



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Monday 27th February at 6:30pm**

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Fred Warneryd	(Men's Captain)
Kat Kovacevic	(Ladies' Captain)
Victoria Stephens	
Lily Brown	
Howard Spence	
Lorna Bhasin	
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)

1. Apologies: Alan Flitcroft

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the AGM held on the 18th October were discussed and approved.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds (PB)

Airhalls

The airhalls are due to come down the first week of April. This will be weather dependant as they cannot come down in high winds.

The heating element in for airhall 2 needs to be commissioned still. We have had various issues with this unit since the installation. In the colder weather the heating element was not working properly and as a result ice formed in the airhall. However, these issues should be fixed by the engineer over the next few weeks and the unit will be commissioned. Once the airhall comes down over courts 7 – 10 Trevor May will need to come back to finish the surrounding works such as fencing and filling in the court surface around the perimeter of the courts. Therefore, there will be a 2-week period where these courts will be closed after the deflation.

The playing noise in airhall 2 is louder than airhall 1. This is due to the size of the area and a slightly different playing surface. However, these issues are common in airhalls and the AELTC are experiencing similar problems in their purpose built indoor centre. DB stated that they maybe something we could do such as placing a material curtain along the back of the courts like the ITC that would stop the reverberation. MN stated we could look into option for when it goes up again in the autumn.

FW asked if diesel was the only option for the heating element within the air handling unit. DB confirmed that at some point in the future there would be other options such as heat pumps etc that could do the same job. Once this is possible the Club would look to covert these to make them more environmentally friendly.

KK noticed that on the new courts (7-10) there were certain 'dead' spots especially in the service boxes. LB also confirmed this. MN would also Tim Freeman (Trevor May) to investigate this once the airhall in deflated in the spring.

PB stated that courts 23 and 24 (grass) have been heavily affected when they were used as

the access route to build the new courts and airhall. This coupled with the bad weather over the winter months means that they will be a delay in opening these courts in the summer. Chris Hughes will repair and prep them for the season as soon as he can but it will be June before we can open these courts.

The other block of grass courts (25-28) will be laser levelled by a contractor at some point this year to get them into a better playing condition.

MN added that courts 15 – 18 would be changed to advantage red (smash) in the summer mid-July. Access to the site for the work would be from the rear to cause the least disruption possible. All grass courts should also be in play so there will be less court pressure. This leaves the tennis section complete in terms of the planned works for the moment. The next big project for the club to try to get planning approval for is the Indoor Golf Centre as part of its Masterplan 2035.

Racquet Directors Diary – February 2023

Airhall 2

Airhall 2 has now been in play for a few months. This has greatly eased the indoor court pressure and there are times of the week where there are always free indoor courts. However, at peak times all courts are in use. Since the opening we have had ongoing issues with the air handling unit. The frost protection system has not been working and in very cold weather has resulted in ice forming inside the airhall. As the temperature warms throughout the day the ice was melting and dripped off the ceiling onto the playing surface. The grounds team did their best to mop the water and clean the surface as best they could. The system is now fixed but there is still some work to be done to ensure its working as well as it should.

Once airhall 2 comes down we will need to close the courts for approx. 2 weeks so Trevor May can come back and finish the court surroundings. This includes finishing the fencing and playing surface. As the main playing surface was put down while the airhall was up it has gaps around the court that will need to be finished off.

We are planning both airhalls to come down at some point over the Easter holidays. This is to be confirmed.

Courts 15-18

These courts will be changed to advantage red courts in the summer. The plan is to change them when the grass courts are open and in the holiday time when the club is less busy. This will make sure the club has more playable courts all year round.

Tennis Programme

The adult tennis programme is growing with more demand for weekly adult group coaching sessions. I have added another LiveBall session on a Friday morning for the second half of the term.

This was due to great demand from members. The current Tuesday and Wednesday sessions are always fully booked. The Pay and Plays have between 8 and 15 players on regularly and cardio and adult beginner classes are also proving more and more popular. I have run various clinics and camps over the last few months including a doubles week camp. Volley clinic and I'm planning serve and other sessions to roll out in the spring.

The junior programme for the spring term is underway. We are still operating to maximum capacity with very few free spaces to fill. All private lessons at weekends are also very difficult to offer. As such we are running more group activity to give members a chance to play in some form of coaching or social mix in sessions.

Nik has put together entries for 'Play your Way to Wimbledon' which is a national competition for juniors that gives the winners a chance to play on the grass courts at the AELTC. This year there is also an adult doubles competition, so we have added draws for this and advertised to Members that are eligible. Members can sign up free of charge online for this.

Tennis Club night is still going strong with a full 12 players each week. This will move outside on to the grass courts from May and another court will be added so it can accommodate 16 players each week. Vets' tennis on a Thursday afternoon is now coupled with Pickleball on the end court. We have a steady base of players for this. Ladies' tennis morning is also fully booked each week now. The American tournament on Saturday afternoons will stop after half term due to lack of interest, we only get 2/3 players for this now so will be relaunched in the summer term. 18-35s socials on Monday nights it is continuing with over 40 players in the WhatsApp group.

Pickleball

We have now started regular pickleball sessions for our members. Each Thursday court 1 has been marked out as four pickleball courts. Throughout the day Louis and I run various social sessions free for members to get them involved with the game – ladies morning, vets and club nights will be regular sessions. The morning lady's session is proving very popular with 12 to 14 ladies each week, with more new players each week experiencing the game. We also plan to start pickleball friendlies with other clubs such as Hurlingham who have also started playing.

Team tennis

The team tennis season is about to get busy with all the surrey summer leagues, National Club leagues and junior teams playing. This will cause the courts to be very busy at weekends and we will aim to push matches out into off peak times. However, this is not always possible.

Together with Queens, SGH and Hurlingham I have put together the vets friendly Triangular and quad cup fixtures. I will liaise with AW over the coming weeks to source players and captains for these fixtures.

The AELTC invited the men's first team for a friendly match and afternoon tea on Saturday 11th February. This was to congratulate them for winning the National title in September last year.

All adult junior and vets' teams for the summer season leagues and tournaments will be entered over the coming weeks. Events include surrey league, National Club League, and seniors' knockout competitions.

The men's team are currently top of the NPL league with the finals taking place at SGH in the next few months.

New Members

Over the last 3 weeks I have been running new member inductions. These sessions have been full of around 45 new members of all demographics participating, and we have many keen tennis players that have joined that are keen to look for organised social sessions and coaching that will get them integrated to the club's membership.

Club Championships 2023

The finals day for this year's club championship will be Saturday 24th June. We aim to plan another social event in the evening with a band. This year we plan to sell tickets early so we can commit more members to come and include a drink and a pizza for example. Nik and I will open entries for this around Easter and get the draws up by mid-May so the majority of event can be played by play by dates. I have also spoken to Louis about possibly running a golf event on the same day so there can be a joint party in the evening, so we get more numbers – TC to discuss.

Coach CPD Day

On Thursday 2nd February. Coach education consultant (Simon Wheatley) came in to run a ladies' clinic with me in the morning and then he ran a 4-hour coach ed session in the afternoon. We had 14 coaches attend this and all found it very useful. This helps us all upskill our knowledge to a consistent level. I'm also able to tailor the content to best suit the needs of our members, as well as ensuring we all have the relevant license points to maintain our coach accreditation.

Padel Report

This year Paul Lindsay has planned another 2 external padel events. A HOP padel event on 17th June and an LTA sanctioned tournament on 15th July. These will give members a chance to compete external but at their home club. It will also showcase Roehampton Club as a great padel venue.

This year the LTA have also launched a Padel Surrey league, so we have also entered two teams in for the summer season. Matches will be played home and away and start at the end of February.

Paul has also planned some more Padel social events for the summer term such as pizza and padel that was very popular last time. More information regarding these will be advertised out to members closer to the time. Planned socials include padel and pizza night, Padel and Peroni night, Padel club morning special, Ladies padel morning special. The over 60s play and play is still proving popular as well as both club nights tiers on Monday evenings.

I have organised a friendly Padel match against East Glos tennis club on 30th April. This will consist of men's and ladies open and over 40s men's and ladies' teams. Paul is also looking into a friendly against Queens in the summer term.

Racketlon 2023

The club will host the world Racketlon on the 18th – 23rd July. This involves players competing across 4 different sports in order of racket size. Table tennis, badminton, squash then tennis. This year the tournament will include the world championship doubles. Members have competed in this in the

past and there is a lot of interest this year. The ITC will be used for the table tennis and badminton and the tennis will be played on the grass courts.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

February 2023

Date of next meeting – TBC