



**Minutes of the Tennis Annual Meeting
held on Monday 21st November 2022**

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Committee Chair)
Andrew Guest	
Brenda Nixon	
Susie Scott	
Belinda O'Conner	
Patricia Jamal	
Julia De Freyne	
Patricia Crowe	
Alan Flitcroft	
Victoria Stephens	
Lily Brown	
Alessandro Noce	
Katarina Kovacevic	(Ladies' Captain)
Fred Warneryd	(Men's Captain)

In Attendance:

Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Peter Bradburn	(Course and Grounds Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Tim Freeman	(Trevor May Ltd)

Apologies

David Burditt	
Howard Spence	
Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)

1. Committee Chair Report – Andrew Wakely.

Good evening and thank you for coming.

Another year for Roehampton Club Members to be proud of as Joe Salisbury won the US Open with Rajeev Ram taking his Grand Slam titles to 5.

Cameron Norrie also had a stellar year getting to a career high of 8th in the world and making the Wimbledon semis, losing to the eventual winner.

It's not only our mega stars who have been flying the flag. Our men's team were winners of the National Club Championship, and our women were runners up. Both were winners of the Southeast region titles too. Our best year on record. A brilliant effort.

The Club Champs had plenty of entrants and were again competitive. It was nice to see the mixed handicap doubles won by some of the Clubs squash royalty, but I can assure them next year the handicap committee will have their number.

Congratulations too to Chris Salisbury for being in the GB squad for the recent World Padel Championships. Unfortunately, the team suffered a difficult draw which some labelled the pool of death.

The internal Padel Champs were again a success with the standard rising. Thanks to Paul Lindsay for all his enthusiasm and efforts.

Due to high demand for Padel it is now required to check in for your court. If you don't you run the risk of being registered as a 'no show' and you will temporarily lose the ability to book courts. This is being done because too many people are booking courts and then not playing. Coaches have also been reminded to release courts they are not going to use in a timely manner as demand remain high, especially with all the leagues.

As you will have all seen, the new seasonal air hall is up over courts 7, 8, 9 and 10.

They are a fabulous addition to the club giving us a total of 10 indoor courts in the winter months. They are playing extremely well. The echo and reverberation are noticeable, and we are looking into a solution. The intention is to use the blue bubble for group coaching and for the green bubble to be for general play.

A reminder that coaches can only book indoor courts for private lessons 65 minutes ahead if no one else has booked them. They cannot book in advance.

Yet again Peter Bradburn and his grounds team produced excellent grass courts.

The envy of all the other clubs. Some members have commented that the two blocks play very differently and suspect that they are treated differently. Peter assures us that this is not the case. They are all kept to the same length and get the same care. Courts 25-28 naturally have a much higher clay content, and this combined with more shade from the trees provides a slightly different microclimate to those on the more open 19-24 block.

Post pandemic we were able to hold the Racketlon tournament again this year and it was well attended and well received. We will host again in 2023 during 19-24 July, a traditionally quiet time at the club.

We are also in the final stages of signing a replacement for Gant for our pre-Wimbledon grass

tournament in late June. An announcement will follow in the New Year.

The poraflex courts 15-18 have just had a deep clean to increase their porosity for our wet winter but they are coming to the end of their useful life. In line with our consultative surface document of last year these will be replaced in late summer 2023 by Advantage Red (Smash as we know that is on courts 4, 5 and 6).

Thanks to Karolina Kovacevic for taking over as women's Captain and for outgoing Captain Rachel Godsave for her excellent job. And to Fred Warneryd as captain of the men.

Final thanks to Dan Lott and Nik Snapes and their coaching team for maintaining high standards and continuing to take the club forward.

2. Racquets Director Report - Dan Lott

Over the past 12 months all racquet sports at Roehampton Club have continued to thrive. With the recent airhall development over courts 7 to 10 the club now has 10 indoor courts. This is a great addition to the tennis section and will greatly enhance the tennis experience over the winter months. The surface on courts 7 – 10 has also been upgraded to a premium cushioned acrylic. This development has enabled us to now use Airhall 1 predominately for coaching, giving members a chance to have guaranteed indoor lessons. This leaves the ITC and Airhall 2 free for general member play.

-Starting with Padel

The padel section continues to grow and the courts are often fully booked at peak times. Paul Lindsay continues to head up the section and has done another great job this year compiling a programme that gives all member demographics chances to experience the game through coaching, social and competitive programming.

These sessions include:

- Ladies Morning
- Club Night
- Padel Club Morning
- Club Afternoon
- Junior coaching groups
- Team training sessions

The Padel Leagues have over 70 teams playing. This popularity has made it difficult for teams to get all the matches played with only 2 courts in which to play them. Therefore, new reduced leagues of 4 teams will be trailed. The racquets team are also looking at possibilities to add further courts in the future.

We also hosted the second Roehampton Club Padel Club Championships in August, the event had even more entries than last year with 90 members taking part. The finals were streamed live online so all members could watch. We are currently organising a Padel Honours board in line with our other rackets sports to go up in the padel court area.

This year we hosted two external padel events that gave our members a chance to compete in external competitions at their home club. Both the LTA grade 4 and the Home of Padel tournaments were great successes and we are planning more for 2023.

It's clear that this sport will continue to grow in the UK. There are now more padel courts than tennis courts in Spain and Sweden so I'm sure we will see more and more courts go up around the country over the next 12 months.

We have also had great team success in competitive Padel throughout year. Our men's First Team competed in the National Finals in September at the National Tennis Centre. They made it to the final and narrowly missed out on the title. The ladies also did well also by winning the regional league then the national play offs to go into Division One next year. Other success includes the men's team winning the national IPadel league. All teams are excited to compete next year to build on this success.

Tennis

The tennis section has continued to flourish with a wide range of social, coaching, and competitive opportunities for both adult and juniors.

At present we continue to run 6 social sessions running through the week that are free of charge for members.

These include: 18-35s social night, Ladies' morning, Vets Matchplay, Mixed bash night, Club Afternoon

We also continue to run pay and play sessions that are popular throughout the week. The Monday and Saturday sessions regularly has between 10 and 15 players each week. These sessions remain an important part of the coaching programme as they give new members a chance to get involved in coaching straight away and allow them to integrate with the existing membership.

Pickleball

The onset of more indoor tennis courts has given us an opportunity to add yet another racquet sport to the Club. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US and its set to head over to the UK very soon with David Lloyd putting pickleball courts in most of their centres. Together with Louis Laville who is our Golf and games manager but also a European pickleball champion we are planning a more regular programme of pickleball in 2023. We have been running monthly pickleball sessions on Thursday mornings, each of these sessions are very well attended with 20 players playing over 4 pickleball courts. Pickleball courts are the same size as badminton courts and means we can fit 4 courts onto just one tennis court. From January we will be running weekly sessions throughout each Thursday in the ITC court 1.

Racquets Team

The backbone of the Racquets team remains unchanged with Nik Snapes supporting me as the Tennis Manager and Paul Lindsay overseeing all other racquet sports as the Racquet's Manager. Paul is heading up the padel section but continues to manage the squash section, he also maintains his strong links with the charity Rackets Cubed. Nik continues to run the junior programme and manage the club competitions and adult team sessions. He also captains the men's first team in all

major competitions.

The coaching team has stayed the same over the last 12 months with 16 coaches working at the club who are doing a great job delivering the coaching programme and satisfying the huge demand we have for coaching. We continue to use an online booking system for all lessons making it transparent and easy for members to search and book lessons.

Junior Coaching

The Junior tennis programme is in a healthy position this year with over 350 juniors in the programme currently.

This year we continued to work hard with the other sports to ensure that tennis, squash and padel can all be timetable effectively without conflicts with other sports such as golf and swimming. I would like to thank Ricky Pharo and Ana Leal for their continued support and co-operation in this area.

We continue to use matchplays to give juniors their first taste of competition in a club environment. This gives them the experience and confidence to compete in external tournaments and matches. All results are fed to the LTA where players can see their progress through the LTA rating system.

Club Championships

The Tennis Club Championships took place over the summer changed this year to a Saturday Finals Day so we could arrange more of a social event afterward. This year we organised an afterparty in the outdoor pool area with a live band playing in the evening. There was lots of positive feedback from members who attended the event, and we will look to replicate this next year and potentially team up with the golf section to make it a larger club event.

The format of the tournament remained the same as last year with staggered draws, however most events this year were organised with 'play by' dates to allow members more time in between rounds. The staggered draws allowed the clubs top players to play as we could tell them exactly when they would play each match and we could also guarantee that they wouldn't totally overwhelm players in the first match. It also allows us to ensure all other members could play matches against players of a similar level. Some of the stronger older juniors entered events providing them with some adult tournament experience. Thanks to both Nik and Paul for their help throughout the year. I would also like to thank Peter Bradburn and his team for providing an excellent summer on the grass courts.

Club Competitions

This year saw the return of the summer surrey league and junior competitions after the 2-year break from covid. Many Roehampton Club teams managed to win their summer divisions and will be promoted for next year. Our men's and ladies first teams managed to win the regional divisions in the National club league and then competed in the National finals in Bournemouth. The men won the National title and the ladies lost in the final so another year of great success on the tennis court. This was another great achievement that puts Roehampton Club on the elite stage, so congratulations to Nik and the teams.

The Club's tennis leagues continue to be a very popular way for members to compete within the club. As well as the singles leagues, we are currently running men's and ladies' doubles, mixed

doubles, and off-peak singles leagues. Vets Friendly matches this year including Quad Cup and Triangular matches were also reinstated this year. Many thanks to Mark Young and Andrew Wakely for their help captaining a lot of these fixtures.

Rachel Godsave has now stepped down as ladies captain and Katerina Kovacevic has taken over. Kat is very enthusiastic about all the ladies' teams and will work on creating more cohesion throughout the teams and integrating the best juniors into adult teams.

Overall, it's been a great year for racquets sports at Roehampton club on and off court with major competitions won, new developments carried out and lots of member engagement. I look forward to another successful year in 2023.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

3. Peter Bradburn – Grounds Report

Airhall 1: The airhall went up in very wet conditions and as a result the court surface was very wet. Therefore, we have had the dehumidifiers in there working to get rid of all the moisture. They have now been removed and the space has dried out.

Tim Freeman – Trevor May Ltd

Airhall 1:

The new skin is Covair's intermediate skin with a stronger membrane that requires higher pressure to support the structure's extra weight with the new internal LED lights. Due to this the skin doesn't need to be transparent therefore the low sun issue is now resolved. The increased pressure also makes the internal walls more vertical creating more runoff space around the court. The surface will be a cushioned acrylic very similar to the ITC court surface.

There is also dark fabric at the back of the airhall that allows players to pick out the ball more easily. It has a more sophisticated plant operation with automatic emergency back up fans and generators. The airhall will also be heated to a maximum of 10 degrees as frost protection but no higher. The oil tank for this heating will be in operation from December.

No AOB was put forward.

The meeting ended at 8:15pm