



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting  
held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6:30pm**

**Present:**

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Fred Warneryd	(Men's Captain)
David Burditt	(Liaison Director)
Alessandro Noce	
Alan Flitcroft	
Howard Spence	
Lily Brown	

**In Attendance:**

Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)

1. **Apologies:** Puk Kroijer, Victoria Stephens, Rachel Godsave, Nik Snapes

## 2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the AGM held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February were discussed and approved. They will be posted on the website.

## 3. Reports

### Course and Grounds (PB)

- The recent storm caused very minor damage to the estate and the infrastructure of the playing surface. The Airhall did have some small issues, with lights fittings in the inside being dislodged and the air seal by the door being affected. All issues are now resolved.
- No damage was caused to the ITC, and it is functioning as normal. Cleaning is regularly being carried out and courts are in good condition.
- Advantage Red courts are in good condition and have been dragged to evenly distribute the sand material. They will need deep cleaning during the season.
- Tiger turf courts, the hedge to the west of the courts has been removed, as a requirement request from Trevor May, to assist them as a pre-construction work for Air Hall 2. The hedges behind the courts have been netted also, to prevent issues with bird nesting in the spring.
- The Air Hall dismantlement of the dome and lighting is planned for the week commencing the 4<sup>th</sup> of April this year. After the contractors have completed this task, the courts will be jet washed to help keep the porous surface open and able to remove surface water for the rest of the season.
- Grass Courts have been growing well and in the next few weeks Chris and the team will be completing spring renovations; aerating, overseeding and top dressing the blocks as part of the preparation for the opening of the courts. So far it has been good growing weather for grass tennis, and we are in a stronger position than last year, which as a very wet spring. Courts are due to open on 1<sup>st</sup> May.
- We are liaising with Trevor May on the logistical plan for Air Hall 2 construction and the best method of preparing for the work that will take effect from July 4<sup>th</sup> 2022
- More sand has been added to the padel courts to avoid players slipping in the back corners in damp conditions.

## **Racquet Directors Report**

### **MATCHi Booking System**

The Racquets team having been looking into ways of how the booking of courts, lessons and social sessions can be improved and provide a member more joined up experience for the members. MATCHi is a bespoke court booking and coach management system that can be used for all racquet sports and gym and swim sessions. Its currently being used successfully by over 1400 active venues.

### **Coaches Education Day and Member Clinics**

On March 3rd I arranged coach Education and Player Development Consult Simon Wheatley to come to the club and deliver a coach education afternoon working on teaching technique in group sessions for 10 and under players. We had 12 coaches attend who all valued increasing their knowledge in this area. I also delivered a member doubles clinic with 8 ladies in the morning that was enjoyed by all that attended. I will plan more days like this for later in the year.

### **Pickleball**

Members are still enjoying all the pickleball sessions. Louis and I are working on a plan to set four pickleball courts up on court 11 over a month during the summer term and allow the courts to be bookable online through MyCourts. This will help us gauge the popularity before making any firm decisions on converting the court permanently. It will also give us a chance to plan some regular social events and coaching opportunities.

### **Club Championships**

The Club Championships this year will be spread out over a longer timeframe for most events. We are currently still planning to hold the men's and ladies' singles over the week leading up to Finals Day which is currently set for 26<sup>th</sup> June. All other events will get to the semi-finals stage for us to hold a semi-finals night with a social event after play on the Friday night. Nik and I will open entries for the tournament at the start of April via online sign up. Committee to confirm on what events to run this year.

### **Airhall 2**

The hedge between courts 6 and 7 has now been removed in preparation for the airhall works. Tim Freeman has produced a timetable for the works and final decisions will be confirmed after the March Board meeting on 24th March. This includes how best to provide access to the site during the works with minimal disruption to members.

### **Padel Report**

The coaching programme continues to run providing adult and junior members with group and individual coaching options.

The Social Padel programme also continues to go from strength to strength with uptake for the sessions in high demand.

#### Internal Leagues

The introduction of the Off-Peak league has proved successful and will remain alongside the Open league, over 45 league and Ladies league.

The next league run ends on 13 March and the new leagues start on 17 March – sign up via email to Paul.

#### Tournaments

##### Home of Padel (HoP) – June 18th

We are pleased to host a HoP tournament on Saturday 18th June. This event is open to Members and non-members and players sign up via the HoP website (<https://homeofpadel.co.uk>)

As a guide we suggest pairs/players should be a 3.5 or higher rating. We have reserved 6 pairs for Members only – please contact Paul for further details.

##### LTA Grade 4 – July 16th

We have been successful in our application to host a Grade 4 LTA rating tournament on Saturday 16 July.

This tournament is open to most standards and sign up via the LTA website only, so please look out for the entry opening date. (<https://competitions.lta.org.uk>)

#### Members Club Championship

The Padel Club Championship will run from 15th August with finals day on Saturday 3rd September – please put the date in your diary now.

There will be several categories to choose from.

#### Teams

##### National League:

The Club initially entered two teams into the National League in 2021. For 2022 we are looking to enter 3 Men's teams and 1 Ladies team.

Please let me know if you would be interested in playing for the Club.

Matches will be played on the weekend of 28 and 29 May.

##### iPadel League:

The Club also entered the iPadel winter league.

The Ladies Team, captained by Astrid Drayson, have played 4 matches in a box league and are currently third against some strong opposition with two games to play. I'm confident we will only get stronger with experience gained and more Members playing.

The Men's team, captained by Craig de Silva, have exceeded expectations, won their box league group, and made the iPadel league finals on 19/20th March where the top 8 teams from around the country will compete for the Winter iPadel title. The finals will be played at Limsfield so please do go and support the team if you can.

Paul Lindsay

### **Tennis Team**

We have 7 junior teams in the finals for the junior team trophy, with the finals will take place over the next few weeks.

We have also entered all the Roehampton Surrey league teams for the summer season and teams for the National Club League.

### **Junior Tennis Course (Summer term)**

Renewals for the junior tennis courses (summer term) will be send out over the next 2 weeks. Juniors currently participating on the programme will be given a 48-hour booking window before booking are opened to all members. The summer term will run from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Half term will be 30<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June. Please look out for the email.

### **Easter Camps**

Sign up for tennis camps over Easter are now open and can be booked through reception. The two age groups for the camps are 5-7 and 8- to 11-year-olds. The camp dates are as follows:

Week 1 - Monday 4th to Friday 8th April

Week 2 - Monday 11th to Thursday 14th April

**Dan Lott**

**Racquets Director**

**January 2022**

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DL explained that after meeting with MATCHi it's not currently appropriate to use for a court, lesson and activity booking system, due to the lack of coach diary function. DL will keep in contact in case anything is developed further down the line that will improve our member experience. Committee agreed the system we are currently using is the best on the market so far.

**Action: DL will continue to explore options for improvements.**

HS requested that for the Club Championships this year there might be an appetite for over 70s men's and ladies' doubles. TC discussed and decided that we can offer it and see what the sign up is. If less than 8 entries the events will not run.

Action: DL to advertise the Club Championships across the membership and encourage participation. DL to open entries online as soon as possible.

## Team Tennis Update

### Ladies Captain – Rachel Godsave

#### **National Premier League**

- Roehampton won with great representation from new members & Hannah Klugman

#### **Surrey Winter League**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Team (Div 1) - Currently 3<sup>rd</sup>, but some teams have not completed all their matches
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Team (Div 5) - Currently 2<sup>nd</sup> with one last match to play
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Team (Div 8) - Currently 1<sup>st</sup> with one last match to play against the bottom team, so confident they will win the league and be promoted

#### **Midweek Ladies**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Team (Div 6) - 1<sup>st</sup> place. Have won the league and will be promoted
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Team (Div 7) - Currently 4<sup>th</sup> (out of 6) with a few teams to finish their matches
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Team (Div 9) - withdrew from competition

#### **Over 50s**

- Div 1 - 6<sup>th</sup> place with one last match to play

National League is about to commence. For the first time we will be entering a Ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> Team. This is due to the number of new members of the 1<sup>st</sup> team, resulting in a larger pool of players into the 2<sup>nd</sup> team, and providing enough scope to build a 3<sup>rd</sup> team, and incorporate more juniors who want to play singles.

### Junior Update – Nik Snapes

#### **National Junior Trophy**

10&U Girls Won National Junior Trophy- Lola Brown, Bea Robson Honey Robinson

11&U Girls Won National Junior Trophy- Lola Brown- Bea Robson

14&U Girls Won National Junior Trophy- Emily Noce, Monica Alcover & Amelia Brand

16&U Boys Runner-Up in National Junior Trophy- Oscar Warneryd & Charlie Smith

8&U Boys- Runner Up in National Junior Trophy- Wilbur Wilson, Sammy Cooper, Nathan Au & Henry Van Rothenburg

11&U Boys and 18&U Girls have finals this weekend.

#### **National Doubles**

Men's 1 – Won National Doubles Southeast Division-  
Women's 1- Won National Doubles Southeast Division  
Men's 2 – Won Surrey League (low division)

#### **National League Summer**

Men's 1, Men's 2 start 3<sup>rd</sup> April- We have exceptionally strong team for 1<sup>st</sup> match as things stand  
Women's 1 start 10<sup>th</sup> April

We are still waiting for the Men's 3, Men's 4, Ladies 2 and Ladies 3 fixtures. We contacted Surrey LTA and they have responded to say they are short staffed so there is a delay in fixtures.

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#### **Airhall 2**

MN updated TC on airhall 2. Work will start on July 4<sup>th</sup> and the aim is to finish the project mid-October. The plan originally was to give works access via the golf putting green, however after some investigation, a less disruptive route would be to create access via grass court 24. This would have less impact on members as the lorries etc would not need to enter the member areas. Therefore, it's been confirmed by the Board once work starts grass court 24 and possibly court 23 would no longer be in play.

DL suggested to PB that once the works starts CH and his team could stop the grass court rotation and leave 19 to 22 courts on the top block and 25 to 28 on the bottom block - allowing members to still have access to 8 grass courts. PB had suggested that courts 19 to 24 need to be laser levelled anyway as this had not been done since 2013. Therefore, all courts on the top block would be relayed and levelled next year.

**ACTION: DL to plan the rotations with CH so 9 grass courts will be in play from 4<sup>th</sup> July till the end of the summer.**

The new airhall would need to go up in September for Trevor May to have the correct temperatures to lay the acrylic surface. This would mean the court surface is laid while the airhall is up. MN explained that this change in dates would require the club to go back to planning for it to be agreed on and therefore, if accepted would mean that because the airhall was erected a month earlier it would need to come down a month early to stick with the 6-month agreement that was originally set by the planners.

**ACTION: MN to get permission from Planners for this.**

It's also been decided that the floodlights on 7 to 10 would be kept in place – meaning that the floodlight columns would be re-erected again once the airhall comes down for the summer.

DL advised the TC that the surface of the new courts should be dark green on light green so there is a contrast from other surfaces around the club, it also keeps the area looking similar in terms of the club layout etc. The TC agreed this.

**ACTION: DL to show some examples of colour schemes to TC.**

MN informed TC the new airhall will cast a shadow over the croquet lawns therefore the Club has purchased 2 covers to use for frost protection and PB will continue to use the two UV lights to help the grass develop in the affected areas.

### **Airhall 1**

DL asked the TC to consider using airhall 1 as a coaching zone when airhall 2 comes into play. This would segregate social member play from coaching sessions where lots of balls are used and are generally noisier sessions. It would also give members a chance to have lessons inside over the winter and provide a transparent system so social players don't get frustrated over indoor courts taken out for coaching. This would leave 7 indoor courts (1-3 and 7-10) free for member social play bookings and courts 12 – 14 would be prioritised for coaching sessions. The courts will also be divided by netting, so all coaching balls don't get mixed up across all other courts.

DL recommended the outside courts used for coaching should be the smash courts (4-6).

HS did not agree the smash courts should be used for coaching as a lot of members like to play on this surface outside during the winter. Therefore, MN suggested it would be courts 15 and 16 and then just one smash court (court 6) be used.

This was agreed by TC.

**ACTION: DL to finalise a schedule for use of airhall 1 and to get quote for attached netting inside the airhall 1.**

### **AOB**

AF noted that when the lights go off for the padel courts at 9pm its very dark and hard to find your bag and exit route.

**ACTION – DL and PL will investigate lighting solution so players can safely vacant the courts once the floodlights have gone out.**

HS has received some comments about padel ladies' morning and asked why courts are pre booked out for a group of ladies to play. DL explained that this was a padel social session, so court need to be pre booked but its open events for all ladies. DL also explained what other social sessions appropriate to all member demographics that run through the week.

**Date of next meeting – TBC**



