



**Padel and Pickleball Hub Working Group  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Bridge Room  
2pm – 4pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Marc Newey	Chief Executive
	Michael Hill	Board Chair
	Andrew Wakely	Tennis Committee Chair
	Lorna Bhasin	Tennis Committee
	Joy Stevens	Family Forum Chair
	Nick Yates	Padel Representative
	Serena Norgren	Pickleball Representative
	Tim Freeman	Trevor May Contractors
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Carolyn Ward	Executive PA (minutes)
	Louis Laville	Golf and Games Manager (Pickleball)
	Dan Lott	Racquets Director
	Stuart Reeks	Health Club Manager
	Simon Baker	General Manager
<b>On-Line:</b>	Charlotte Codd (LUC).	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Paul Lindsay, Nick Bunn, Fred Warneryd and Colin Hector	

## **1) Welcome and Apologies**

*MN introduced Serena to the group who was joining to represent Pickleball as a replacement for Louis who is due to leave the Club. Quick introductions were made by the rest of the group and what sections they were representing including Tim Freeman from Trevor May Contractors and Charlotte Codd from LUC.*

MN informed the group that they are at the stage where they would like to speak formally to the Planners with proposals and the purpose of the meeting was to look at the different options in depth that Tim had been charged with exploring.

## **2) Minutes and matters arising – 18/9/24**

*The last set of minutes were not reviewed, and the actions have now been superseded by decisions made at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.*

### 3) New Schemes update

*Drawings were shared on the screen so the different options could be presented by TF and discussed by the group.*

*Location 1 – Courts 25 – 28*

*Location 2 – Courts 12 – 14*

*Location 3 – Courts 4 – 6*

It was noted that the preferred option would be to have 5 padel courts, with three being covered and two open.

AW asked why the Club thought we would get permission for covers as thought this had been discounted before?

MN explained that the current planning officer who unfortunately is non-sporting was at first totally against any sort of covering, especially retractable roofs but was now more open to the idea of having a permanent roof cover but not all the courts covered and had last time muted the idea of an Airhall being a possibility. In order to have any permission granted the Club would need to show VSC (very special circumstances) on how they were increasing community activities on site linking up to local schools.

The group discussed if the better location would be Courts 12 – 14 as no one would be overlooking the courts, the trees would absorb the noise and though it was noted that this could be a good solution there was the possibility that they would then lose Airhall 1 and three indoor courts in winter.

TF advised that if you weren't to lose three indoor courts then the only possibility would be to use Courts 4 – 6- to do this you would need to take out the hedge but there would be no space to the East as you have covered courts. There would be no space to the South as the path is tight against it. TF explained that how you might be able to achieve this would be to extend the four court airhall and extend to a seven court airhall. In order to do this, you may need to upgrade the fans if you have one single airhall and you would need to ensure that the playing surface were all on the same level and increase the fire exits due to the size of the airhall. This option would be a lot of work and disruption, high capital cost, and disruption.

AW thought that the Tennis players would prefer the option to have Padel on Courts 12 – 14.

The group discussed the option of having three covered padel courts and 4 pickleball courts.

It was noted that the Tennis section is happy to have Padel next to them but not pickle as that is a different level of noise.

MH informed the group that they were trying to find a way of having some covered padel courts and that was the important goal. There is quite a big group of members who are attached to having grass courts so a survey will be done but they do not need to have padel/pickle together.

NY advised the group that covering padel courts was so important and to have all 5 covered would be the number 1 option. NY thought it was frustrating to be constrained by one planning officer and asked if there was a Committee that would be making the decision.

MN advised that the Planning Committee won't override a decision by one officer unless it was really controversial, so they need to get the current planning officer on side, and he goes by legislation with regards to impact on openness.

SN thought too that this was frustrating and mentioned that schools now have padel/pickle on their curriculum.

CC advised that they need to demonstrate an argument on why a cover will not affect openness.

SN advised that they cannot play in the winter months without the covers as this limits the cohort of players as there is a risk of the courts being too slippery.

MN asked LUC what their tactics would be.

CC advised that when they submit the application, they should only reveal one option but mention that there are other alternatives, but they think they would not be workable.

*The group had a brief discussion regarding pickleball.*

NY suggested painting permanent lines on Courts 13 and 14 so in winter they are covered by a bubble and then available to play in the Summer, with court 12 staying as a tennis court. It was noted that Courts 12 – 14 could all be painted up, but the courts are programmed for different days as Tennis and Pickleball cannot be played together.

AW and DL expressed their concern as there is a pressure for members wanting to use the indoor courts for coaching etc. Pickleball in the ITC is causing issues as it is loud.

MN wondered if Pickleball had taken such a leap in popularity because of Louis and that they would need to gauge what the demand is when LL leaves. The demand may not increase and at present they are playing indoors.

MN asked the group what the preferred option 1 was for the location of the Padel courts.

NY wanted to know what the planner's thoughts were about all the different locations and what they were thinking about. NY asked if there was an option to have Padel / Pickleball on Courts 15-18 by the Heath Club.

CC advised that the Courts either side of the Health Club had not been discussed with

the Planning Officer and there would not be much difference in openness as close to Roehampton Lane and Woking Close but there would be less views behind the ITC building.

CC advised that they still need to make the same argument regarding openness, but he may look at this option more favourably.

MH thought that they would prefer blocks being together as less impact. Still would want flood lights on Courts 25 – 28 and to increase the Health Club area.

The group agreed that Location 4, Courts 15 – 18 should be the preferred option, this would consist of 5 padel courts and 4 pickleball courts.

DL had wondered if this would look and feel a bit cramped.

TF reminded the group that under Courts 15 – 18 were water tanks so they would need to be careful when doing any foundation works. They would need to consult with both a Drainage Engineer and Structural Engineer.

JS asked once they have the IGC if the practice area could be turned into pickleball courts, but it was noted that the area is not big enough.

The group discussed the 8 metre strip by the Health Club and north of courts 25-28. We could potentially do something with it, keep some planting or hedging as not an ideal space but need to keep planners happy by showing biodiversity.

#### **4) Conclusions and next steps to meet the Planners**

The group dismissed option 2 as a fall back. The group agreed the back up plan should be option 3.

It was noted that the new location proposed would have no run out space for top Padel players as they would require 3 metre run outs, but MH/NY pointed out that the focus should be on what they can deliver for members and not worry about hosting tournaments.

#### **Actions**

- TF to get information from the Drainage Engineer.
- TF to do drawings for Courts 15 – 18 with input from NY.
- CC to submit a pre-application.
- MN to ask 2-3 representatives from the working group to meet with the planner with LUC.

#### **5) Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed after date with Planners confirmed.