



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Tennis Committee  
held on Monday 25 September 2017**

**Present:**

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| David Burditt  | (Chairman)      |
| Nicola Dearman |                 |
| Tim Webb       | (Men's Captain) |

**In Attendance:**

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Marc Newey     | (Chief Executive)            |
| Danny Sitton   | (Tennis Director)            |
| Peter Bradburn | (Course and Grounds Manager) |
| Paul Lindsay   | (Racquets Manager)           |

**Apologies:** Alan Flitcroft, Vanessa Walker, Catherine Michie, Darren Boner, Pippa Walker and Alex Hince

**Minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 12 June 2017 were discussed and approved.

**1 Review of action points:**

**Bubble Communication & Surface Change**

DB and DS will put a mood board with samples of the surface together ready for the Annual meeting and to display in the reading room.

DS/  
DB

**Leaf Collection**

PB – the issue arises on Smash courts as the netting would need to be loosened to collect the fallen leaves in the corners – loosening the netting would cause damage and potential long-term issues with the netting generally. PB has changed the routine for leaf blowing/collection to clear the courts earlier each day.

PB

**Club Championships**

DB spoke with Tesla after the event regarding their presence and test drives on the day. They would be keen to come back and the link to the Club is a good one as the Club is currently in discussion with Tesla regarding Electric car charging points in the car parks. MN in finalising the details with a January 2018 instillation date targeted. This will also go with the added Member service of having an on-site car wash in the visitor's car park. Drainage has been installed and the Club is now looking at who is best to run this service with two local companies interested in the opportunity.

MN

**Floodlight Stanchions**

The protective paddings for the base of the floodlights have been moved to cover the corner stanchions on courts 15-18. Another eight are on order for the other courts.

DS

**Bubble Replacement**

DB – A presentation was made to the Board last week by the Planning consultant, Tim Freeman of Trevor May limited and David Burditt. DB explained the proposal and some of the measurements and structure proposed as well as the finer details, of which some require further thought, including the traffic management by the corner of grounds yard.

There is still agreement needed for the cost and need for the foam and timber layer between the cushioned acrylic surface and tarmac. TC will need to highlight the importance of this as it will benefit the Membership. DB to ask TF if a cushioned Acrylic on a cushioned timber floor has been installed before. TC to think if this is really required when the cushioned acrylic layer may be more than suitable and is tried and tested at Harbour Club.

DB

ALL

Regarding the LED lighting – this was seen as a step forward and huge saving with DB and MN working out over the life span of the build, 30 years, the Club could save in the region of circa £630k by installing LED lighting and reducing electricity costs.

MN gave an outline of the required timetable:

Planning decision by the local authority will hopefully be given by January 2018 at the latest as the planning application will go in within the next week and then hopefully be considered at the Council planning committee meeting in December. The Board has agreed to date to submit designs for planning, to still be agreed by the Board are the finer details and costs put forward by the TC for the development.

Trevor May has given a guide for the works to start in May 2018 as the project is estimated to take 4 months and needs to be ready for September.

PB to ask TF regarding the court cleaning machinery required and to take costs into account.

TC will present a summary at the Annual meeting.

MN left the meeting to Chair the Health Cub Forum.

PB

## **2 Reports**

### **a) Course and Grounds(PB)**

#### **All Outside Courts**

Grass courts 19-24 – Has been tricky for the major renovations as weather has meant the works have been stop/start. Works have been completed but were a week behind, luckily the relatively warm weather has meant ideal conditions for germination and the process remains on target for a May 2018 opening.

Grass courts 25 to 28 – lighter renovations nearly completed.

TC thanked PB and his team for the amazing condition of the grass courts this season.

PB left the meeting.

### **b) Men's Captain (TW)**

All teams doing ok and there is one more week of matches left.

TC discussed the number of teams and the difficulty in recruiting players – mostly for the top end teams.

### **c) Ladies Captain (VW written report)**

The Summer Surrey league matches are all but finished with some mixed results.

1st team. Division 1. Capt Rachel Godsave.

I know that Rachel has struggled to field a team this summer due to the usual injuries and holiday absences so results have been mixed. They drew with Westside, and the Wimbledon Club, lost very narrowly to St. George's Hill 3-1, and beat Purley 4-0. They are currently 4th in the league with the last match played

yesterday, result to follow. They will hopefully stay up.

2nd team Division 5 west. Captain Annabel Gomme

We have finished 4th in the league and will remain in division 5. We beat DLRP 3-1, drew against Westside, beat Camberley 3-1, lost to the Wimbledon Club 3-1 and gave a walkover to Walton. I have only just heard about the walkover, which I will investigate further.

3rd team. Division 14. Capt Nikki Walker

The third team have easily won this division and will continue their rise up the leagues to find their correct level. They beat Bank of England, Esher and Epsom 4-0, beat Worcester Park 3-1 and drew with David Lloyd Epsom.

Mixed summer matches

1st team. Division 2. Captain Vanessa Walker

We are currently top of the league with one match to go so likely to be in Division 1 next year, beating Magdalen Park 3-1, South Croydon 4-0, drawing with Woodfield Grove and beating Banstead Downs 4-0. Thanks to Tim Webb for playing in most, Richard Ground, Filip Meyer and Richard Gotla and to Rachel Godsave, Natasha Marks, Katie Gotla, Fi Kirkness and Sara Levy.

2nd team Division 5 Capt. Terry Rattray

They have finished 4th in this division having beaten Wandsworth Common 4-0, losing to Grafton 4-0, beating Thames Ditton 4-0, losing to Sheen and Westside 3-1.

Summer Surrey Mid Week League

We now have 4 teams in this league for the 1st time which is great and shows the depth of ladies wishing to play competitive tennis at the club.

Division 1. Capt Alex Hince

Our 1st team have narrowly finished 4th so will stay up. Mixed results, losing to Westside 3-1, a draw with Limpsfield, lost 4-0 to a very strong team from VA Croydon, and narrowly lost to Sheen 3-1.

Division 6. Capt. Astrid Drayton

Our 2nd team have finished 3rd beating Pensford 3-1, beating Woking 3-1, drew with Magdalen Park and lost 4-0 to DLRP and Bourne.

Division 8. Capt Sue Burns

This team is currently top of the league but 2 losses need to be added to the system. They beat Purley 3-1, Cheam Fields 3-1, RAC 4-0 but sadly just lost their last two matches against Grafton and Dorking 3-1. All very close losing in champs tiebreaks.

Division 11. Captain Susan Stewart

Our 4th team have entered this league for the first time and are currently 2nd with a match to play. They drew with Hillside Gardens, lost 4- 0 to Cheam fields, and beat David Lloyd Cheam 4-0.

Hurlingham Triangular. 10th September

We won this year ending a drought of 7 years. It was hosted by the Hurlingham and our team of Vanessa Walker ( captain) alex Hince, Mark Young, John Sinik, Nikki Walker, Veronica Partington, Pat Evans, Kevin Ivie, Astrid Drayton, Nina Ruiz, Bob Storer and Nick Baybutt brought home the cup.

Personal Achievements

Susie Reid won the singles over 55's competition at St George's Hill beating Hazel Lindfield in a long hard fought final. A huge achievement for Susie. Bim Newton and Susie Reid won the doubles event too beating Betty Maitland and Mary Neville in the final.

Ali Jacobs and Bim Newton reached the Surrey postal final in the over 40's event.

I am very sad not to be at my last Committee meeting as Captain. I am thrilled to be handing over the captaincy to Catherine Michie, who I know will do an excellent job. I have met with her and discussed a handover of sorts. I think the scholarship players need to be reminded of their duties and the teams need reshuffling but hopefully I have left her a tidy ship! I want to thank the Committee for the excellent job you do, thankless as it is, I know the membership do appreciate it.

TC thanked VW for her time and energy on the TC as Lady Captain – an excellent three year stint.

#### **d) Tennis Director (DS)**

**Club Champs** – Need to set dates for next year Club Championship finals. DS proposed the Adult Club Champs should remain on middle Sunday of Wimbledon which is 8<sup>th</sup> July. **Agreed**

However, DS feels the need to bring Junior Club Champs earlier because too many families were unable to be involved this year due to holidays. DS suggested either Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June or Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July? **TC agreed and DS to choose best date.**

**Saturday Morning Courts** – the number for Saturday morning groups has increased this term – would the Committee agree to allocate an extra court for

DS

DS

coaching from 10-11am? **TC Agreed to trial this.**

**Ball Machine** – Currently have two balls machines and using Court 11. There have been some problems with the new machine and this seems to be partly due to rough treatment by some users but the other machine is functioning well and has been given a new motor. TC discussed whether to put one of the machines on another court in a storage unit. Due to lack of space and pressure on court use for now keep new machine as a spare.

**DB** – Court 11 in the winter can be playable when some courts are frosty as the far side is in the sun. DS will inform and remind Duty Managers of this as they will be responsible for opening of the court in frosty conditions.

**Team Training** – For the last year, Nik has run a team training session aimed at ‘integrating’ our better junior girls with the Ladies’ teams – this has been a success and will continue. This term, we are also attempting the same concept with the men on a Tuesday evening.

**Coach Court Rental** – New coach court-rental process has begun and this has resulted in the creation of approx. 8-10 new groups. Overall, participation is up by approx. 70 players which is great news.

**Court Pressure** – This time last year, after a lot of problems with court pressure, some changes to the programming of tennis activities were made to help relieve this. DS pleased to say the pressure on courts has been much easier and intends to continue the same next summer without making any more significant changes. The only change intended to make next year is to bring forward the draw for the Club Champs to allow a little more time to arrange games in the first round.

#### **e) Juniors**

NTR

#### **f) Social**

DB informed the TC that the Rackets Cubed Charity Tennis event went well with lots of Members involved and there was 104 guests at the dinner. Having Tim Henman was a big draw.

#### **g) Liaison Director**

Covered in Bubble Development section, as PW had given prior apologies

#### **h) Vets**

Matches have gone well and DS continues to run Vets practices weekly.

### **3. AOB**

**DB** – Last Tennis Committee meeting as Chair and will be coming off the Tennis Committee as an elected member after the Tennis Annual Meeting. Nominations are now open for members who wish to join the Tennis Committee.

**TC** – would like to thank DB for all his time and effort over the years as Chair and will request DB remains on the TC in an advisory capacity while the Bubble

DS

Development is carried out.

TW – Please can we remember to put a water bottle / fountain in the Airhall when it goes up as the outside fountains have the water turned off for the winter. PB/DS to action

Date of Next meeting 9 October 2017 @ 7pm

PB/  
DS