock and Esther Van De Pette
- In attendance: Simon Baker, Ana Leal, Dan Lott and Carolyn Ward (minutes)
- Apologies: Ricky Pharo, Amber Dupont-Liot, Stuart Reeks, Debora Drago, Simon Baker, Tim Greenwell, Alyssa Penwell and Marc Newey

Apologies were noted.

MLP introduced herself to the group and the Forum members then gave a quick introduction before the meeting started.

1. Minutes from previous meeting to be approved and noted

Minutes of 4th October 2024 were approved.

2. Review Action Summary Table

Oct24/01: OM to send a picture of the dome to MN so he can investigate if this is possible to purchase, to be erected as a temporary thing – Complete.

It was noted that the Dome has been purchased but this will not be erected until there is warmer weather when the ground is a lot softer.

Oct24/02: SR to email the school again, copying in the Bursar, Marc Newey and Simon Baker – In Progress.

Simon informed the Forum that he has not had any update and will speak to Stuart to chase this up.

Action JAN25/01: SB to speak to Stuart about the Climbing Wall at the School.

OM asked Ana if there was any way that someone from Roehampton could be trained so they were not reliant on the school to provide the supervision.

Action JAN25/02: AL to investigate the possibility of getting someone trained, possibly Peter.

Oct24/03: Event to be highlighted in the Recorder.

Matt had sent something out 7th January to IG members, but it was noted that some of the Family Forum members had not received the email.

Action JAN25/03: SB to speak to Matt to see who he sent the email to and forward to the Family Forum members.

Oct24/04: AL asked the Forum if they could help advertise – Complete.

Oct24/05: AL to explore the possibility of having a ½ day camp combined with tutoring – Complete.

It was noted that this hadn't really worked.

Oct24/06: AL to keep occupancy numbers under review for Parent & Baby Yoga Classes – Complete.

Oct24/07: SR to encourage Reception to give out the timetables to members – Complete.

The Family Forum discussed the possibility of having other Junior activities added such as Gym times, Golf and Float Session dates.

Action JAN25/04: SB to speak to Helen Bolt about producing a double-sided leaflet that could be produced every term time. Something that can be stuck one fridge for ease of reference.

EVDP asked if there could be an add to Calendar button so when you sign up to something it automatically goes in your calendar.

Action JAN25/05: OM to speak to the Membership Committee.

Oct24/08: MN to speak to Daniella to see if she can add the Golf and Tennis monthly events to the Activities poster – In progress.

CW advised that she had spoken to Daniella and Helen had asked Matt to forward any Junior events. JS also asked about other Junior events like free table tennis with Joh Paish.

Oct24/09: DD to look for an alternative magician for Fireworks night – outstanding.

Oct24/10: SR to purchase Reaction Pads through the Capex system – Complete.

Oct24/11: AL / PB to finalise a date for the Garden workshop. Action to be Removed.

Oct24/12: CW to send 125 minutes to the Family Forum members – Complete.

3. Update

3.1 Golf

SB gave a quick update on behalf of RP.

- The junior Academy starts this weekend we have 12 hours of coaching every weekend and 80 Junior signed up.

- Matt and I are working on the cadet schedule which hopefully will be finalised next week with monthly competitions, coaching and also looking to offer more in the holidays. There will be a mix of Saturdays and Sundays as well as 18 and nine holes.
- There are also five family events planned with similar structure to last year.

EVDP asked if there was any clubs that her children could borrow and it was noted that Ricky does have old kit available.

Family Forum discussed about Juniors getting on the Golf Course before 1pm and CH stated that because of the Handicap rule this was not going to be possible if Juniors were under 18 and did not have a handicap below 23. Mid Surrey Golf Club do not have this rule.

SB informed the Forum that the Golf Sub-Committee Group were looking at tee times and the flow of play.

JS asked if it would be possible for there to be shorter tees for Juniors and those wanting a shorter game.

Action JAN25/06: SB to ask the Golf Committee if Shorter Tees would be possible.

3.2 Health Club

High Performance Parenting Workshop - It was noted that there were 11 attendees.

Swim Gala - The next one will take place in May.

EVDP asked why 11 – 14-year-olds were not participating in Galas. JS thought it is hard to keep kids involved in sport once they go to secondary school.

CH asked Ana why his 16-year-old was not allowed to compete as an adult and AL explained that they had allowed this previously but had changed the rules for fairness.

JS asked if there could be more of a competitiveness around tennis and swimming.

DL explained that there is massive interest from under 8s, but they lose people as they get older. DL thought that people who do all sports were rare.

Family Forum discussed the possibility of having a multisport event, perhaps with Hurlingham or Foxhill, start as an interclub thing to gauge interest at the start.

DL explained that they do run competitions in the winter for different age groups, but they need to have at least 4 players and would probably need 5 or 6 in the team.

Action JAN25/07: DL to speak to Nik to see if another team can be added.

JS asked if there could be an end of term competition and DL stated that they are doing this within the groups during term time but families go away at the end of term so difficult to organise. DL suggested that Families who have children that want to compete more that they visit other competitive sports specific clubs.

Action JAN25/08: DL to share the list of Clubs where Juniors can compete.

Boys under 10 not amazing at Tennis, only concentrate when they compete.

OM asked if they could run multiple sports that were fun against another club, DL thought that in reality they would not get anyone to sign up.

Parent & Baby Yoga Classes – the format has been changed and now the classes are full.

Monkey Music Workshop – they will be doing this again.

AL informed the forum that they will be introducing hip hop this year.

Free classes – OM suggested that people who sign up where there is a free class and do not then show up should pay a penalty for a no-show such as £5 but maybe after a warning first.

Action JAN25/09: Please can someone respond to this.

Prospective Members – it was discussed if events were low on numbers if prospective members could be invited, at the moment they do ask guests for some events but consider including things like the High-Performance parenting talk

In March they will be running the Family Spinathon,

Outdoor Gym – this will be going out on the Lime Tree lawn in March with supervised sessions for Family and Juniors.

EVDP asked if there was a play pen in the mens changing room and it was noted that there wasn't one due to lack of space. The Forum discussed the possibility of having a Family changing room when the Health Club is extended. It was noted that the room by the Sauna is not just a disabled toilet, and they are refurbishing the room by reception with more lockers going in there.

Action JAN25/10: Advertise the rooms, put sign on the door, Family Forum members to look at these rooms for comments/feedback.

CH asked if they could run a Hockey Club.

Action JAN25/11: AL to investigate if a Hockey Club was possible.

Rookie Lifeguards – JS asked if the training course could be run at the Club. SB informed the forum that he has spoken to Stuart about this and they are really looking for full time lifeguards as they have a big bank of casual lifeguards but it is hard for them to commit. Cannot do anything until the Summer. If they have spaces on the course, they could extend the invitation to junior members.

Action JAN25/12: AL to review if the Club would put on RLSS courses to train over 16s (paid for courses).

3.3 Rackets Sports

DL gave a quick update:

- Airhall are up meaning most of the junior groups coaching programme will take place inside.
- Junior groups mostly full for winter term. Parent and child and under 5 tuition very popular.
- Parent and child tournament for Christmas with 6 families.
- Padel and pickleball hub still waiting for a decision on future plans.
- Leader's course looking to run another one in 2025. It was noted that once qualified they can assist with Junior matches as a tennis assistant, to qualify you need to be aged between 14 – 18.

EVDP asked how the Junior Pathway worked, and DL explained that they have different squads; Development, Competition and Selective for different age groups and depending on their level of play would determine which group they were put in.

3.4 Social update

In Debora's absence, JS asked the Forum what their view was on having more engaging events for Families:

The aim is to host more engaging events for families, and the event team would like to propose a trip to the theatre for families and their little ones to enjoy a child-friendly musical. This event would mirror the structure of our opera trips, where we arrange a coach to pick families up from the club and return them afterward, with transportation costs included in the ticket price.

We could schedule this event for Friday evenings, providing a safe and convenient way for families to enjoy a delightful musical night without worrying about transportation. Alternatively, the team could organize it during weekends for lunchtime performances.

It was noted that the Forum would prefer a weekend matinee and would also be interested in visits to Museums and walkabouts, but cost would be a factor.

Magic Carvery – Forum asked if the current Magicians could be replaced or if they could change their acts.

Action JAN25/13: OM to speak to Nikki Clark about either getting new magicians or the current ones changing their act.

4. Items for discussion

Ideas for 125 Anniversary

- AL is organising an Interclub Swimming Gala.
- Health Club is planning a party.
- Producing a booklet for Adults and Children where they get a stamp for activities they attend, a point system with prizes.
- Family Day planned on the Sunday. OM mentioned that he knew a good Punch and Judy person.
- Family Forum mentioned that they would like an evening event for Families, perhaps a BBQ.
- CTC competition to take place for Adults and Juniors.
- Team Racquets event – where the member ages add up to 125.

Action JAN25/14: Any 125 ideas to be emailed to JS.

5. AOB

OM asked the Forum what their view was with regards to what was an appropriate age limit for when the new members bar was reopened. OM asked if they thought Children 10+ years should only be allowed in the bar area until 8pm and if 12 and over Children should be allowed in the bar at any time.

It was noted that currently only over 18-year-olds were allowed in the bar under club rules.

DL thought that members would want to eat in the Café with their families rather than go to the Bar.

EVDP commented that she would like under 10s to be allowed in the Bar area so she could be there as a family.

Action JAN25/15: JS to feedback comments to House Committee.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2nd May 2025, 10am – 12pm.