



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Wednesday 17th February 2021 (via Zoom)

Present (all via Zoom):

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Lily Brown	
Alessandro Noce	
Alan Flitcroft	
Victoria Stephens	
David Burditt	(Liaison Director)
Jan Menneken	(Men's Captain)
Rachel Godsave	(Ladies' Captain)

In Attendance:

Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Manager)
Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Tilly Da Cunha	(Sports Shop Racquets and Retail)

1. Apologies: Puk Kroijer

Tilly Da Cunha (new Retail Head of Rackets for the Sports Shop) introduced herself and gave update on her role. Tilly will be the go-to point of contact for members regarding racquet sports in the Shop. Tilly has been employed by Matthew Paget and will report into Ricky Pharo day to day. She has a level 3 tennis coaching qualification and experience restringing racquets as well as advising on clothing and equipment. Tilly is interested in feedback from the Committee in terms of any ideas they have so she can provide the best service for Tennis Members.

JM– One thing that is very difficult to get hold of these days is grass court tennis shoes. Therefore, suggested that the shop investigates stocking them this year.

Action- PK has interest and experience in fashion and has spoken to RP last year of her ideas so DL will introduce PK to TD

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th September discussed and approved.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds (PB)

Weather has been extremely wet over last few weeks with snow and ice impacting courts.

Courts 15-18- While in lockdown these have been jet washed and cleaned. We have tried to remove the small particles that gets trapped in the poroflex so they will perform better in the wet and allow water to drain faster.

Courts 11 – 14 will also undergo this process. We have had a slight lighting issue on these courts. One of the floodlight switches has fused together, however we are in the process of fixing this with contractor coming in to resolve.

Courts 19-25. We have been using the UV light rig purchased last year to help the growth along this block of grass courts and the croquet lawns. Since the ITC was constructed, we have had some issues with growth due to shadowing from the building. Using the light rig in these areas will promote growth on the southside of the courts.

AF – When are the grass courts going to be opening this year?

PB – We are aiming for beginning of May as usual, although we have not been able to get on them to assess and start work yet due to the snow and ice. We had 10cm of snow, they are thawing out this week and still very wet.

MN – We are hoping to open the Club at some point in March or beginning of April depending on when restrictions are lifted. We should, weather permitting, have enough time to get the grass courts ready for the usual beginning of May opening.

Padel Courts – Work is ongoing with the contractors having cleared the site and put the hardcore down. They have been slightly delayed with the onset of the snow. We estimate they are a week behind schedule which they should make up. Foundations for the uprights and roofing section will be dug and set this week.

We currently have a lot of contractors on site to get as much preparatory work completed as we can during the lockdown.

Racquet Directors Report

Club Championships

The tennis team have considered the dates for this year's Club Championships. The two potential weeks we are looking at are 19th to 25th June and 3rd to 10th July. The dates depend on whether we are running the GANT Championships (24 -26th June).

These dates would have the tournament starting on a Saturday and finishing on the following Saturday which we believe would work better socially. We have also chosen dates earlier in the year to get 2 rounds in the evening with good daylight on the grass courts. The dates also are at a time where members are around before they go away throughout the summer. Committee to discuss.

Airhall

Due to Covid- 19 the airhall came down early. This has now been disposed of and we await the new skin with enhanced chandelier lights that will go up in October this year.

Airhall 2

This year's plan to install a second airhall on courts 7 to 10 along with a new playing surface is moving forward. Plans are being prepared and necessary surveys carried out so we can submit to the Wandsworth Planners. The playing surface is to be approved by the Committee.

Padel Courts Update

Work on the Padel courts has begun. The area has been cleared and the ground works are well underway. Paul Lindsay has now registered the Club as a Padel venue with the LTA and we have entered 2 teams into the National Padel League. Teams comprise of 6 -10 players (male or Female). Each fixture will involve 3 pairs. There are 2 national Divisions. All new teams will be entered into Division 2. We are in the process of putting together a full Padel Tennis programme.

Tennis presence in Club Shop

Matthew Paget has now taken on a full-time assistant who will be the Head of Racquets for the Sports Shop. Tilly Da Cunha. Tilly's role will be to engage with members regarding the retail offering. Tilly will be present at the TC meeting so you can all meet her, and she can give you more information regarding her role.

ITF Seniors Tournament

Our tournament will be part of the British Seniors Grass Court Series which would include other illustrious clubs and venues such as St Georges Hill, All England Wimbledon, Eastbourne and potentially Roehampton Club. We have had a date of 2-7th August proposed to us. This will be a good date for us as it is normally when the club is quietening down. Normally the first year you run the event they give you grade 3 status, but we would like grade 2 or 1 like the All England, St Georges and Eastbourne so we would need to run it for 1 year to achieve that status. This date has been provisionally booked; this is subject to any other court works that we may have to do for courts 7-10.

Junior News

The junior Programme was suspended on the 5th January. We were in the process of finishing the winter term from Lockdown 2.0 in November. We still have over 2 weeks left. This will now roll over to when the programme can be restarted in March/April.

Teams News

The National Junior Team Competition this winter was cancelled. Along with all the adult Winter Surrey league. We have entered all competitions for the upcoming summer season including. National League, Surrey League, Interclub Seniors.

All photos from the team success of 2019 have now been put up in the ITC balcony area. We hope to add to these when all teams can compete again in 2021.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

TC discussed potential weeks for 2021 Club Champs. It was decided to hold out to see if the GANT championships is going ahead. If not, the week will be 19th – 26th June. If GANT does happen the dates will be 28th August – 4th September or 10th to 17th July. DL and tennis team to assess and decide on what will work best for the new all in one week format that worked

so well last year.

Project Update

MN updated TC on current projects

Airhall 1 – The old airhall has been dismantled and disposed of ready for the new one to be installed. The new skin has been ordered and will not be as transparent as the old one due to the upgraded LED chandelier lights that will be inside the dome and offer a far greater playing experience through the winter months. This will all be fitted in August ready for October use as there are some perimeter works that need to be reinforced before we can install.

Airhall 2 – This will be as the same spec as the new airhall 1 but over four courts. We are currently preparing surveys and final parts of the application before it is submitted to planning.

As a result of all the projects such as airhall 2, the IGC and the plans for the new sports shop the Board has agreed to upgrade the power supply around the club so we can supply enough power to the new facilities. A mole drill will take power from grounds to the sports shop. A data cable will also be installed to provide a better service to the sports shop and the IGC. This is currently being carried out in lockdown to minimise any disruption.

We are upgrading the small bandstand in the gardens with heating and retractable glass screens so families can use the space for games and have somewhere to sit and watch while juniors are using the padel/mini court area.

The small pavilion on Croquet lawn 4 is also being upgraded for Members along with the piazza and seating area in the Piazza to ensure there are more outdoor areas for Members to still socially distance over the next year

The Padel courts are on track for completion by late April.

Court Surface Survey

DB explained the methodology of the 2014 previous court survey was carried out for courts 7 -10. We used the expert help of Neil Amor last time and it was agreed that we ask him again. TC discussed a possible blend of surfaces for the Club and how best to decide on what surface to put down on courts 7 – 10. Choices would depend on whether we get permission to cover these courts with an Airhall over the winter months.

It was decided that a representative sample survey of Members would be designed with

Neil's' help. This would be used as one of the tools to help the TC to decide on the best surface for the overall membership of the club and recommend that to the Board. Other operational aspects such as coaching and event/match planning would also be considered to ensure that the selected surface is the most appropriate for the whole tennis operation.

The survey will be put together and reviewed in the March Committee meeting before it is rolled out.

Action – MN and DB to get the survey underway ready for TC to review in March.

Date of next meeting – 24th March 6:30pm. Via Zoom.