



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting**  
**held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 6:30pm**

**Present:**

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Fred Warneryd	(Men's Captain)
Rachel Godsave	(Ladies' Captain)
Alan Flitcroft	
Victoria Stephens	
David Burditt	(Liaison Director)
Alessandro Noce	
Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)

**In Attendance:**

Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Manager)
Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Louis Laville	(Pickleball Professional)

**1. Apologies:** Puk Kroijer, Howard Spence, Lily Brown

**2. Minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes of the AGM held on the 16<sup>th</sup> October were discussed and approved.

**3. Reports**

**Course and Grounds (PB)**

ITC – PB noted that the ITC court surfaces needs a deep clean after a season of heavy use. A lot of areas are starting to look dirty. To do this the ITC will need to be booked out for the day therefore Chirs Hughes has kindly agreed to do this overnight so the courts can continue to be used by members. CH thinks this will take between 6-8 hours and will need to make sure the surface has dried adequately before its used post clean.

**Action-DL and CH to look at best time to do this avoiding Fri night/ Saturday mornings.**

Courts 4, 5 and 6 – There is a slight build up of moss in some off-court areas on these courts. The courts will be given a deep clean in the Spring ready for the summer season.

Court 7, 8 ,9 and 10 – In preparation of the new Airhall Two the hedge in between courts 6 and 7 will be removed. The hedging along the back of these courts will also be removed once ready for Airhall Two however, before this can be done netting will be placed over the hedge to prevent birds nesting there during this period.

MN noted that the club are investigating acoustic board designs that will reduce the noise levels affecting the croquet lawns behind these courts.

Courts 12, 13 and 14 – While Airhall One is over these courts there has been a build-up of condensation on the internal roof caused by the sudden drop in temperature in the past few weeks. This is causing water to drip onto the playing surface. CH has rented dehumidifiers and placed them in the corners of the airhall which seems to have fixed the issue for now.

**Action – DL/CH to monitor this.**

Courts 15, 16, 17 and 18 – These courts have undergone a deep clean. CH has jet washed the whole area including the surrounding wind breaks that had a build-up of dirt particles. The dirt in the surface has also been pulled out which will greatly improve the drainage of these courts.

Courts 19-28- The grass courts have needed to be cut in January for the first time ever due to the high levels of growth due to the warmer weather. They are in good shape and

preparation will continue to get the courts ready for the summer season.

Padel courts- On the padel courts there was an issue with a smell possibly being caused by a fox on one of the courts, however no evidence of this was found and the issues seems to be resolved but we will keep an eye on this.

Some more sand has been placed over the padel court surfaces and brushed in between the pile to make the courts less slippery during the weather.

**Action – DL/PL /CH to monitor and add more added if needed.**

### **Court Surfaces 7-10 (Airhall Two)**

MN informed the committee that the power cables have been prepped ready for the installation of Airhall Two. Tim Freeman (Trevor May) has also been looking into transforming court 10 into a doubles court as this would prove a perfect opportunity. DL stated he had measured the outer spaces with TF and with the Airhall up it would give us the minimum standards for a doubles court spacing and when the Airhall is down its would be exceed the minimum.

The Committee agreed that this was a good idea and approved the proposal.

MN talked about the conditions of the planning consent. This included the Club giving use of the courts at off peak times midweek. This would be achieved through Rackets Cubed, a charity Roehampton works very closely with currently and is subject to a s106 agreement as part of the planning condition.

**Action – MN, PL, DL to firm up details of when this would be.**

Airhall Two over courts 7-10 would be the same construction as Airhall One over courts 12-14 with internal lighting and vertical sides to provide more space around the courts.

AW discussed the court surfaces document now DL had gathered all the feedback from members and shown the committee. The vast majority of the feedback supported the Committee's proposal outlined in the document as the best option.

All the Committee supported the proposal once more but questions were raised on the change of courts 15-18 to smash courts in the future. RG questioned if it was the right choice as they would be the show courts. The playability of courts 15-18 over the winter was discussed and DL highlighted they have not been in play much during this time. A problem which the new proposal would fix. NS stated that matches could now be played on 7-10 as it would be a block of 4 doubles courts and a premium surface.

The new surface on 7-10 would be cushioned and play like the courts in the ITC at present. MN explained a fall would be put in to allow water to drain off into the drainage channels and any remaining surface water could be squeegeed off in the summer months. The fall would be 1:100 and how this is achieved will be investigated by Tim Freeman.

It was agreed by the Committee that the surface on courts 7-10 will be changed to proflex, a premium cushioned acrylic surface, and courts 15-18 would be replaced with Advantage Red synthetic clay (Smash courts).

**Action – MN to finalise the timeline for the installation of Proflex on courts 7-10 as part of the Airhall Two project this summer and PB/DL/MN to plan the resurfacing of courts 15-18 in 2023 to minimise disruption and court availability for Members.**

### **Pickleball**

DL highlighted that pickleball is becoming popular at the club. Louis Laville and DL have run numerous taster sessions that have been well attended and shows demand for pickleball in many of the member demographics. LL presented the sport of Pickleball to the Committee. DL is now exploring the idea of having permanent pickleball court markings adding to the growing number of racquet sports offered to members.

Court 11 is currently used as a MUGA and for tennis so DL suggested timetabling the space on court 11 for 4 pickleball courts potentially getting 16 – 20 players in that area. This would be a good use of space used for a growing sport for adults and juniors. Pickleball is the ideal sport for the whole family to enjoy together.

More detailed ideas and plans will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**Action – DL to put forward Pickleball plan.**

AN asked about improvements to the online coach booking system. Racquets team and FW are looking into other systems that could potentially improve all parts of the clubs' online booking systems.

**Action – Racquets team to update further down the line.**

## **Racquet Directors Report**

### **Club Competition**

Nik and I have been currently entering all our National Club League teams for the Summer 2022. This will consist of both adult and junior teams from under 7 to under 18. With the help of parents agreeing to captain many of the teams we have entered 18 junior teams. For the adult teams we have entered 4 men's teams and 3 ladies' teams. We have also entered the summer club knockout competitions in the vets age groups.

### **Airhall 2**

We have now had full planning permission signed off so are able to plan the installation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> airhall over courts 7-10. We are planning to undertake this work through the summer while the 10 grass courts are in play. This should take the pressure off having 4 courts out of action for 8-10 weeks. The Tennis Committee has gathered all feedback from the court surface consultation document that has been shown to all members and a final decision will be made on the surface of the courts before the end of February.

### **Junior programme**

The junior coaching sessions have been very popular this term with only a few spaces available still. The signups for the groups took place via the online platform again and seems to be working well.

### **Coaching team**

Alison Taylor has now joined the coaching team. Alison has a breadth of experience in tennis coaching and was the head coach at Westside Tennis Club. Alison continues to work with some of the best juniors in the area and coached Hannah Klugman from an early age. Her performance experience and knowledge of the game will be a great asset to club members.

### **Tilly's Sports Shop Update**

2022 brings lots of new changes for the shop and we plan expand and focus much more on the rackets sports this year. This will be reflected in the layout of the shop hopefully in the very near future – we are just waiting on a few deliveries including the likes of Poivre Blanc, K. Swiss, Adidas, Lacoste, Babolat, Drop Shot and others. As always, we appreciate feedback, both the positive and even more so the constructive so please don't hesitate to let us know what you would like to see in the shop, and we will do our best to accommodate.

Tilly now also offers a hitting service where members can book hours hit for £25 via the booking platform. This enables members to practice what they are learning in their lessons.

It is also worth mentioning we have a newly launched loyalty scheme. The Sport Shop is excited to announce a loyalty Programme for all Roehampton Club Members.

The benefits of joining our Loyalty Programme include:

- 20% off clothing all year IN STORE and ONLINE
- The 20% off applies in addition to special sales promotions, reductions and offers – for example if our instore sale is 20% off – Loyalty Programme Members receive this plus an additional 20% off
- An extended range of brands, choice, colours, and sizes. We will have excellent choice and stock in store in 2022, and even more online.
- Be the first to hear about new arrivals, sales promotions, events, and exclusive offers.

*Members must stay subscribed to enjoy these benefits.*

### **Coach CPC Day**

Following the success of the coach CPD day we did last year with the coaches. I have again planned for Simon Wheatley to come and deliver sessions on technical and tactical development for under 10s. I will also be organising a member clinic with Simon to run in the morning. The date for this will be Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

### **Pickleball**

During the Spring term I have been running a ladies pickleball mornings on the last Thursday of the month with Louis Laville. The sessions have been very popular with sessions fully booked. The racquets team are now making plans for Pickleball to be a permanent offering at Roehampton with Louis's help.

### **Racketlon London Open**

Dates for this year's Racketlon are 22-24 July. We will probably need 20th-26th July for Racketlon and then we see if we have capacity to host a member only version. The event will require the use of ITC/Smash (4&5)/Grass top block (19-23) bearing in mind courts 7-10 could be out for airhall 2 as there could be court pressure during this time.

### **Tennis Teams Update**

Men's 1 & Women's 1- On course to qualify for the National Doubles finals. Women have not lost a rubber.

Men's & Women's 2/Surrey League- Men are top of their division having lost very few games, women have drawn 1 lost 1.

Juniors- 5 teams qualified through to national finals ¼ finals.

### **Padel Report (Paul Lindsay)**

#### Court Surface/Playability

The first 'winter' for Padel at the Club has given us mild weather temperatures overall although some frosty mornings have left the Courts unsafe for play – in keeping with the tennis courts. The covered court had/has some issues with slippery court surface and inconsistency in footing grip when playing. We have added extra sand to the surface to try reducing the slippiness, but the cover reduces the chance for the sunlight to dry the court out evenly on top of having condensation drip from the steel bars supporting the roof onto the court adding the issue.

#### Internal Leagues

Started again in January with the introduction of an 'off-peak' league to provide a weekday/daytime option to Members. It also assists to ease pressure on court demand. The four internal leagues seem to prove popular and are now at a stage where members have found their levels and suitable league.

#### External iPadel league

Men's Team, captained by Craig de Silva, have been doing well and current sit top of the four Club league after 3 wins and a draw with two games to go.

A top two finish will see the squad compete at the Finals weekend in March.

Ladies Team, captained by Astrid Drayson, have also been doing well in the four-club league and enjoying the competitive matches. They are currently third with a win, draw and loss and have an outside chance to make the Finals weekend if results go our way.

The Club will enter one Men's and Ladies team in the iPadel summer league with both current captains happy to continue their roles. We will monitor court demand/use.

#### Court Bookings

Bookings remain very popular.

From May to October the Padel courts saw a 60% booking rate and from November to 25 Jan there was a 53% booking rate.

The use in January is higher than the 53% as courts have not been playable with ice/frost on some mornings.

#### Friendly Matches

The Club hosted the Jesters in December. Nick Yates Captained our team and the match, albeit with covid disruption, was played and a great success.

#### Social Events / 2022 Calendar

- PL looking to run a social club night with bbq in April to get the Padel summer season going.

- The Club will host an LTA Grade 4 tournament on 16 July. PL to oversee and will bring in an outside ref from the LTA to run. Will encourage our members to take part but sign up will be on a first come first in basis via the LTA competition system.
- Hosting a Grade 3 tournament in August – LTA to confirm schedule and if Clubs application has been successful
- PL investigating the idea to host a 1 day/half day Member only parent and sibling tournament
- Padel Club Championship to run at the end of August for 2 weeks.
- Padel Club Championship Finals Day – 10th September.

Any questions on Padel please contact Paul Lindsay.

**Dan Lott**

**Racquets Director**

**January 2022**

Date of next meeting – TBC