



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Monday 19th July

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
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)
Paul Lindsay	(Racquets Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)

1. **Apologies:** Puk Kroijer, Victoria Stephens, Alan Flitcroft, David Burditt, Lily Brown, Alessandro Noce

2. **Minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th of June discussed and approved.

3. **Reports**

Course and Grounds (PB)

97.5mm of rain fell through July, which was the 2nd highest of the year. January had 130mm. this meant it was very wet on all courts and many days where the grass courts were out of action. Despite this the grass courts are in good playing condition when open!

– covers for the grass courts were discussed, however it was decided its not a feasible option with the labour required to take them on and off during the day and evening.

The Padel Courts landscaping work is complete and now the team are dressing the area up with planting etc. AW asked about somewhere to hang coats etc over in the padel court area PL will investigate solutions for this.

PL stated that we are losing a lot of padel balls out of the sides of the courts therefore netting will be fitted between the floodlight posts so the balls will bounce back into the court. Should be installed by September.

AW recommended some court number signs up on both sides of the grass courts so members can see when they access the courts from the other side.

RG mentioned there is some form of plant growing from the drain of the ITC PB will investigate and get removed.

Airhalls

Airhall 1 has been priced and details finalised- it will be ordered soon. It will be an 8-week project to complete as some small groundworks have to be achieved before its erected.

The internal chandelier lighting will improve the playing experience on dark nights and with the skin not being transparent should solve the problem of the blinding light on sunny days. It will also have two emergency exits at opposite ends.

Tim Freeman from Trevor May will be managing the project and the new skin will come with a 5-year warranty.

PL

DL

PB

MN

The council are firmly behind our plans for a 2nd Airhall thanks to the use we can show that our charity 'Rackets Cubed' will have at off peak times in term time. The Club donated £13,000 to Roehampton Community week and we are able to show 'special circumstances' regarding our planning application with the indoor courts being used for the *inreach* programme teaching children from local schools. We can also use these sessions to feed talented children into programmes and give them a chance to become good players for the Club.

The application should go to the planning committee in August, failing that it will be put forward to the September meeting. If approved then we hope to have the works completed by January 2022.

Online Lesson Booking

DL presented to the Committee how the new online coach booking system would work. This would provide a simple platform for all members to see what lessons are available and an easy way to book them on a long- or short-term basis. The system has been rolled out for Padel tennis and is also being used for tennis junior group lessons very successfully. Its also the same system golf uses so creates some consistency across all the sports at the club.

Members of the Committee present agreed that the system was good for Members and for the coaches and should be implemented. DL and AW will show rest of Committee and ask for feedback and ensure all are onboard before taking to the Board for final approval. It is hoped to roll it out in September.

Racquet Directors Report

Club Championships

The Club Championships was a success. This year we had a huge entry to the men's Open Singles and all players really enjoyed the tournament feel to the week, many members came down in the evenings to watch the quarter and semis finals. We did have some feedback regarding the format over a week especially in the vets' events when some players played every day due to the number of events they entered. Next year we will look to run the vets and handicap singles /doubles over a month and have the main events run through the week with a semi-finals and barbeque event. Committee to discuss next year.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel both the cocktail live music night and after party due to the social distancing restrictions that were kept in place. We will plan some more social events around the championships next year.

Airhall 2

We have now heard back from the planners, and presently plans for this have been declined by the GLA. However, we are appealing the decision and have included more information on the community programme we currently have in place and how we are looking to include programmes like this in the new airhall. Marc to update committee.

Padel Tennis Update

Padel uptake and feedback continues to be positive as the section grows.

We have now stopped the introductory sessions for the summer and will look to reinstate for the month of September.

The social session offers have been reduced slightly for the summer months but those running remain popular.

The exciting offer of the first Club Championship at the end of August I hope will provide some fun competition to those enjoying the game. We hope to make the finals day a combination of great Member matches with a BBQ lunch and drinks.

We are looking to arrange a coaching clinic day with a high-quality exhibition match at some point in the Autumn.

We are working on the Padel offer for September to December with options of Junior and Adult Group Coaching courses to be sent out soon. All these will be bookable and payable via the on-line system.

Tilly's Sports Shop Update

Despite a challenging reopening of retail, particularly with the backlash of Brexit, it has been a pleasure to meet and get to know a substantial of members. The past few months has allowed us to gain insight into what people are looking for from the sports shop and in particular, the rackets department. We are working hard to expand our stock, particularly with the apparel and aim to introduce a variety of brands over the coming months. As always, any feedback is greatly appreciated. tilly@roehamptonclub.co.uk

A couple of weeks ago Pokita, a women's tennis clothing brand set up their pop-up shop for the day (their first ever one) which despite the quietness of the club, was a great success. Pokita are a start-up business with a focus on selling sustainable women's tennis clothing. They have set out to buck the fast fashion trend who often use virgin materials not manufactured to last and instead, work with suppliers who use regenerated, quality fabric made from left over material which otherwise would be sent to wasteland. Pokita have a collection of unique, quirky, fun designs aimed for those looking to steer away from the traditional tennis whites and to stand out a little more on court. We aim to get Pokita back in the Autumn for another pop-up display.

We also now have a large range of Padel bats in stock.

Vets Friendlies

The Quad Cup and Triangular matches are being played over the summer. Mark Young has taken over from Danny Gesua, helping to find teams for these matches. Roehampton is hosting the first triangular match on Friday 16th July. This year the match will involve 8 players from each team (Roehampton, Queens and SGH). The match will take place on the grass courts with a match tea after.

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 Roehampton Club. We have had a date of 2-7th August confirmed. Nik has been liaising with an ITF referee that will run the event for us. We have had a lot of interest from members wanting to take part in this event. This will take place on the grass and have a synthetic 4 court back up.

Coaching

Last week we launched all junior group courses for September. We did this using the online platform and members signed up and paid online. This gave all members an equal opportunity to book onto the courses. The process was a lot smoother than the old system and took a big workload off reception. We will continue doing this going forward.

We are also planning on using an online booking system for all lessons from September. I will present how this will work in the meeting.

Teams Update

Men's Captains Report:

The decision to stop playing the Surrey Leagues at the higher levels and focus instead on the National League and the National knockouts in the various age groups was vindicated. We still have lower-level teams in the Surrey leagues.

The players in the National League seem to enjoy playing singles and doubles and the players in the lower teams like the Surrey league format.

We were also able to integrate many young players in the National League men's teams. Top Dunlop, Mattie Ground, Luke Walker, Rasmus and Shinichiro Iwami all have played for the 3rd or 4th team. We will have another youngster joining, Lucas Ebert, and the future looks bright.

National League:

1st Team:

The men's and ladies first team qualified for the National Finals in Bournemouth without having to go into the Playoffs. The Finals will be shown live on the Tennis Channel.

2nd Team:

The 2nd team managed to hold the division on the national level, which is a big success and was the goal this year.

3rd Team:

The 3rd team had to deal with a lot of injuries but still is in a position to get promotion when the last matches are won.

4th team:

After three resounding victories, the 4th team lost against a very strong Dulwich team (Dulwich were in the wrong division considering their players) so the league level will be maintained.

Surrey Leagues:

1st team (previously Roehampton 4th team Surrey League): They won one match, lost the second.

2nd team (previously Roehampton 5th team Surrey League): No information yet.

Individual results:

Joe Salisbury reached the Wimbledon mixed doubles final!!! He also reached the mens doubles SF.

Anton Matusevic and Arthur Fery both won two rounds at the Wimbledon Qualifying Event singles and both lost in the 5th set in the third game that would have gotten them into the main draw in Wimbledon.

Oscar Weightman is doing well in the UK Pro League event this week.

Ladies Captain's Report:

National League

1st team – finished in 2nd position in the National Division, and currently playing in the National playoffs.

2nd team – won Surrey Division 1 against very strong opposition, the best result for the 2nd team ever. In the Playoffs to make South East (South) Regional Division on Sunday against Chandos away.

Surrey League

1st team – won 1 (3-1), lost 1 (1-3). Next match v. Magdalen Park next weekend

2nd team – lost 1 (1-3), 2nd match got rained off. Next match v TWC next weekend

3rd team – Won first match against Oxshott 4-0. Next match against Sheen this weekend.

Ladies over 40s and 50s National Club League

Ladies over 40s – knocked out by a strong Westside team

Ladies over 50s – Beat TWC away and are now into the QF. Their next match is in Leeds which the team are thrilled about!

Midweek Ladies

1st team – Won 1st match against David Lloyd Raynes Parks but came up against very strong opposition against Cheam who had several talented juniors playing for them.

2nd team – Division 6. They put together a new team of 12 ladies who train with Jack on Wednesdays. It's a super team of 12 dedicated women, most of whom have not played competitive tennis for a Roehampton team. They have had a strong start to the season and are top of the division after two matches. This team is really improving in the training and everyone has dealt well with being in competitive matches. They are aiming to give everyone a go in playing in at least one match while still aiming to stay at the top of the league. Let's see if this can be done! Thanks to Dan Lott for encouraging so many women to take part in this league.

3rd team – Lost their first match, but two matches coming up soon that they hope to be more successful.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

July 2021

Date of next meeting – TBC