



**Minutes of the Tennis Annual Meeting
held on Monday 19th October 2020 via Zoom**

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Committee Chair)
Harry Alvarez	
Alex Hince	
Feargus Murphy	
Danny Gesua	
Tim Lindberg	
Robert Woolf	
Jan Menneken	(Men's Captain)
Rachel Godsave	(Ladies Captain Elect)

In Attendance:

Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Paul Lindsay	(Racquets Manager)
Tim Freeman	(Trevor May Ltd)

1. Committee Chair Report – Andrew Wakely.

It's hard to believe from where we are now, but 2020 got off to one of the most stunning starts possible with Joe Salisbury winning the men's doubles in the Aussie Open with his American partner Rajeev Ram. Joe is currently ranked 5th in the world after making the US semis and French quarters. He was awarded a life membership of the club in January which I was very proud to be asked to present.

Hannah Klugman won the Fred Perry Cup, which was the only national junior competition this Summer, where she beat all the other top national players to win £1000 and Fred Perry Sponsorship.

Unfortunately, team tennis has not happened this year, but the Captains have still had some work to do for which we are grateful. We say goodbye and thank you to Catherine Michie after her 3 years as ladies captain and welcome Rachel Godsave and wish her luck in her new role.

As well as team tennis being cancelled, we lost the chance to host the Gant Championships and Racketlon. Hopefully they will be back next year.

We endeavoured to alleviate the strain of bookings in the ITC by having a trial of max 2 x 30 minute sessions but although it had a moderate success in making it easier to book a court, the clamour for 3 x 30 min sessions by members was overwhelming and we have reverted. This also means that 15 games is back for league matches. There has also been some feedback to me that the doubles leagues should be 2 sets - if anyone feels strongly on this please let the committee know.

A special mention should go to Peter Bradburn and his team for the grass courts again this year. They were exceptional. I know we get questions every September as to why they are closed when the weather remains playable but in order to get such a high standard of court it requires an exacting program of autumn and winter maintenance.

Padel has been approved by the planning authorities and by the Roehampton board so work will begin in the New Year and by late spring/early summer we will have 2 Padel courts and a mini tennis court ready for use.

Rackets Cubed, Michael Hill's brainchild ably supported by Roehampton, is another victim of the pandemic with the tennis coaching now being delivered in schools. But with Michael's drive this has evolved with a Community Box program to assist those most affected by C19 and working with schools on long term Health and Wellbeing studies. R3 is now operating in 7 cities with 11 hubs and making a genuine difference. This has been recognised by the following new funding partners: Sports England, The National Lottery, The Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport, London Marathon, St. James' Place, CO-OP, Wandsworth Council and the AELTC.

The Club Champs format this year was borne out of necessity, but Dan and Nik did an amazing job, so much so that it's very likely that the format will be repeated in 2021. We had a strong junior representation in the Adult Club tournament which was great to see and we are thankful to the adult members that had to handle the pressure of competing against them. As usual the standard was inspiring, from the juniors to the seniors.

We ran a junior finals day with 72 entries on Sunday September 6th.

The Committee is pleased that the board has recognised how important it is to have indoor courts in the winter. Fingers crossed that we can secure a second airhall. Thank you to David Burditt for promoting our new tennis facilities as our Liaison Director.

We have some big decisions to make in the coming year regarding court surfaces and we intend to consult with playing members so that we can reach an outcome which is acceptable to the majority.

Thank you to Marc, Dan, Nik and Paul for their hard work and guidance in assisting me and the committee in our endeavours and making our transition from lock down to an active club again so smooth.

2. Courts Grounds Report - Peter Bradburn

ITC Courts No 1, 2, & 3

Due to some erosion the paint was flaking off the court surfaces in certain areas in the ITC. The courts were repainted in the summer and this seems to have resolved the issue. We will plan to do this every year or every other year depending on wear and tear.

Advantage Red Courts No 4, 5, & 6

These courts have the highest usage throughout the year, and we are now looking to totally renovate with new sand and aeration process. Then they will be re-sanded. This will hopefully help the courts drain better in wet weather.

Tiger Turf Synthetic Courts No 7, 8, 9 & 10

The surface is lifting on court 10 due to the London plane tree roots protruding underneath the court. As we are potentially looking at a new surface for these courts with the plans for the Airhall 2 we are aiming to resolve this issue by the spring before any works starts for this project.

Poraflex Courts No 11, 12, 13 & 14

Courts 11 to 14 were also repainted at the start of the year. This year the surface is holding up well.

Poraflex Courts No 15, 16, 17 & 18

These courts are due to have the surface replaced in 2021. However, this will depend on what we do with courts 7 to 10 next year. We think the surface with regular cleaning will last one or two more years.

Grass Courts No 19 to 24

The Grass blocks had a wet Autumn in 2019, therefore we could not totally renovate these courts, instead they were over seeded and top-dressed in early Spring. However, we did have a high strike of grass that reacted well to this. Renovations this year have so far created good results. 25 to 28 have been completely renovated and re-seeded. 19 to 24 have been over seeded. The Club has purchased a light rig to stimulate growth on court 19 to 21 where they are suffering from the shade of the ITC. This technology has been used by AELTC and various football stadiums.

DG - Will the light rig mean we can use the grass courts for longer?

PB – No the light rig is used to help stimulate growth as an aid. We still need the warm ground temperature in late September/ early October for the new grass to germinate.

Tim Freeman – Trevor May Ltd

Airhall 2 – see appendix

Plans of existing (A1) lay out of courts 7 to 10 show that to get the desired spacing around the court area we would need to enlarge the area by using the space between courts 6 and 7 and having extra space at the north side as proposed (A2). This would leave the Club with the same formation of courts, 3 doubles courts and 1 singles court. The Airhall plant and entrance would be placed on the southside.

The Airhall skin would contain the light inside the dome with LED chandelier lighting that would run across the top of the Airhall (A3 + A4). This would greatly improve the lighting as we would not lose 30% of the light reflecting off the outside surface. Also, environmentally friendly saving a lot of energy and containing the light from neighbouring houses which the Planners are in favour of.

Airhall 1

The old Airhall will also be replaced with a new skin next year. This will have the same design as the proposed Airhall 2, and we think this will solve the lighting issues in the evenings.

Padel – see appendix

The Padel court project will start work in January 2021. Area plan (B1+B2) shows the layout of the courts. The court on the east side will have a fabric canopy. In-between the court there will be a mini tennis court and the size of the Padel courts also allow them to be to use as mini tennis courts when not being used for Padel. Its recommended that the mini court is not in use when Padel is played. The elevated proposed sections can be seen in B3, B4 and B5.

HA – I have spoken to Tiger Turf and they have informed me that it's a suitable surface for an Airhall to be positioned over. Artificial grass is a popular surface as its cushioned and good in all weathers. We need to maintain a blend of surfaces across the Club.

AW- We will carry out a full representative survey of Members to find out the most popular surface choice for courts 7-10. The Tennis Committee will not decide without doing the appropriate research into this.

3. Racquets Director Report - Dan Lott

This year the tennis section has faced several challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Closing the club throughout the lockdown period resulted in our members missing out on tennis activities for nearly 2 months. However once the club reopened it was clear that the tennis membership had missed their sport. We reopened for outdoor tennis on the 14th May and both courts and coaching were in great demand. The 4 courts used for coaching were full of 12 hours of tuition each day. All other outside courts were booked all day long with members playing singles. Gradually we were able to increase the tennis offering with doubles and social sessions restarting.

At present we have 6 social sessions running through the week that are free of charge for members. My aim was to try to include a social offering for every membership demographic.

These include:

- 18-35s social night
- Club Evening
- Ladies morning
- Vets Matchplay
- Mixed bash night
- Club Afternoon

We are also running 3 pay and play sessions that are popular throughout the week on Mondays, Fridays and Saturday mornings. These sessions remain an important part of the coaching programme as they give new members a chance to get involved in coaching straight away and allow them to integrate with the existing membership.

Covid-19 has also delayed our plans with Padel tennis; however, these plans are back on track and we hope to have the courts up and running by April 2021. The racquets team are planning a full programme to engage our membership with the sport. This will include both coaching and social opportunities.

We also look to include some more racquet sports to Roehampton Club next year. The popularity of hosting Racketlon last year has brought badminton to lots of members interest, therefore the club will be purchasing 2 roll out badminton courts for members to use in 2021.

We are also looking into Pickleball, which has become extremely popular with a lot of Country Clubs in the US. We have recently recruited a new golf and games assistant, Louis Laville who is a National Pickleball champion so we will be using his knowledge of the game to introduce the sport to our membership in 2021.

Tennis Team

The tennis team remains unchanged with Nik Snapes supporting me as the Tennis Manager and Paul Lindsay overseeing all other racquet sports as the Racquet's Manager. Paul will again be in charge delivering the 2021 Racketlon Tournament and continues his key role with the charity Rackets Cubed.

The coaching team has sadly said goodbye to Dick Bedrossian. Dick was an important part of the tennis social scene and has done a great amount for the vet's team over the last 5 years. Dick has now moved to Cyprus and continues to run Senior ITF events around the world.

We currently have 14 coaches working at the club who are doing a great job delivering the coaching programme and satisfying the huge demand we have for coaching.

Junior Coaching

The Junior tennis programme had just under 3 weeks to go when the club went into lockdown. We finished the term by running the programme again from the 24th June to the 12th July. We also offered out places to juniors who were previously not on the programme, so it was open to all members over this time where parents are looking for more activities for their children post lockdown. Groups were divided up so we could adhere to the LTA guidelines and not have more than 5 players and 1 coach in each session.

The junior coaching programme was in a healthy position before lockdown. Since we have been able to restart the programme, we are about 20% down in numbers. However, I'm confident that these numbers will build in the new year providing we don't have another lockdown.

We continue to use matchplays to give juniors their first taste of competition in a club environment. This gives them the experience and confidence to compete in external tournaments and matches. All results are fed to the LTA where players can see their progress through the LTA rating system.

We are working on a new timetable for the junior programme at weekends to allow members to participate in a range of sports throughout the morning without sports clashing. We are currently planning to get the sports aligned for January 2021 and will include tennis, golf,

squash, swimming as benefits a multi-sports club.

Club Championships

This year due to Covid-19 the Club Championships could not take place on the usual dates. However, they were successfully run over 8 days at the start of September. We have had a lot of positive feedback about how the tournament was run and the format of the tournament. Two main positives to take from it were the staggered draws and the condensed format. This allowed the clubs top players to play as we could tell them exactly when they would play each match and we could also guarantee that they wouldn't totally overwhelm players in the first match. It also allowed us to ensure all other members could play matches against players of a similar level.

Having the tournament over the week also gave players who would not reach the later stage of the tournament a feel that they had a summer club champs instead of playing one match in April and their tournament then being over. It created a good atmosphere throughout the week as all members knew when matches are being played – this resulted in people coming to watch matches they were interested in throughout the week.

This year we tried a new format for the handicap men's and ladies' doubles. Members would enter individually and then get given partners by the tournament organisers. However, this did not have a good entry so both events were cancelled this year. Next year it will go back to the original format with members entering in their doubles' pairs.

We also had a good showing from coaches playing with other members in some events – members seemed to enjoy this and could highlight the playing levels of some of the coaches. Some of the stronger older juniors entered events providing them with some adult tournament experience.

Thanks to both Nik and Paul for their help throughout the week. I would also like to thank Peter and his team for another excellent summer on the grass courts. Even with all the setbacks we had at the start of the season these courts were impressive all summer.

Club Competitions

Over the summer all our team's leagues and matches we cancelled. So unfortunately, we did not get the chance to retain the National Men's Title or have a go at winning the Women's title. However, we should still have a very strong team next year so may achieve this still.

The Club's tennis leagues continue to be a very popular way for members to compete within the club. This year I kept the leagues running over the summer as a lot of members stayed in London. As well as the singles leagues, we are currently running men's and ladies' doubles, mixed doubles and off-peak singles leagues.

Vets Friendly matches this year including Quad Cup and Triangular matches were all cancelled. I hope these can go ahead next year.

The Winter Surrey league will go ahead with Covid-19 secure measures in place. We have entered 3 men's, 3 ladies', 3 midweek ladies' team, an over 50 ladies and over 55 men's

team.

I would like to thank Catherine Michie who is stepping down as ladies Captain after 3 very successful years. Rachel Godsave will be the new Captain and I wish her the best in the role, I'm sure Rachel will do a great job.

Roehampton Club Tennis Trophy

On the back of the success of the club champs we have given the membership another chance to enjoy some competitive tennis. The Roehampton Club trophy will see Men, Ladies and Juniors over 14 compete for LTA rating points. The competition will involve singles and doubles and there will be multiple divisions decided by various standard guides regardless of gender and age. Sign-ups for the event has been good so far.

Indoor tennis

The Indoor Tennis Centre continues to be a great success providing the club with 3 premium indoor courts that are extremely popular with the members.

The Airhall over courts 12 to 14 is set to go up w/c 19th or 26th October. This year we will reuse the old Airhall for one more year. The plan is to replace it next year. Once it is replaced, we are looking to install chandelier lighting inside the dome. This will greatly improve the light in the evenings.

Next year we also plan to install a second airhall on courts 7 to 10 along with a new playing surface. Plans have been submitted to Wandsworth Planners. The playing surface is to be approved by the Committee. This dome will also include chandelier lights. By October 2021 the aim is to have 10 indoor courts.

FM – given the fact that all league matches will have to be played outside now, what will you do about the leagues? Would they be extended?

DL- yes, I will extend these so Members will have more time to get them played over the winter months.

RG- I know the Airhall has gone up today, would the club consider taking it down again if we stay in the current Covid-19 situation for a long time?

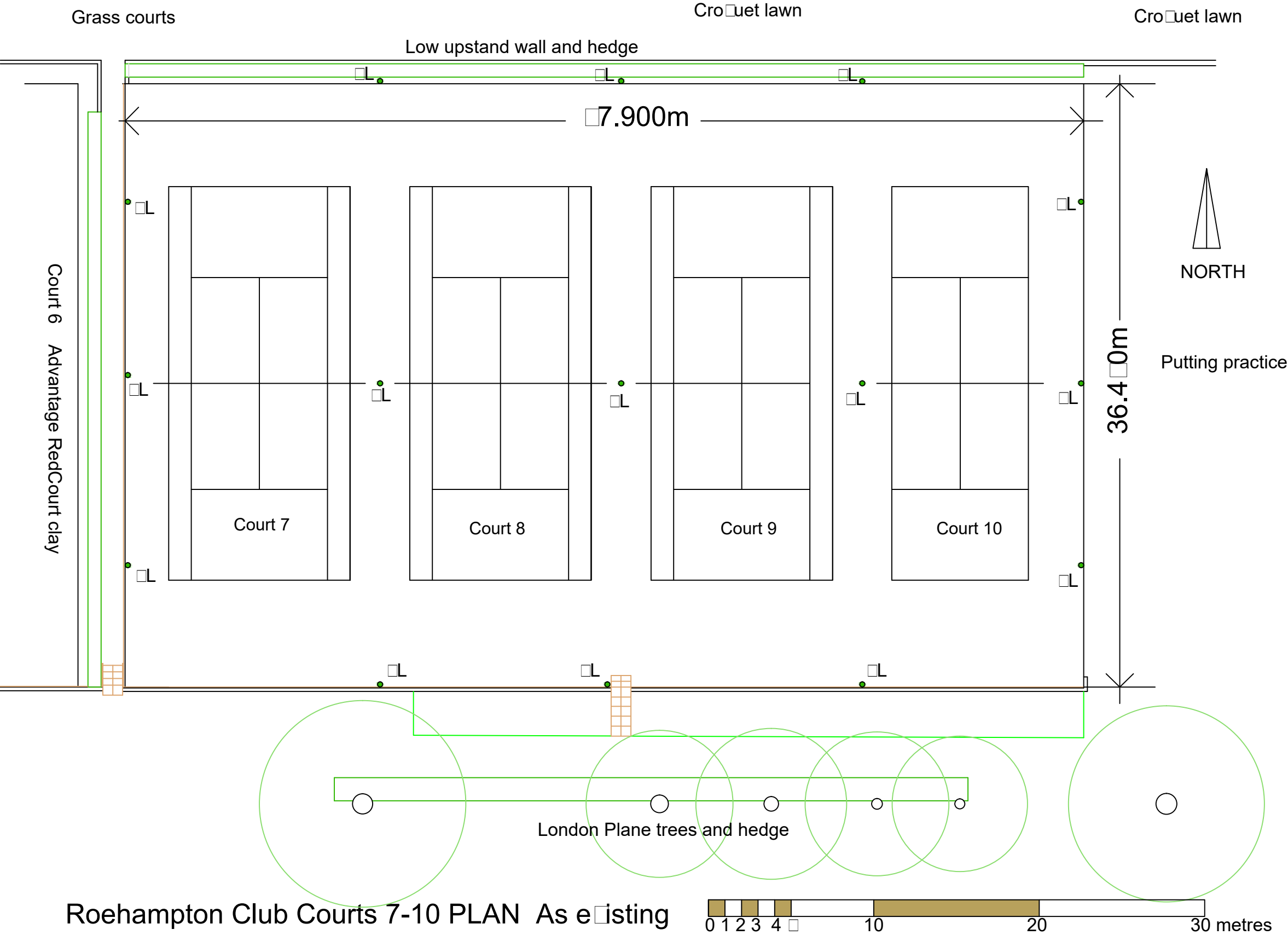
MN – All one to one coaching and junior coaching can go inside as well as u18's and members of the same household who wish to play together. So, it's worth putting up especially if we have another wet winter. Even if we go to tier 3 with the restriction's tennis will operate the same as tier 2. We can take it down within a couple of days if we have to.

DL – We will still have 12 courts outside so I will timetable accordingly.

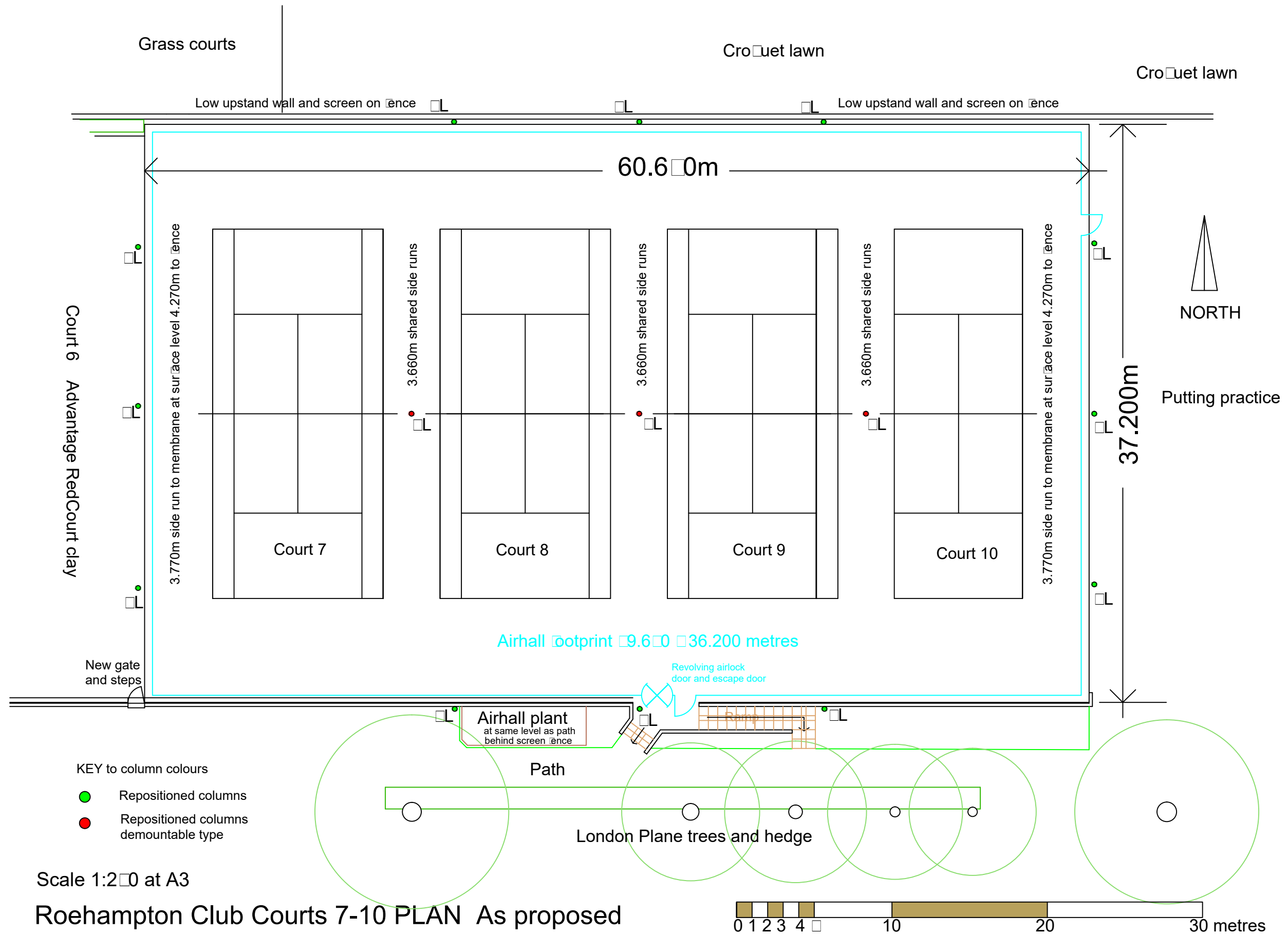
No AOB was put forward

AW thanked all for attending and putting forward their views. MN thanked AW and the Committee for all their support of DL, NS, PL throughout the year.

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

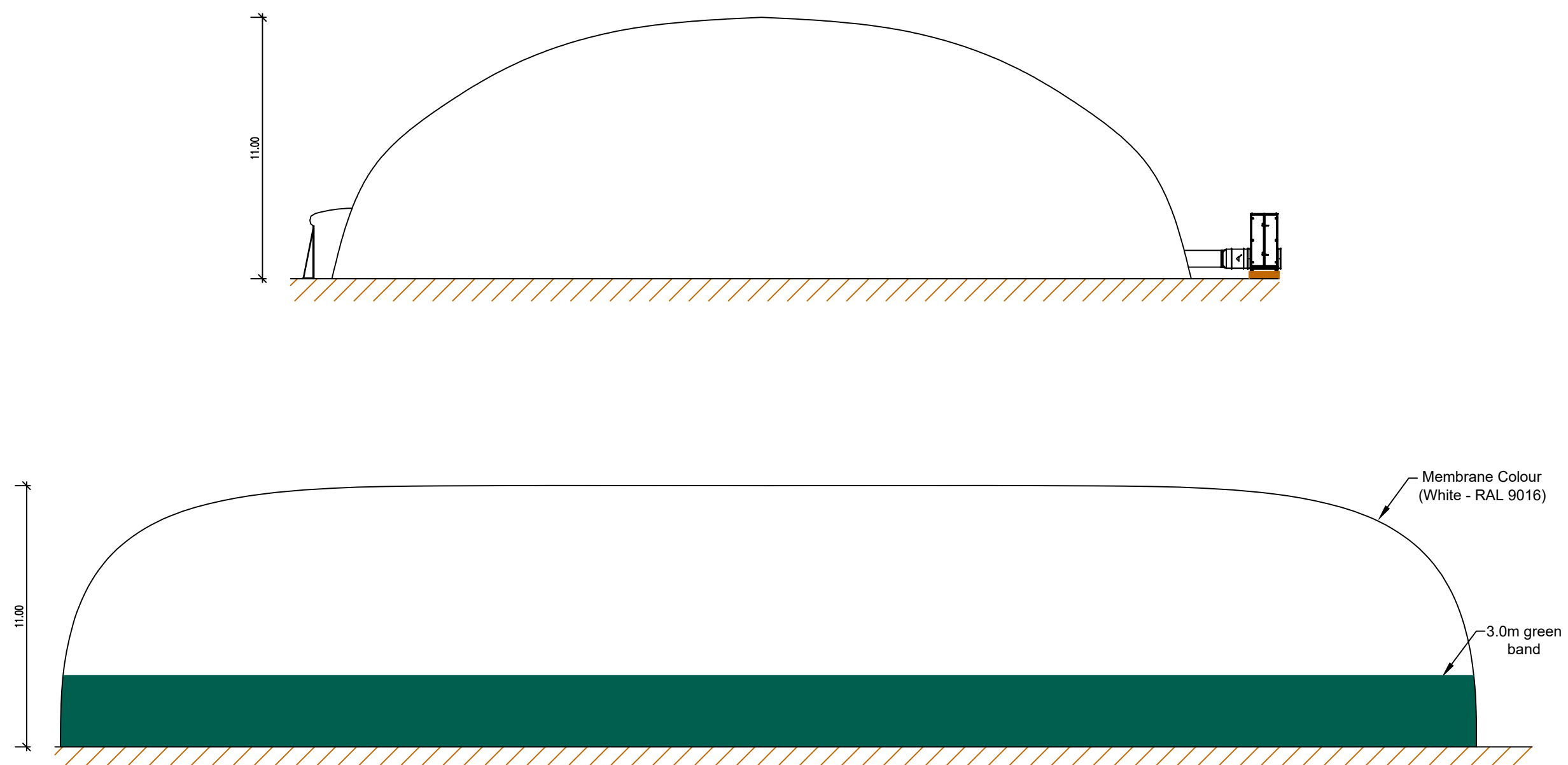



A2



Fence = 60.65m x 37.20m
Dome = 59.65m x 36.20m x 11m

A3





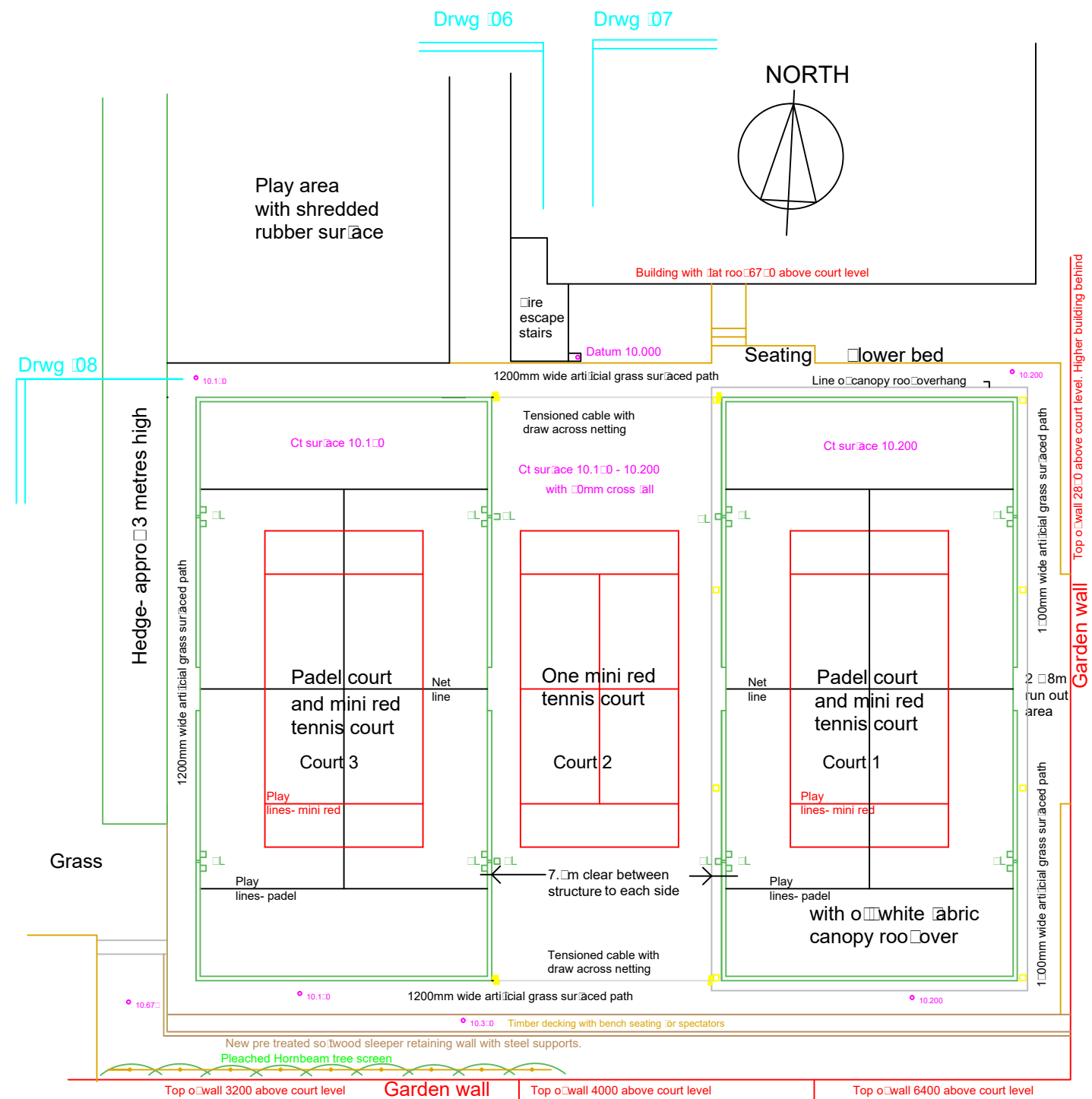
MANUFACTURING AIR DOMES SINCE 1982

Unit 9, Redhill 23 Business Park, Holmethorpe Avenue,
Redhil, Surrey RH1 2GD, UK
Tel: 01883 743988 Web: Covair.co.uk

Project: The Roehampton Club Dome Elevations	
Drawn: DD	No. : ROE-004-E
Scale: 1:200	Date: 23-07-2020



B1

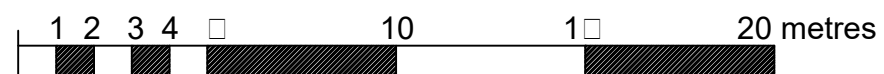


PLAN- As proposed

Scale 1:200 ☐ A3

Roehampton Club

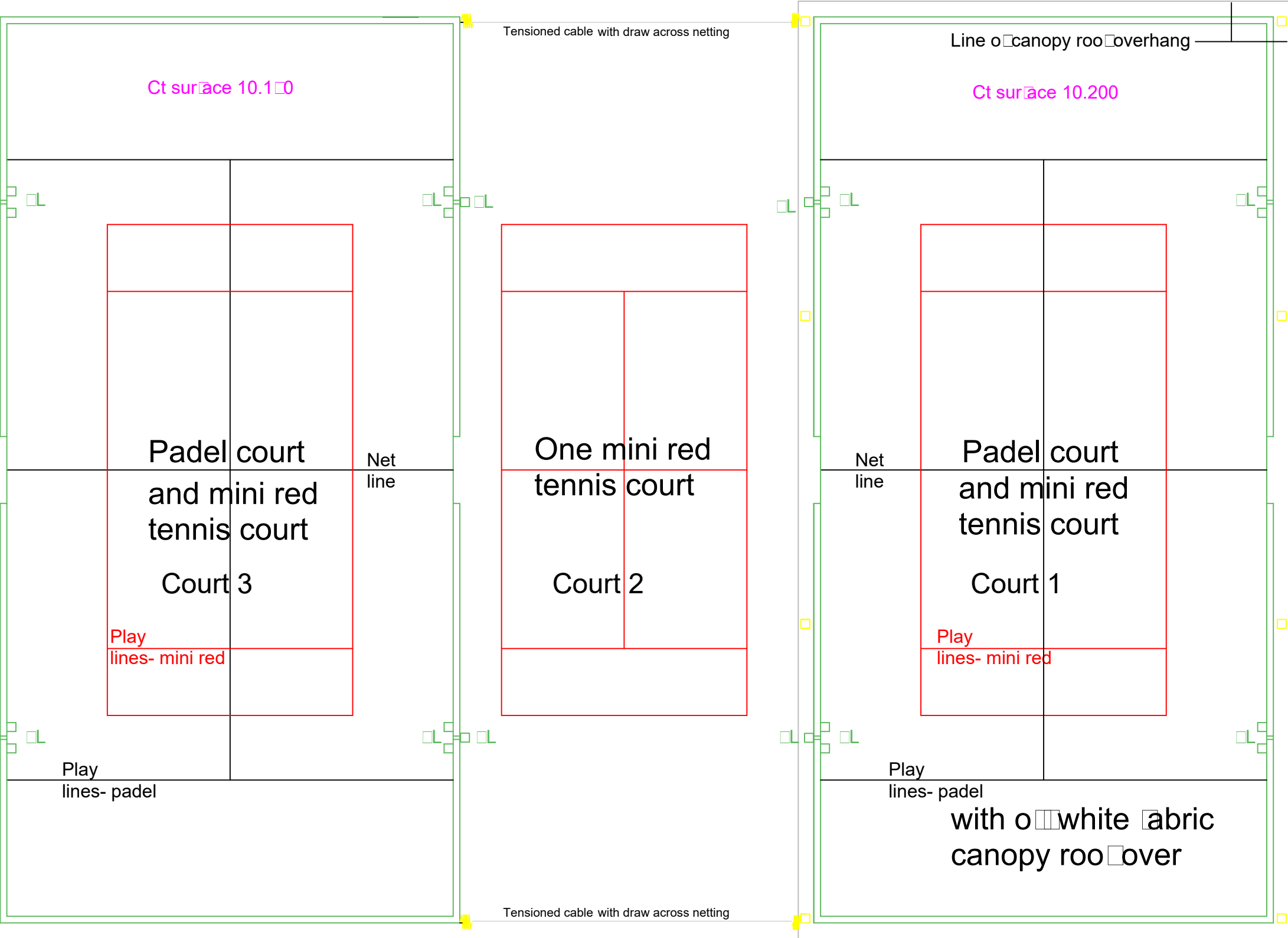
Padel court project



Drwg no. J0903

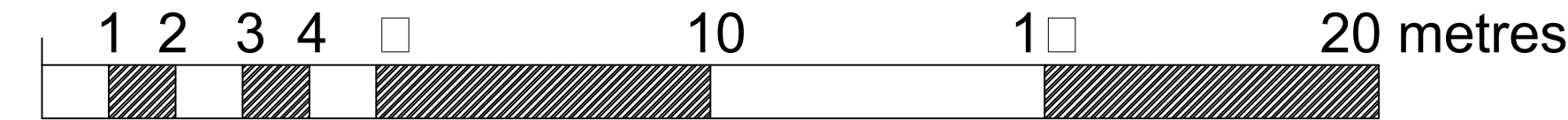
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B2



PLAN- As proposed new padel & mini red tennis courts Scale 1:100 A3

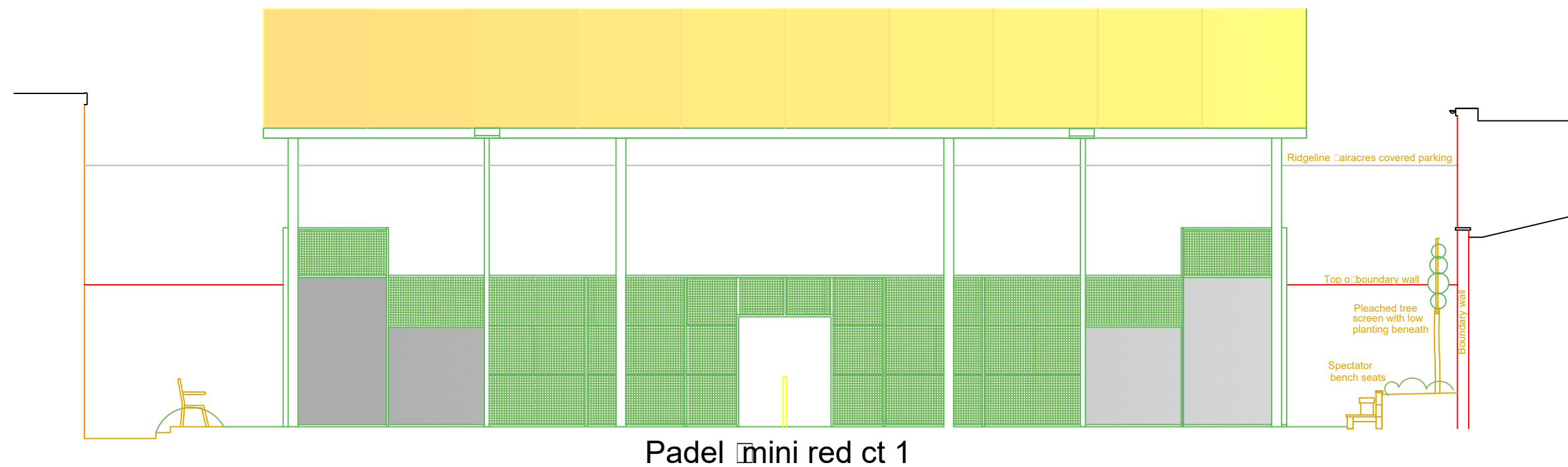
Roehampton Club
Padel court project



Drwg no. J0911

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B3

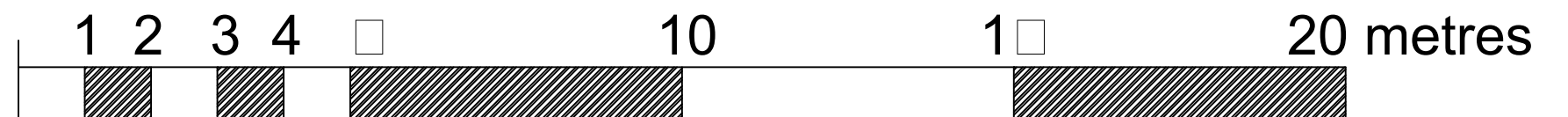


ELEVATION SECTION 07 - As proposed

Scale 1:100 □ A3

Roehampton Club

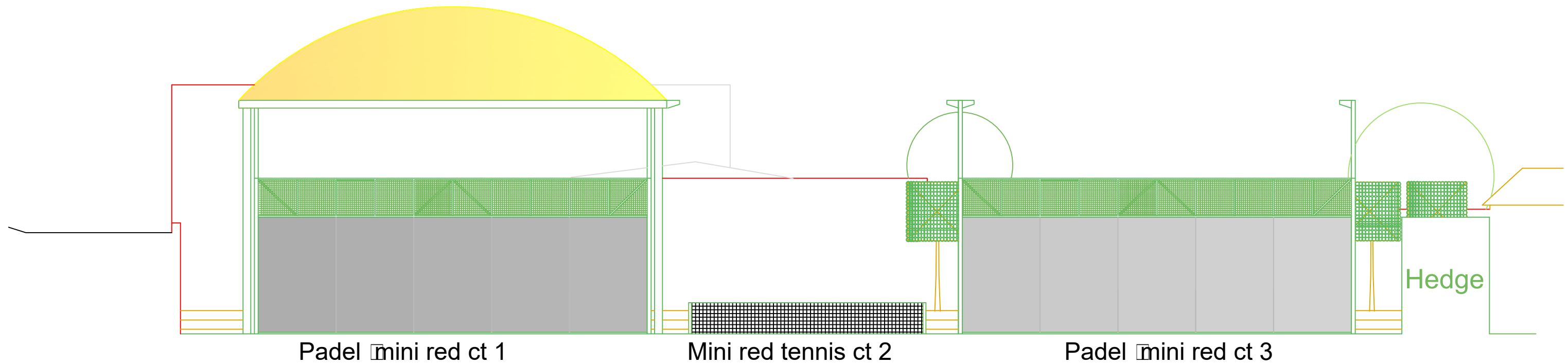
Padel court project



Drwg no. J00907

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B4

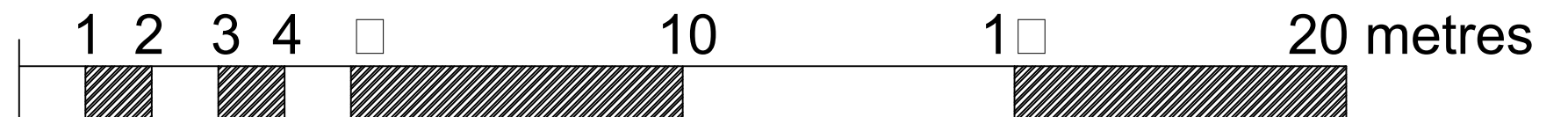


ELEVATION SECTION 08 - As proposed

Scale 1:100 □ A3

Roehampton Club

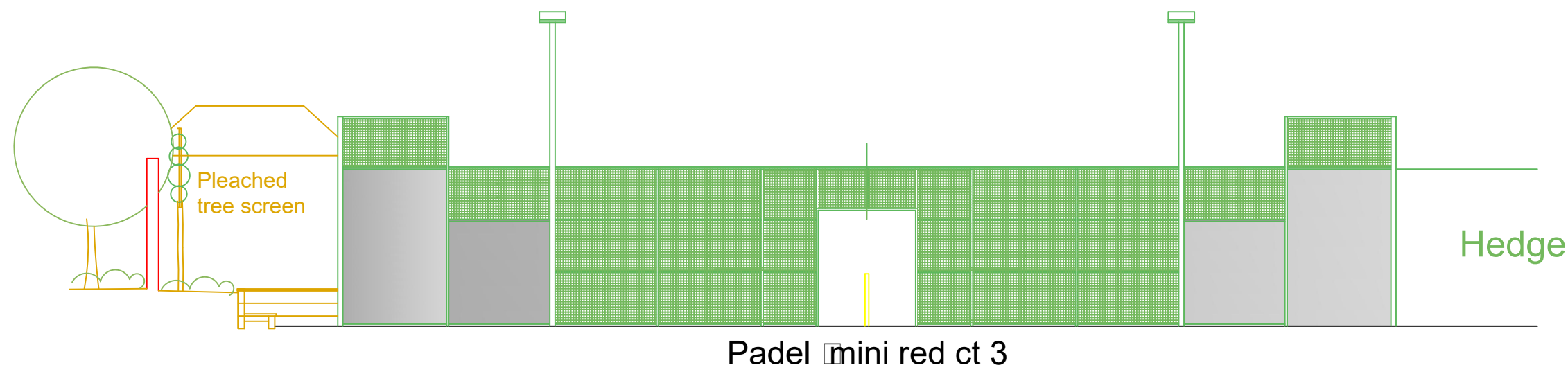
Padel court project



Drwg no. J□0□9□08

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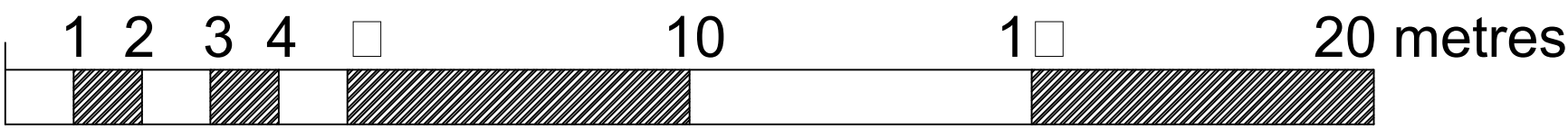
B5



ELEVATION SECTION 06 - As proposed

Scale 1:100 A3

Roehampton Club
Padel court project



Drwg no. J00906

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