



YOUNG MEMBER FORUM MEETING
26th April in the Garden Room / via Zoom
at 6.30pm

Forum: Emily Bacon, Justin Colver, Peter Crocombe, Cameron Fraser, Graham Huntingford, Olivia Huxtable, Marc Newey, Emma Powell, Katy Preston, Joy Stevens, Dominic Vincent.

In attendance: Simon Baker, Luke Fenton, Dan Lott, Tristan McIlroy, Mariya Vlaykova

Apologies: Nicki Davis.

1. Minutes of the meeting on 25th January 2022 / Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting on 25th January were noted.

2. Health Club

LF informed the Forum that the Health Club opened earlier at 6am to assure that Members had that extra time before work to exercise.

SB reported that Suzanna was organising a team for the Tough Mudder event on 26th May. For all the participants she provided Boot Camps and training sessions on Friday mornings.

New equipment for the gym was delivered as SkiErg and Assault Bikes. There are plans to add more gear in the free weight area. The hydro spin bikes were also replaced.

More classes were held outside on the Lime Tree Lawn.

The Pool Side BBQ had opened the previous week. Paul Lindsay was looking to organise a social event there. The Pizza Hut was working between 11.30am and 5pm, currently.

EB queried why the hot tub seemed always cold. LF explained that the temperature was normally between 34⁰-35⁰ C and any higher temperature would increase the risk of bacterial infections. **LF will make sure that the temperature was kept at about 35⁰C.**

LF

EP queried if the Juice Bar would be open earlier so Members could buy smoothies after the morning classes. SB confirmed that the Juice Bar would open from 8am from the following week plus the Piazza Coffee Shop was also offering smoothies and juices at was open at 7am

EB said that the recent morning class she had joined was less attended than pre-Covid (7 am on Tuesday with Blair). She queried if there was such a trend? SB responded that they were monitoring class attendance each week. If a specific class had low attendance for a month, then they informed the instructor that if the attendance did not improve, the class would be

cancelled for the next term. MN added that they had also to rationalise the classes during the downtimes. He witnessed an instructor having a session with only one Member attending.

GH suggested that Members could sign up and commit to 6-12 weeks sessions. **YMF liked the idea of having a course with a competitive element or a programme for 6-12 weeks with the same people. LF and SB will consider a trial.**

LF/SB

EP commented that some children were struggling with the new locks of the toilets. TM reported that there was a plan maintenance the same week. EP also queried if the “plastic” bags in the Changing Rooms would be taken away. MN explained that the bags were biodegradable and Members were usually reusing them. It was Member choice to use them or not.

3. Food and Beverage

GH considered that it would be a good idea to have the set dates for the different socials like the evening Paul was organising with pizza.

KP commented that the last Thai Curry she had tested in the Club was watery and cost too much (£18-19). MN had tried the same curry between 6.30-7pm and it was very tasty. Probably the Chefs were running low on curry by 8-8.30pm (when KP had a meal) and they had delivered a slightly different curry. MN also said that the other Members had thought that the curry was a very good value considering that it offered a two-course meal and the discount when you paid by membership card. The YMF thought that the **one-course curry option would be more popular with Younger Members.**

ND/SB

KP queried if Eggs Benedict could be on the menu during the weekdays? MN confirmed that the new menus were coming later that week and Eggs Benedict / Royal and Florentine were on the menu.

OX queried if Pimm’s and cocktails could be offered in the Bar during the summer. SB confirmed that four new cocktails were added to the Bar menu.

YMF liked the idea of having ‘Cocktail of the month’.

ND/SB

4 Sports

Croquet

TM informed the Forum that they had set up a Croquet and Pimm’s Evening for under 35s on 12th May. Currently, no one had signed for it. Young Members felt that they should not be charged £12 in advance.

It was decided to be a free event (as a one-off) and then Members would buy their own drinks.

TM

TM reported that when they had previously organised ‘Croquet and Cocktails’ events, it was very popular, many people attended them for first the time and they had continued to play croquet since then. Others had brought their families and enjoyed with them the sport on the

smaller lawn next to the office. The coaching was free for Members at those events. The logistic of the cocktails was slightly difficult, therefore TM decided to replace it with Pimm's as a summer drink.

EB thought that 'Croquet and Pimm's Event' was a good deal and Members should have both options – to pay £12 and have Pimm's included or do not pay, have free coaching and then pay for their drinks.

Mallets are available for free hire from Reception and Members could go and play. TM recommended starting on the smaller lawn next to the office or Lawn 4.

Pickleball

TM reported that they were looking to organise pickleball sessions on Wednesday evenings or any day suitable for Young Members. They will organise some taster sessions to introduce Young Members to the sport. MN said that it was the fastest-growing sport in America and 80% of the population were able to play it.

DL added that from the next day tennis court 1 would be marked up for pickleball and Members would be able to book a court and play. DL reported that the last Thursday of the month, they were having a pickleball session instead of tennis at the Ladies Morning. 20 ladies enjoyed the sessions.

KP suggested DL try a pickleball session on one Monday evening instead of the Tennis Social.

DL

Golf

TM reported that they were looking to organise 9-hole fun competitions on Wednesday evenings for Young Members that could be then linked to the BBQ. Some ladies were not familiar with the competition format or how to play in competitions; therefore, there would be a couple of evenings when a Pro would be offering an hour of coaching or support on the golf course so they could build their confidence and be able to play on the golf course.

EB queried if non-golf Members could join the 9-holes competitions. She considered that it would be a good opportunity for Members to try to play golf before upgrading and paying extra to include golf in their subscription. TM said that they were encouraging Members to try those 9 holes sessions to build their confidence on the golf course. He explained that if Members wanted to upgrade then they would pay only the pro rota rate of the subscription to the end of the year.

CF asked if three guests would be allowed on weekends? TM responded that they were monitoring the weekends. If CF wanted to bring three guests on weekend, then he should ask for permission from TM and Louis Laville. They usually granted permission for three guests if the golf course was not too busy. When they get a better idea of the golf on weekends they **would look if they could allow more than one guest after a certain time.**

TM

OX queried if there were reciprocal clubs for golf? MN explained that the reciprocal clubs were only outside the UK. All clubs were listed on the website, but they were predominantly tennis.

KP confirmed that Roehampton Club was part of the Centenary Tennis Clubs (CTC). Members are permitted to visit other CTC Clubs by prior arrangement.

KP reported that the water fountain on the golf course had a very slow flow. TM explained that it was a gravity issue and there was not enough pressure. MN notified the Forum that they had a half-away shop on a trial basis on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

EP asked if the Club had signed the Women in Golf Charter. TM responded that they had meetings with England Golf and Surrey Golf. The Club was in a healthy position regarding the number of ladies' golfers. There were some criteria that the Club was not applicable. TM had talked about it with the Ladies Golf Committee, but they were not so enthusiastic as it would require a lot of additional work to get it. TM explained that they were looking to get a Safe Golf Accreditation which requires an update of the Safeguarding Policies. He explained that they were looking at the government bodies and supporting them.

TM informed the Forum that they had hosted the Ladies Gold Cup couple of weeks ago. Many young ladies had played (from 14 years onwards) and they had enjoyed the golf course and the facilities in the Club. TM was hoping that they managed to inspire more young women to take on golf.

TM reported that the weekend ladies had improved significantly on weekends. More younger ladies were involved and they liked Nine and Wine on Saturdays. The section had made good progress.

Rackets Sports

JS queried why Members had to pay when borrowing padel rackets. MN explained that Members were breaking them and the Club had to replace them. DL added that when they were introducing a sport, they were providing the rackets, but if Members were continuing to play the sport, they should invest in the equipment.

YMF supported the £5 rental charge for a padel tennis racket considering that Members did not pay anything if they damaged them.

Tennis

DL reported that the Club Championships entrees were closing on Sunday. The finals were on Saturday 25th June followed by an after-party next to the pool area. On Friday night, the semi-finals will be on the grass courts with drinks.

Grass courts were due to open the same weekend. Members could pre-book them 24 hours in advance (from 8am for the following day).

Padel Tennis

Paul Lindsay had put an event on Monday 9th May. Padel, Pimm's and Pizza for £10 – sold out within 24 hours. More events for Younger Members would be organised.

DL felt that when organising a one-off event, it was important Members to pay for to sign up as that guaranteed that they would turn up on the day.

Padel Championships will be in August and the finals in September.

Racketlon will be on 22nd - 24th July. Racketlon starts with table tennis, then badminton, squash, and tennis. Roehampton Club will host London Open.

JC and MN left the meeting at 8pm.

DL reported that the works on Airhall 2 would start on 4th July and the access would be through the grass courts. Tennis court 10 would become a double court.

5. Masterplan 2035 Update

SB reported that they were working on a couple of projects. The first one was the refurbishment of the Changing Room with an increased number of showers plus relocating the current laundry facilities under the Bar Terrace. The second project was in the Health Club and included converting storage next to the indoor pool into a Family Changing Room for Members who had older children with additional needs. A glass air lobby will be installed during the summer to reduce draft and heat loss between the indoor and outdoor pools.

The Steam Room would be refurbished and the individual seats would be replaced with benches (8-12 weeks lead time).

The lift in the Clubhouse and the goods lift will also be replaced in the summer.

The toilet in the Sports Hall will be refurbished and a stair lift will be installed in the Art Studio.

TM reported that they were expecting the quotes for the fitting of the IGC in the next 48 hours. They had a pre-planning meeting with Wandsworth Planners and the Planners did not like the netting they had proposed. A Sub Committee worked on progression with the IGC.

TM informed the Forum that Sports Shop was offering a loyal scheme for Members that was giving a further discount on clothing, accessories (hats) and 10% on shoes. TM said that Ricky Pharo was very keen to get Member's feedback and asked them if they had any comments or suggestions to let Ricky know.

SB reported that the priority of the Masterplan 2035 projects was IGC, Sports Shop and then Clubhouse – an extension of the Bar terrace, an extension of the Club Café over the loading bay with a link between the Bar and Club Café terrace. A permanent shop on the ground floor to replace the trailer. The Club was looking to relocate the office from the ground floor, the staff changing rooms and the canteen.

When the pizza oven is installed in the Club Café and if it proves popular, the Club will look at adding TV screens and make better use of the space in the evenings.

SB reported that they had looked at business pods for Members to work from the Reading Room. The pods that SB and GH had visited were not soundproof and would not be suitable for the Reading Room. The plan was to have two doubles and one single pod.

7. AOB

CF asked about the golf swing studio and how it would operate. TM responded that they had some ideas on how Members would use it as a warm-up before going on the golf course, the junior coaching would be also scheduled there, so they would look at how best to programme the different activities.

GH suggested an annual event with music and drinks that would encourage Members to build a relationship. Something that Members would look forward to and it is sports-related. He also asked about the discussed in the past events like watching Wimbledon on big screens on the piazza. SB said that they had some difficulties with the screens (glare from the sun) but **would revise the idea with the team.**

SB

JS reiterated that they have discussed a better social media presence and also the idea of an email with the top five things happening in the Club or what Members should know about the Club. JS queried if that ever had happened?

The YMF considered that if they had targeted emails for Members under 35s with information about what was happening at the Club, they would read them. They thought that the five bullet points listed on Instagram were a good way to communicate with Members their age about the new events.

SB

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

Date of next meeting: TBC – September/O

October 2022