



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Monday 7th June 2021 (via Zoom)**

Present (all via Zoom):

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Lily Brown	
Alessandro Noce	
Alan Flitcroft	
Victoria Stephens	
Jan Menneken	(Men's Captain)
Rachel Godsave	(Ladies' Captain)
Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)

In Attendance:

Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)

1. Apologies: David Burditt (Liaison Director)

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of February discussed and approved.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds (PB)

Weather throughout May has been extremely wet. Grass courts have been closed most of the time. However, the June weather forecast is much better, and the lawns are reacting well now. All grass courts are open and should firm up over the next few weeks.

Trevor May have completed the padel courts but are still working on the snagging list and works are also ongoing with the perimeter wall. This should be completed in the next few weeks. The planting for the boarder wall will be done in the Autumn.

AW asked if anything can be done about balls coming into padel courts from members using the mini courts. These entrances are not supposed to be covered as players can go outside the court and play the ball back in, however DL and PL will investigate possible solutions.

Extra netting on the padel courts is being costed by Tim Freeman to stop balls going out into the Fairaces Estate and over the hedge on the other side. With the netting balls should coming back down to the courts. Ground staff are regularly checking the Yew hedge to see if there are any balls that have gone over.

On Wednesday 9th June Trevor May will be lowering the side fence on court 4 to make it easier to view the courts from the ITC patio. It will also act as another social outside seating area.

The grass courts will not undergo a full renovation in the Autumn this year. Instead, they will be overseeded. Next year Grounds will be levelling courts 25 to 28 with full renovation.

Airhall Updates

Airhall 1 (12 to 14) will be replaced with new skin and internal chandelier lighting in October this year. This will require some small adjustments to the groundworks.

Airhall 2 – (proposed over courts 7 – 10) the GLA planners have rejected the plans for this currently. The club now must prove special circumstances for it to be passed. MN has met with WBC councillors and is in the process of putting a case together outlining the reasons

DL/P
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for the temporary structure and how it can be advantageous to the local community through the charity Rackets Cubed and other school links that we can establish at off peak times. Wandsworth Council will look into the application again once they have this information and hope to convince GLA to approve. If the application gets approved the club will look to install for October.

Court Surfaces

The Committee decided that instead of a member’s court survey they would produce a court surface document, considering all the possible options for the surface change on courts 7-10 and 15 to 18. The decision on Airhall 2 will influence this decision greatly, therefore the committee decided to prepare the document for when we hear the final decision. This document will consider experts views and opinions as well as considering operational issues and court usage stats. Tim Freeman at Trevor May has been asked for costing for various options so these can also be factored into the decision. All this information will be available for Members to view and give feedback once we have the planning decision, and the consultation document has been completed.

VS- noted that padel courts cannot be booked if member have booked 90 minutes of court time on a tennis court on the same day. DL will rectify with MyCourts.

NS, JM and RG gave a brief update on teams (see RD Report below) and how the juniors are being integrated to these well.

RG and VS asked about team kit for ladies’ teams. This will be available to purchase at cost price. DL to give sample sizes out so players can order. MN thanked both captains for all their efforts so far this season.

LB – asked if a variety of balls could be sold in the shop. DL confirmed that both HEAD ATP and Slazenger Wimbledon balls will be sold. However, there are delays with stock for various reasons.

Online coaching booking system

DL noted that all padel coaching sessions can be booked online via an online booking platform. The system is the same used for golf and will give some transparency to members on when and how they can book lessons. If successful it may be rolled out for tennis lessons in the future. The Club will also benchmark coaching fees with other Clubs, AF will supply data from Hurlingham as they have recently carried this out.

AW/
MN/
DB

DL

AF

Racquets Director's Report

Club Championships

The dates for this year's Club Championships are set 19th June to 26th June. The GANT Championships (24 -26th June) are postponed until 2022 therefore this week makes the most sense. So far, we have plenty of entries for lots of events. The ladies' singles and doubles open and over 45's singles have the fewest. Nik and I will work on boosting the numbers before the closing date of Monday 7th June.

These dates have the tournament starting on a Saturday and finishing on the following Saturday which we believe would work better socially. We have a cocktail live music night planned for the middle Wednesday of the championships. This will take place around the Outdoor Pool, but no swimming allowed! it will be free to attend, and drinks and pizzas will be available throughout the night to purchase. The finals day prizegiving party will take place on the Saturday evening- 26th June. This will mean players will not need to hang around all day for the prizegiving. Instead, everyone can plan to come back for the event later in the evening in the clubhouse bar/dining rooms.

Airhall 1

The new airhall has been ordered and is due to be installed in October over courts 12 to 14.

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 have been submitted to the Wandsworth Planners and we expect the decision in mid-July. We are producing a document to explain the court surfaces options and recommendations to Members. The playing surface is to be approved by the Committee and recommended to the Board.

Padel Tennis Update

The Padel courts opened on Sunday 9th May. Paul Lindsay and Chris Salisbury have been running club social and taster sessions, these have been full most days and member are enjoying the sport. We plan to launch some adult and junior coaching courses after half term. We will add to these sessions if they prove popular. The sessions will be launched using an online booking platform that will make it easy and transparent for members.

Tennis presence in the Sports Shop

Tilly has been busy in the shop with racket restringing and helping on a lot of the padel taster sessions. There are now padel rackets available to borrow and purchase along with balls and other equipment in the shop. All tennis balls will now be purchased from the shop. Clubhouse reception will only sell members require balls out of shop opening hours.

Vets Friendlies

The Vets friendlies have been scheduled throughout the summer. Danny Gesua has organised these for the past few years however, since his injuries his level has dropped and therefore does not want to do this going forward. I am currently organising these and will look to find a member who is keen to get involved and play in these matches. There is a triangular match at Hurlingham on 5th September that will involve 12 players. I will start recruiting for this match shortly.

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. This will take place on the grass and have a synthetic 4 court back up.

Coaching

We have had 320 signups for junior groups. Weekend sessions were nearly all full on the morning we opened bookings. We are finalising a new online booking process for group tuition for the September term. Individual lessons are also near full capacity.

In terms of achievements, we have had a lot of juniors participating in tournaments and a number selected for the County Cup (top 6 players in county get selected), Martha Ground won her National Age Group Champs (U12) and Hannah Klugman, still only 12, won an adult British Tour beating WTA players.

Teams Update

Men's 1st Team- Played 9 Won 8. Qualified in National Doubles League Top and all players are qualified for finals. Have qualified for national finals in National League. The match that was lost the opponents played in the wrong order so we are likely to be granted the win for this fixture so the team will be unbeaten.

Women's 1- Team Played 8 Won 6. Qualified for National Doubles League in 2nd place. Currently 2nd in the National League. Have now qualified for national finals- if they win the last match they will finish top of the south east region too.

Men's 2nd Team- Played 6- Won 3. Have almost certainly stayed up so this is a great achievement for this team as they are in Prem 2 after being promoted last year (one below the first team) and playing teams with full time players. It has been great to see a mix of old

members, new members, vets, open and junior players competing together in this team and they have been very happy with the season.

Women's 2- Played 2 Won 2. Still to play St Georges Hill 1st Team -the winner of this fixture will probably be promoted. We have had a good mix of juniors and adults in the first match and then a full junior team beat Purley 1st team last weekend.

Men's 3 and 4- Start this weekend and Jan and Eusebio have been super organised in trying to get the best teams they can out.

Juniors- Begin their National league in the next week or two. Captains have been great again in organising their teams.

Vets- We have 5 Teams in the National Vets Knock out- The first matches are starting in June

Ladies Surrey League

1st team (Soph, Issy Townsend, Annabel and Holly Dulieu) played The Wimbledon Club 2. They won 3-1

2nd team (Katie Gotla, Ness, Izzy Reid and Holly James) played Putney 2. They lost 1-3

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

September 2020

Date of next meeting – 14th July 6:30pm. Via Zoom.

