



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 16th May at 6:30pm

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Fred Warneryd	(Men's Captain)
Victoria Stephens	
Lily Brown	
Alan Flitcroft	
Howard Spence	
Lorna Bhasin	
Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)

In Attendance:

Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Paul Lindsay	(Racquets Manager)

1. Apologies: Kat Kovacevic, Alessandro Noce, David Burditt

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the meeting from 27th February were discussed and approved.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds (PB)

PB reported that the grass courts were officially opened on 1st May, however since then we have had a lot of showers causing the ground to remain soft. Therefore, the bounce on the courts is currently very low. This should improve throughout the summer with more rolling and usage which will firm the ground up. The courts are due to have the first rotation on 19th May so the courts will again be soft for the first few weeks.

The team are working hard on court 24 to try and get it playable at some point in June. This was the court that was used for access for the works on courts 7-10 last year so has taken a lot of damage through this period. However, it's been overseeded and should be as good as all other courts by next year.

Renovation works on courts 4,5 and 6 has been done. This involved brushing up the sand and reapplying it evenly over the surface to level it out. This will improve drainage in the wet weather.

On 17th July works on court 15-18 will start. The courts will change to advantage red, and the works are planned to finish by September ready for the start of the Autumn term.

LB asked if the grass courts could be opened at 10:30am each day instead of 11am. TC discussed and agreed that this should happen on the top block (courts 19-24) as it would allow morning social players a chance to use the grass courts more as they tend to play before 11am each day. It would also relieve pressure at the peak time. The later times were introduced because the courts are often still wet with dew at 10am. If the weather is dry then the team will try to open at 10am.

Action – PB to open grass courts 19 to 24 ready for 10:30am bookings.

Liaison Report (MN)

In DB's absence MN reported that the AGM will take place on Monday 22nd May. The meeting will inform the members of the results of the 2022 year and the long-term

Masterplan 2035 inc. the order of the projects, with a timescale for each project over the next 4 to 5 years. A survey would also be sent out to all members with the information about the projects including the new Indoor golf centre, the bar refurbishment, padel and pickleball courts, changing rooms refurbishment and the tennis hub development.

Racquet Directors Report (DL)

DL reported that since the Club increased the pickleball offering members have been enjoying the game. Louis has done a great job in promoting and running social sessions every Thursday when we use ITC court 1 for pickleball courts. There are over 40 members in the WhatsApp group are keen to play more pickleball on other occasions at the club. DL asked the TC to think about how we could offer more opportunities to members through the week. Taping up the courts takes time, and it would be interesting to see if we left them up for longer if members would play more socially on them. The TC agreed to leaving the courts taped up on the Thursday and the Friday. This would allow members to book a pickleball court through reception and organise a social game. We could also run another social session on the Friday morning and a small league so games could be organised at these times. During this time the court would not be bookable for tennis, however if there are not pickleball booking tennis players could move the nets to the side and use the court while the pickleball lines are down.

Action – DL and Louis will put plan together on how this will work and be timetabled etc.

Padel Report (PL)

PL reported that the padel courts are now operating at 79.10% usage at weekends and 65% midweek so the sport has taken off since we introduced it 2 years ago. Therefore, the court bookings are busy and from this data its clear that the club must investigate long term solutions and build more courts. PL asked the TC to consider a comments card asking if the late cancellation period could be 4 hours instead of 12. The TC agreed to keep this to 12 hours as getting 4 players together at the last minute is harder and therefore 12 hours would mean the court is more likely to get used again by other members.

MN asked the TC to consider a Padel presence on the TC in the future as the section is growing. FW is heavily involved in the Padel section currently and could act as a voice for anything thing Padel related currently. FW to recommend someone to AW for consideration.

Action - TC to discuss if a Padel representative to be added in the future.

AOB.

Racquet Scholarships

AF asked how the racquet scholarships worked and what the obligations were of the Scholars. MN explained that from each club sport we have 3 men and 3 ladies who are eligible for scholarships. This is agreed by the Committees and ratified by the Board of Directors each year. For tennis, the scholars are committed to play 2 NCL matches and be available for the National Finals in Bournemouth. Once a player takes the scholarship, they become a full Roehampton member with full rights to tennis and gym facilities. The scholarship players help the club achieve National success and puts it on the map nationally as well inspiring members within the club's sport. The scholarship players are often travelling professional athletes who are away most of the time and would only be seen around the club when they are competing for Roehampton. The scholarships do not take away playing opportunities for other members as to compete in the national competitions at the highest level most players are professional full-time players. The scholarships are put in place each year and once they are no longer chosen as a Scholarship player, they are offered paid membership at the club.

PL reported that the Padel section does not have a scholarship programme yet, but we do have Padel ambassadors that have played for us to help us compete in the very top division. They are not members and do not use the club. They play in the team with Chris Salisbury, representing us and this has help us retain Chris as a Roehampton Padel player. Without these players representing our club we would be unable to compete at this level. PL will also explore options of the performing in an exhibition match at the club so members can see high level Padel at Roehampton.

AOB – Over 50s participation (HS)

HS asked if the club could promote the Thursday Vets session more. DL explained that he is compiling a contact list of players who are interested in playing in the session. Another member who is keen to play in the session is helping with this and using word of mouth to help promote. Once the list compiled DL will create a database that can be email inviting players to attend. We will also send out a general invite for all Vets tennis sessions.

Action – DL to continue to promote through all Roehampton marketing channels and create a bespoke database for this demographic so players can be invited to the sessions.

AOB Weekend Courts

AF & HS stated that the courts on some Sundays are fully booked and its difficult to get a court at the desired playing time. DL explained as we have many teams there are some pinch points at the weekends at this time of year. The competitions state when the matches must be played therefore the times cannot be moved. We do try and push most matches to the afternoon but on some weekends, we have multiple matches so it's not possible. There have also been times where matches have been rained off earlier in the season so have to be rescheduled on certain dates to ensure they get played. On these days PB will try and open

the grass courts at 10am at weekends so it will give member access to another 9 courts at this time.

Action – PB to open the grass courts at 10am on Sundays when courts are busy. If the weather conditions allow.

AOB – league players not responding (VS)

VS reported that a lot of players who compete in the clubs' internal leagues are not responding to other members when they contact to arrange matches. AF backed this up and got frustrated with this. VS suggested that if a player has not played any matches by the mid-way point of the league that they should be taken out. TC agreed.

Action – DL to send note out when the next league cycle comes out. Stating the new rules.

Racquet Directors Diary – Feb 2023

Airhalls

Both airhalls have now come down and the remaining works on courts 7- 10 have been completed. Feedback from the courts have been positive in terms of how they play. There has been some comments/confusion about them not draining. This is down to members not understanding that the courts are non-porous therefore don't drain but the water would need to be pushed off to dry quickly. Once the court has been squeegeed the court dry very quickly.

Courts 15-18

These courts will be changed to advantage red courts in the summer. The work will start on these courts on 17th July, and they will be closed until the start of September. This will make sure the club has more playable courts all year round.

Tennis Programme

The adult tennis programme is continuing to grow with LiveBall, Pay and Play and cardio sessions in great demand. I am also running some 6-week clinics throughout the summer.

The junior programme for the summer term is up and running with weekend mornings still very busy.

Last month I ran the adult play your Way to Wimbledon competition with the winners qualifying for the next stage later in the summer. Nik has put together the draws for the junior competition and this has started.

Tennis Club night is still going strong with a full 12 players each week. This has now moved outside on to the grass courts from May 3rd. 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 and has now moved outside to the smash courts so a third court can be added to accommodate more players.

Pickleball

The pickleball sessions are still going from strength to strength on a Thursdays. We have replaced the Thursday afternoon vets session with a coaching and match play session open to all members to increase the participation numbers in the afternoon. The morning session is still very popular with 15 ladies regularly attending. The pickleball club evening also has 10 to 20 regulars now.

Team tennis

The team tennis season is now underway 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.

Current results

Mens 1- Joint top of National 1 div with Raynes Park who they play this weekend.

Mens 2- Lost to Raynes Park only and had 2 rained off fixtures.

Mens 3- Won their 1st match against Byfleet 1s

Ladies 1- Won 1, Lost 1 & 1 rained off. Should still qualify for National Finals.

Ladies 2 & 3- Both of their opening fixtures were rained off.

Ladies 1 & Mens 1 will play National Doubles finals at St Georges Hill on 25-28th May.

8&U Boys, 12&U Girls, 16&U Boys all won National Junior Trophy over the winter months. Summer season just started.

Friendlies

Together with Queens, SGH and Hurlingham I have put together the vets friendly Triangular and quad cup fixtures. These matches will start in May and be scheduled on the grass courts when we have home fixtures. I have also organised the CTC team to go to Ireland on 2nd September to play the CTC competition that Carrickmines will host this year.

Club Championships 2023

The draws for the club championships are now out and matches are starting to be played. This year we had another great entry into the men's singles with nearly 60 players in the draw. Other events with big entries were o45 men's, mixed doubles, and men's doubles. Due to smaller draws the over 60 and over 70s men's doubles were joined together to make sure we could still run an event for the vets ages.

The finals day for this year's club championship will be Saturday 24th June. This year the afterparty will be hosted on the lawn in the sunken gardens. We will have a Marquee up in case of wet weather and we also have a Dire Straits tribute band playing in the evening. Tickets for the event are now available online. The cost will be £30, and this includes entry, a welcome drink, and an evening meal from the BBQ. Louis is also running a shotgun golf event on the same day, and we will tie in the evening event so golf members and all other members can attend the evening event.

Coach CPD Day

On Thursday 29th June I have organised another coach CPD day. Paul Allum will be coming to Roehampton to talk about his work in match stats and has worked with Djokovic to help him win

more matches. He will teach the coaches how we can use the stats to help our junior players improve and show how he runs coaching sessions using this information.

Nadel Academy Visit

I have been in touch with the team at the Nadel Academy and arranged for them to come and run some member clinics at Roehampton on Saturday 1st July. These will be free clinics for our adult and junior members that will show case the academy. If any member wants to go to the academy in Spain, they can get preferential rates.

New Coach

Marta Sirotkina has now joined the coaching team. Marta reached a career high 113 WTA in singles and 141 in doubles playing professionally for 8 years and competing in all 4 grand slams on multiple occasions. Marta also holds a master's degree in physical culture and sports and has over a decade of experience in coaching tots tennis to high performance juniors and adults of all levels. Marta has been a member of the club for a few years and played for the ladies' 1st team on many occasions.

Freddie Powell

Matthew Paget has now taken on a full-time tennis assistant in the club shop. Freddie played division 1 tennis at Duke College in the US and is also one of the best pickleball players in Europe. He holds both tennis and pickleball coaching qualifications. He will be offering a hitting service to members that will be bookable online and will be assisting members with any retail needs and stringing rackets in the shop.

Coach Clothing

We have now taken delivery of the new coaching kit from Castore so all coaches will be wearing the new uniform around the club and when on court. Feedback from the clothing has been very positive and I will look at potential for teams to purchase in the future. We have also given the junior teams an opportunity to purchase a team hoody and t shirt at a very reasonable price so they can wear when they are representing the club.

Padel Report

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

May 2023

Date of next meeting – TBC

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