



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 25th February at 6pm

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Lorna Bhasin	
Lily Brown	(Ladies Captain)
Ollie Golding	
Emily Monson	
Howard Spence	
Nick Yates	(Padel Rep)
Sandra Drum	(Padel/ Pickleball Rep)
John Sinik	(Men's Captain)

In Attendance:

Marc Newey	(CEO)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)
Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Manager)

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1. Apologies: Mark Young, Paul Lindsay, Serena Norgren.

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the TC meeting on the 9th December 2025 were discussed and approved.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds (PB)

Airhall 1 over court 12-14 has an issue with the air handling unit. The heating element has broken. The problem should be fixed in the coming two weeks.

The Airhalls are due to come down the w/c 7th April.

Grass courts are yet to be worked on for the summer preparations due to the wet weather. It will be March when the team start to prepare these courts now.

The TC discussed the temperature in the ITC as seems to be colder than previous years and weather it could be due to the air system. It should be kicking in when the temperature drops to a certain level.

Action – PB will get the system serviced to check its working to the required standard.

Liaison Director (MN)

We have now received planning permission for the balcony extension, however there is a month delay on the terrace. There have been some amendments to the designs of the space upstairs so visuals of the scheme will go up soon with the updated designs.

The Board is currently working on tenders for the IGC as the investigative drilling at the site has been done to check for potential problems. The water table is very high in this area - 1 to 2 meters below the surface level. The tender documents are a month behind so it will be the end of March when we go out for tender to four contractors. Bids are expected back in June and then we will have more

accurate costing for the project. Then there will be a member consultation. Due to the planned ICG having a tier a level below the ground there are risk and costs implications therefore we need to cost out an option B that would consist of only one tier above the ground.

The maximum debt for the Club the Board will entertain is 3 times EBITDA (around £6 million) at one time. Therefore, it's important that we do not have 2 large projects running at the same time.

Padel and Pickleball Hub Update (MN)

Following the padel and pickleball working group meeting another option for the hub is being considered as the preferred option. This is to use courts 15-18 to house 5 padel courts and 4/5 pickleball courts. This could be the best position to gain planning permission for covers over the courts. It would mean courts 25 – 28 would need to be converted into 4 artificial clay courts and some of the area used for the health club extension. The new scheme will be drawn up and presented to the planners to see how feasible this is. Going to the planners with more than one option is always risky as they would just pick the one with less impact and we could lose the option to have more covered courts.

If option A is not possible then option B would be to use courts 4-6 for padel and replace 25-28 with 4 clay tennis courts. We would gain an extra tennis court but would fail to solve the pickleball provision.

JS expressed the need to protect tennis from these new racket sports. He has seen many clubs in the US change a lot of courts into pickleball courts as a result clubs that had a strong tennis heritage now don't have any tennis being played at all due to the demand impact of pickleball.

NS stated there needs to be a strategic plan for tennis, as otherwise decisions are made without proper consideration of the impact on tennis.

The TC discussed this and agreed the need to protect tennis at Roehampton with a long-term strategy. However, there are various benefits to the pickleball and padel that tennis doesn't offer and therefore need to look at providing this to members in some form that will not impact tennis too deeply. If we know there is demand for these other sports, we must not suppress that.

EM expressed concern about the new proposed location (option A) as it would make the centre of the club very noisy and ruin the look and feel of the club. EM did not believe that she would be alone in believing this – EM felt many club members would agree.

Other members of the TC felt that having more activity at the centre of the club could make it more vibrant in a good way and create a buzz in the centre of the club.

EM asked if they could explore extending out on to the piazza area, ie to area where the temporary pavilions are, or where the coffee van is - which is paved and basically unused space. Instead of spreading over all four of courts 15-18, they could spread over only two courts and then spill into the piazza.

There was brief talk about the knock-on of losing the four clay courts, and four grass courts 25-28

and turning them in to clay and getting planning permission for flood lights.

EM expressed the view that none of the options currently being considered for locating padel (and pickle) courts is satisfactory, because they all involve loss. EM thought we had to think outside the box and considering putting part of the car park underground. The cost is clearly an issue but there seems to be a lot of capital available for all these new projects, and this is of great importance for the preservation of what makes the club what it is.

The TC discussed if it was necessary to create new pickleball courts; EM stated pickleball can be (and already is) accommodated on existing courts; it needs to be properly scheduled in to court bookings, at non-busy times for tennis. NS thought that between 1 and 4.30pm there was little or no use of any of the courts. Therefore, EM thought pickleball could be played then with little (noise) effect on tennis players.

EM asked if it was possible to use Rosslyn Park to build the padel courts and have shared access to them. MN stated there would not be enough space and RPFC have had issues with Wandsworth council regarding noise of outdoor gyms in the past so very unlikely to be an option.

MN reported that the club have formed an arrangement with the B of E for use of pickleball courts for Roehampton members. EM had asked about the possibility of a joint venture with Roehampton and B of E for creating more padel courts for Roehampton members to use. MN stated they don't have padel courts or space for any. The club are looking to just hire the sports hall for pickleball to give members a chance to play more often until the club can solve the problem for permanent courts.

OG added the grass courts are a USP of the club and padel and pickleball courts will continue to be built around the country, but grass courts will not.

LB expressed we should bear in mind the proportion of pickleball and padel players in relation to tennis players when looking at developing facilities.

EM asked if there is a way we can celebrate the grass courts more to encourage more members to use them.

EM stated if we lose two of the grass courts from 19 to 24, closest to the centre of the club (23 and 24) to accommodate three hard tennis courts. If three grass courts are required (ie 22,23 and 24), so be it, but you could keep three of the six grass courts.

MN explained the issue with using the other block of grass courts (19-24) is that we don't have the option to have floodlights there due to the proximity of the homes on Woking Close. The planners have told us this would not be possible. We would have to gain permission for a change of surface there as well. Plus, you couldn't have grass courts next to hard courts, due to maintenance needs. EM thought it was worth investigating whether floodlights would still not be permitted on these hard courts, given that the position of the planners does not seem to be rigidly fixed. EM mentioned that a lot of tennis courts around London have floodlights on them which are much closer to residents than to Woking Close.

EM thought that Hurlingham Club would never contemplate sacrificing any of their grass courts, and when it came to putting in their padel courts (of which I think there are four), they were put on hard courts in an outer area of the club. EM said the grass courts, are a part of what makes the club

special, and unique.

EM stated we should not be putting forward to planners what the tennis committee was not agreed on. EM did not agree that the 'preferred' option – losing all four tennis courts 15 to 18 in the centre of the club to a padel and pickle construction – was one she could support.

EM also asked is there a way we can soundproof the padel courts.

NY stated that it's very difficult to soundproof the padel courts without building a structure over them to contain the noise.

There was an important discussion on the 'member consultation'. NS pointed out that the wording should be clear and simple MN said it was more complicated. MN undertook that he would bring the proposed wording for agreement before issuing any consultation.

The TC discussed the idea of once we know what's possible from a planning perspective, we could do a member consultation explaining the plans and implications of the project to help members understand and comment. **This was agreed.**

Racquet Directors Diary – Feb 2025

Airhalls

The airhalls are planned to come down in the easter break W/C 6th April.

Padel and Pickleball Hub

Update in meeting.

Tennis Club Championships

Nik and I are preparing the club championship plans for this year. We will aim to open entries in March. Finals day is set for Saturday 21st June. This year we aim to have an exhibition match in the late afternoon with some of the pro players and encourage all members to come down and watch etc.

Tennis Programme

The adult tennis program is still extremely popular I am again continuing to expand the LiveBall sessions. I have added a Sunday session and after half term this session will be a double session increasing bookable slots to 14.

Meanwhile, our junior program is again close to capacity for the Spring.

Parent and Child Christmas event on the 8th December was popular with 8 families playing.

New Coach – we have a new coach Sam Price starting with us in March. Sam represented Hertfordshire and competed internationally on the ITF junior and professional circuits. He also has a

decade of coaching experience working with adults and juniors of all abilities. Therefore, I'm sure he will be a great addition to the team.

Social Tennis – Club Night and Ladies Morning

After half term the ladies morning and club night on Wednesdays will be changed. Members will not be required to sign up online. They can just turn up and be guaranteed a game. This is in a hope to boost numbers and get a more varied demographic playing in these sessions. Club night will be extended to 6pm to 8pm and will have more courts booked out. The participation will be monitored until the end of term.

Pickleball

Pickleball is continuing to grow here at the Club.

Firstly, a huge thank you to the Committee for allowing the Premier Pickleball League to take place on the 3-5 January, the venue was great for the league, and we had over 100 Members play across different events as well as watch the top players in the country play! The Highlights will be out on channel 4 soon.

Sadly, I am leaving Roehampton Club – but am very happy with where pickleball is – over 300 players on the database and growing every week.

The next aim is some permanent or more regular court time – discussions going on with P&P working group. DL looking to continue current offering and recruit a pickleball coach to run sessions.

DL and LL have been talking with the Bank of England sports community site to see if there is potential to use the sports hall at various times throughout the week to offer more pickleball sessions to members.

Louis Laville

Team Update (NS)

NS has organised a captain's night on the 5th March so both our men's and ladies captains can meet all the other team captains and discuss teams and fixtures ahead of the summer season.

Men's O30 won National Championships- They have now qualified for European Championships in Turkey in October.

Men's 1 and Ladies 1 both on course to win the Regional Divisions in NPL and qualify for St Georges Hill Finals on 23-26th May,

Surrey League

Men's 2- 1st in division 3

Men's 3- 5th in Div 6

Men's 4- 5th in Div 16

Ladies 1- 3rd in Division 1

Ladies 2- 4th in Division 4

Ladies 3- 2nd in Division 6

Ladies 4- 6th in Division 9

Men's O55- 3rd in Division 2

Ladies O50- 2nd In Division 2

Midweek 1- 1st in Division 5

Midweek 2- 3rd in Division 6

Summer League

We have entered teams for National League and Surrey League summer from 8&U to O60. When fixtures are released, we will move as many of these to off peak times when the utilisation is at its lowest. We are going to make a push to try and engage all our best seniors and juniors to play national league over the next two years rather than for other clubs with an aim that the club is as successful as it can be in its 125th year.

Roehampton Seniors Open

Alex Ward, Bojan Jelovac & Richard Ground (doubles) we all champions of their categories
John Sinik, Richard Ground & Hannah Ward were runners up in their singles categories.

Individual Achievements- Henry Patten won Australian Open Doubles, Tommy Gabor was part of the GB team that won the Winter Cup, Alex Ward was the GB captain at united cup in Australia and playing for GB in O30 World Champs.

Tommy has also reached the semi finals of the European championship competition for under 12s in Auray which is an amazing achievement.

Padel Report (PL)

Court update: In meeting.

Teams:

We have submitted entry to the Spring/summer iPadel leagues and awaiting Surrey competition format.

Team Training –

Will look after the Feb half term to use the Wednesday evenings, probably fortnightly, for Team training.

This was meant to start after Easter but will try a few sessions before, if possible, with court booking and demand.

Surface remains slippery with and after rain fall.

HoP (Home of Padel) event pencilled in for 14 June but tbc by organisers.

The Padel social offers are being looked at now with the hope of improved weather after the Easter break.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

February 2025

No A.O.B was put forward.

The meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Date of next meeting TBC.

