



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Wednesday 22nd September

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Jan Menneken	(Men's Captain)
Rachel Godsave	(Ladies' Captain)
Alan Flitcroft	
Howard Spence	
Victoria Stephens	
Lily Brown	
David Burditt	

In Attendance:

Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Manager)
Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)
Paul Lindsay	(Rackets Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)

1. Apologies: Puk Kroijer, Alessandro Noce

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th July were discussed and approved.

MN: Congratulated AW for being re-elected for another three year term.

Howard Spence has been voted on to the committee while AF has retired from the Committee. AF has offered to continue in an advisory role for the committee.

This was unanimously agreed by the committee.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds (PB)

May – August very wet this year. August had 9mm of rain therefore it affected the grass court usage. Through late August to September the weather improved, and the courts were well used and very well received by members. The grounds team are now in the process of renovating the courts by overseeding and scarifying ready for next May.

This year instead of koroing the grass off and top dressing the courts in September, Chris Hughes will apply top dressing and level the courts next year. The idea is to germinate the seed now and then add the 50 tonnes of top dressing in the spring once the seed its more established. We anticipate this will be better than burying the seed while it's still young.

PB explained the reasons we need to close they grass courts at this time of year even though the weather may still be good. Reasons involve completing the court renovations while the soil temperature is still warm, therefore there is a small window to get the new seed germinated before the frost. Hence the importance in closing the courts when we do.

The ITC is also causing some growth issues at the back of courts 19 and 20 due to the shade it creates, however the light rig is working well to improve the growth in all shady areas.

Padel – Trevor May Ltd and Pro Padel have been to do some snagging work on the padel courts. New netting to stop the balls going over the boundary walls will also be fitted in the coming weeks.

Airhalls

The new airhall skin is being prepared for courts 12- 14. The back of court 14 has undergone

some prep work and the old fans have been taken out and ground repaired ready for the installation. The new chandelier lighting will make the skin a lot heavier, therefore more support is needed from the concrete ring beam. Covair will be on site from the 11th October to prep the site and install the skin and lighting. Weather permitting this should be completed by the 19th October.

The planning decision for Airhall 2 has unfortunately been put back to the October meeting. Once we have a decision from the council it will go to GLA planning before we get a final decision. Due to this its unlikely work will start until summer 2022. The TC will discuss the best time to do the work. There is at least an 8-week installation process as it will also require the court surface to be replaced.

Due to the prospect of Airhall 2 the resurfacing decision for courts 15 – 18 has been put back until after the decision for courts 7-10 has been made. The Committee will consult with Members on that decision.

MN asked DB to prepare some stats regarding our grass courts usage this year.

Online Private Lesson Booking

DL updated the committee on the new online booking system. The system had been well received and although had some teething problems these should be ironed out over time. The TC agreed that it's much more transparent system that will open more private lessons slots to all members.

Racquets Directors Report

Online Booking

The new online booking platform for all our racquets sports has been launched. Both individual and junior group lessons can be booked using this platform. This has taken a huge workload from reception and made it very easy and transparent for members to book lessons at the Club. Coaches can still control their own diaries through the system, offer their regular clients lessons and give opportunities for members who were not able to get lessons previously a chance to see when they become available. In the long term this will also free up the racquet team's admin and create time to do more productive things for the section.

Tennis team

I have taken on 2 new coaches since Gill and Sebs departure. Marc Ellis and Kitty McWhirter. Marc is a highly experienced coach who has worked in many clubs and was the racquets manager at Virgin active for several years. Kitty is a key member of the ladies 2nd team and was a top junior player as

well as an all-round sportswoman. Kitty has just past her level 3 qualification and is keen to develop her coaching career at Roehampton.

On the 14th October I have arranged for Simon Wheatley to come in to do some coaching education with the team. Simon is an independent Coach Education and Player Development Consultant working globally helping federations, clubs, coaches, players, and parents to regenerate and fulfil their potential within the sport. He has also trained many top elite British coaches working with our Davis Cup and Fed cup players. He has written two books, four qualifications and over 50 short courses for the LTA and federations all over the world. This will be the first of many coach education days that will help develop Roehampton coaches around topics we deal with at the club on a regular basis. The first topic is Core Doubles Tactics, positioning and drills to improve Club Members. I will also be doing some doubles clinics with Simon for our members that day.

Airhall 1

The Airhall is set to go up in October with a completion date of 19th October. This year the club has purchased a new air hall that will have internal chandelier lighting. Due to the new structure and the weight of the chandelier lighting some alterations to the groundworks will be required. Unfortunately, this will mean that courts 12 to 14 will be out of action from the week of the 11th - 19th October.

Airhall 2

The good news is that it's looking very promising for Airhall 2 on courts 7 -10. We are still awaiting the final decision from the council in October. If agreed, then it will go to the GLA planners to finalise the decision. Once we have a firm decision the court surfaces document will need to be publicised so members can see the long-term plan regarding the club's different court surfaces.

ITF Seniors Tournament

The ITF senior's tournament proved successful with a lot of members entering the events. We have even more interest for next year and was a perfect week for the event with the club being so quiet. We plan to do it again next year at the same time and get more member involvement.

Padel Update

Paul Lindsay put on a great Padel Championship that culminated in a wonderful Finals day on Saturday 4th September. (See report below)

Some great Member matches saw a crowd of over 60 members enjoy the spectacle and the optional BBQ lunch and drinks by the bandstand was a nice addition. The Tournament t-shirts seems to have been very well received too.

General Padel uptake remains positive as Members return to more of a routine following the summer holiday months.

The introductory session has been reinstated for the month of September and coaching courses are bookable on-line.

We are also looking forward to hosting our first interclub Padel friendly match v St Georges Hill and have another match v The Jesters in the pipeline.

For information the courts are being closed on Wednesday 22 Sept for some maintenance works, including the tightening of the mesh wire as some has bowed in places.

Men's Captain Report (JM)

Roehampton Club men's tennis in the first season back after Covid break had major successes and few slight disappointments:

Joe Salisbury won both the men's doubles and the mixed doubles at the 2021 US Open. This makes him the first GB player to win two doubles titles at a Grand Slam in the open era and the first man to do so at the US Open since Bob Bryan did it in 2010. Joe now has four (!!!) Grand Slam titles to his name and the club kindly set up a reception to honour Joe next Tuesday.

The men's first team captained by Nik won the national doubles title. Congratulations to Nik and his team!

The men's first team captained by Nik reached the semi-final in the National League Final in Bournemouth last weekend and lost a tough match in the Championship shootout to DLRP. The team was playing without some of the top players for a variety of reasons, one of them was Joe winning the US Open.

The men's second NL team also captained by Nik was able to stay in the National division 2. Very good result for our team!

The men's third NL team captained by Eusebio nearly got promoted. They lost by one rubber difference and stayed in their division. Unlucky, hopefully next year.

The men's fourth NL team captained by me started out the season in Division 4 and began with a couple of good victories, but then lost some players to higher teams and ran into a team that was clearly in the wrong division. The team ended up in the middle.

In the Surrey league, the highest Roehampton Club team captained by Duncan is middle table with some matches still to come. The second team also is currently mid table with two matches still to play.

Ladies Captain's Report (RG)

National League

1st team – reached the semi-finals of the National Finals.

2nd team – Sadly lost the Surrey Division 1 Playoffs to make Southeast (South) Regional Division to Chandos.

Surrey League

1st team – Division 2: won 2, lost 2. Final match on Sun.

2nd team – Division 4: won 1, lost 1. Next match on Sun, with rearranged match in Oct.

3rd team – Division 8: Won 4. Currently top of league with 1 match to go.

Ladies over 50s National Club League

Ladies over 50s – Had to award a walkover to the team in Leeds for the QF as they could only offer 2 dates in August and one at a weekend that sadly we couldn't field a team for, and there were holiday and covid issues to content with. They refused to offer Sept dates.

Midweek Ladies

1st team (Vanessa Walker) – Division 1: Won 2, Drawn 2. Finished 2nd in league.

2nd team (Sue Burns) – Division 5: Won 3, lost 1 (against very strong opposition against Cheam who had several talented juniors playing for them)

3rd team (Kathleen Bacon) - Division 6: Won 3, 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.

4th team (Susan Stewart) – Division 8: Won 1, Lost 2. 2 more matches to play

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

September 2021

Date of next meeting – 30th November 6:30pm