



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Tennis Committee**  
**held on Monday 23 April 2018**

**Present:**

Alex Hince	(Chairman)
Nicola Dearman	
Alan Flitcroft	
Andrew Wakely	
Catherine Michie	(Ladies' Captain)
Tim Webb	(Men's Captain)
Pippa Walker	(Liaison Director)
David Burditt	(Advisory)
Puk Kroijer	

**In Attendance:**

Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Danny Sitton	(Racquets Director)
Paul Lindsay	(Racquets Manager)

**Apologies:** Peter Dunning, Darren Boner, Peter Bradburn (Course and Grounds Manager)

**Minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 5 March 2018 were discussed and approved.

**2 Reports**

**a) Course and Grounds (MN)**

**Synthetic courts & Smash courts**

SSC have recently carried out the renovation works on courts 4 to 10. MN explained for future renovations the court closure bookings will be reduced to allow play but the works must be carried out when scheduled. The works by SSC are delivered to a high specification.

**Grass courts**

These are in good condition but around 3 weeks behind schedule in terms of growth. The aim is to open the big block from 30<sup>th</sup> April with the small block to follow a week or so later, weather permitting.

**b) Bubble Development (DB)**

Planning has been approved for the works.

DB went to the Bubble Replacement 'kick off' meeting on Tuesday 10th April. It was well attended - 2 people from Collinson (their PM and Quantity Surveyor), 2 from Naismith (Programme Director and Project Manager), Marc, Karen, Simon and Peter from the Club Management and Pippa from Membership.

Key points:

- \* Project Contract signed Friday 6/04
- \* Start date [30th April](#) - existing bubble comes down
- \* Completion date: end November
- \* Purchase order placed for deposit

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Stage payment plan agreed and stage valuation methodology in place</li> <li>* Re-routing of electrical cabling starts next 16/04 (currently underway)</li> <li>* Widening of Priory Lane gate to commence during April.</li> <li>* Schedule of meetings to be forwarded imminently.</li> </ul> <p>There were various other discussions the most important being that the plans have been changed to incorporate the sliding glass doors on the east side, next to the smash courts. There is also an opportunity to incorporate sliding (canvas) doors on the south side to increase ventilation on hot days.</p> <p>DS will ask Tim Freeman of TM for a breakdown of the Club's court surface speed and to confirm the new court's speed. This was discussed and the TC approved the new bubble courts' speed to be 4. A display of the various Club courts' speeds will be put up on the notice board in the coming weeks.</p> <p>AH – are the nets used as court dividers included in the development?  MN – Yes 1 court has been allocated and this needs to be confirmed as affects the placing of the lighting.</p>	DS
<p>TC discussed issue with balls going on to other courts and PL to contact AF regarding the material they use at Hurlingham to 'deaden' the bounce of the ball at the back of the courts by the structure</p>	PL
<p><b>c) Men's Captain (TW)</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> round of Tennis Team (previously AEGON) have taken place. 1<sup>st</sup> team winning and great to see such a strong team and squad this year with the players wanting to play for the Club.</p> <p>Surrey 1<sup>st</sup> team player availability continues to be an issue as fixtures class with Tennis Team.</p> <p>DS will evaluate and remove the team if needed.</p> <p><b>d) Ladies Captain (CM)</b></p> <p>The Summer matches are now underway with some good results to report;</p> <p><b><u>Team Tennis (formerly AEGON)</u></b></p> <p>1st team. Division 1. Captain Lily Brown</p> <p>The 1<sup>st</sup> team is competing in the Surrey Open Division 1, having been relegated</p>	DS

last year. They are now working hard to be promoted back into the Regional division next year. They got off to a flying start in Sunday's match with a 12-0 win over Byfleet. The team of Marta Sirotkina, Natasha Marks, Veronika Stotyka and Leah Gonzales-Edwards all posted wins in the singles, before teaming up for straight-set victories in the 2 doubles matches. An excellent start to the Team Tennis season. They will next face St Georges Hill, arguably the strongest team in the division, on 13 May.

2nd team Division 2. Captain Emily Gomme

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team also had their first match yesterday, with a tough opener against Wilton. Annabel Gomme, Rachel Godsave, Sophie Dulieu and Steph Williams battled hard against Wilton but eventually went down 4-8. Well done to Steph Williams for an excellent singles win on her match debut for the club. The next match is against Westside 2<sup>nd</sup> team on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Surrey Summer league**

The summer league matches get underway this weekend, with the 1<sup>st</sup> team taking on Surbiton and the 2<sup>nd</sup> team facing Foxhills. The 3<sup>rd</sup> team get their campaign underway in May.

Mixed matches and ladies midweek doubles matches also get underway in May.

### **e) Tennis Director (DS)**

**Club Champs Finals Days 2018** – We have arranged Adult Finals Day for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July and Junior Club Champs for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Club Champs begins Tues 1<sup>st</sup> May. The leagues will be put on hold for a 6 week period during the busiest phase of Club Champs.

**Court Pressure** – We are currently in the biggest 'pinch point' of the year when the summer programme has begun but the grass courts are not yet open. We need to consider whether we should make any changes to court allocations given the Bubble courts will be out of action for the summer – ie. do we reduce tennis activity to adhere to the principle of using 50% of court space at

DS

any time for organised tennis activity. If we do that, we will need to decide which tennis activities to suspend.

**TC discussed at meeting and agreed** to maintain existing programme in the knowledge that grass court opening would help alleviate pressure very soon. DS to inform members with the indoor courts not in use from 30<sup>th</sup> April that as a courtesy to fellow members please cancel a court if it is not being used.

**Scholarship Places** – we are proposing that this years scholarship places are occupied as follows: Ladies – Marta Sirotkina, Veronika Stotyka and Natasha Marks.

Men – Cameron Norrie, Anton Matusevic and Chris Archer.

**Ratified at meeting.**

**Nike Tennis Camps** – we have arranged to host some Nike Tennis camps on two courts during late July/early Aug this year for the first time in the afternoons. This is with a view to offering a comprehensive camps for 12-16 year olds next summer.

TC approved and looked forward to hearing how this goes.

**Junior Group Coaching Numbers** – the junior programme is at a very healthy approx. 400 bookings. This has naturally led to severe court pressure on certain days.

**Group Coaching Update** – We intend to inform those participating in Adult group coaching of the new administration process in the next few weeks – this is with a view to implementation in Sept 2018.

**Gant Cup 2018** – the Gant Cup is confirmed for 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Tickets are selling well and we are currently appealing for volunteers and ball boys/girls.

MN explained the current plans for the format and there are 300 member tickets from the 800 per day for sale at the Club. Most days have been well supported but more could be sold on Thursday/Friday.

**Upcoming events:**

- Table Tennis Club Champs tournament – Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May

DS

- Club Champs – from Tues 1<sup>st</sup> May until Finals Day 8<sup>th</sup> July
- Junior Club Champ – Sun 1<sup>st</sup> July
- Tennis v Squash section ‘tennis’ match – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 6-8pm
- Gant Event – 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June
- 20’s/30’s Tennis and Curry Night – Tues 10<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

**AH** – in the previous meeting Team Training agreed to take 4 courts, this has also lead to a 30min slot being free on the booking system.

**DS** – This has been noted but the 30min slot has been used by the Team Training players using the court to warm up.

#### **f) Vets (PD)**

##### **Surrey 55 Winter Knockout Final**

We played Purley at the Roehampton on 11 March but unfortunately lost without winning a rubber. Our team - John Paish/Matthew Salisbury and Darren Boner/Rob Dickson.

##### **Surrey 55 Midweek League**

Fixtures released and matches being organised. PD running 1st. Team, Danny Gesua running 2nd Team. I will be submitting request for home matches courts soon.

Q. I see that DG has already requested courts and has asked PL to organise post-match lunch. I thought the team captain made the lunch arrangements directly with James Matharu. Can you please clarify?

DS – Captain requests catering with James.

##### **Senior Inter Club Comp.**

60s team - is being run by Sunil Bhasin. 1st match away to Woodford Wells, Essex. To be played by mid-June.

65s team - being run by Rob Dickson. 1st. Match away to Purley. Deadline as

yet unknown.

### **Quad Cup/Triangular Matches Series**

These are being organised by DG. Everything under control but concern about the number of better players who would be available but who decline to play.

Q. What is Club attitude? Should we be always looking to field the strongest possible team, so that we can genuinely compete with the other Clubs, or should we just select from the 'enthusiastic' players even if that means we are weaker than the opposition?

DS – Continue with the best we have and who wish to play and represent the Club.

### **Item from Last Meeting AOB**

Grass courts are still appearing on master scoreboard but presumably less of an issue given the imminence of the grass courts being in play.

DB/DS - This is needed to make bookings but we will look in the future to see if there is a selection option. DB will contact Miles to discuss. DB

#### **g) Juniors (DS)**

Infant and Parents session will start up again soon

#### **h) Social**

Nothing in addition to DS report

#### **i) Liaison Director (PW)**

At the last Board meeting on 21st March, the main focus was on:

1. Finalising the plan for the Bubble replacement.
2. Reviewing the initial response from the Member survey. This highlighted the need for more indoor tennis courts and more courts in general.

There will be another Member forum on 3 May for members to see the ideas for the Club following the survey results. There were lots of positive responses.

<p>MN explained these will be presented at the Clubs AGM and no plan or decision has been made but this looks to the future strategy for the Club.</p>	
<p><b>3. AOB</b></p>	
<p>DB – Has the Club’s IT company looked at the speed of terminals as there is a slow response when members are signing in to Mycourts.</p>	
<p>MN – This could be linked to the wifi but we will check and improve the refresh time if this is the issue.</p>	MN
<p>AH – DBo has offered to step down from the TC as he is unable to make the next scheduled meetings.</p>	
<p>The TC accepted this and wished to thank DBo for his time and input.</p>	
<p>The TC agreed PK to be co-opted onto the TC immediately and to stand at the October committee elections.</p>	
<p>AH – After some discussion regarding ball prices it was agreed the ball prices will be reduced by £1. DS will promote to membership. PL to find if there would be a cost to add the Roehampton Logo to the balls on sale at the Club.</p>	DS PL
<p>AH – has there been any progress with the idea of Padel Tennis during the Gant Cup?</p>	
<p>MN – This will not happen during the Gant Cup but is being investigated to see if a pop-up court could be an option from July to September.</p>	
<p>AF – Still think the league numbers are too high with 8 in a league?</p>	
<p>DS – will look into this and possible reduce starting in January with 7 in a league.</p>	DS
<p>TC – Wished to thanks PW for all her support as liaison director as PW is standing down from the Board in May.</p>	
<p>Date of Next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 @ 6.30pm</p>	



