



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 26th September at 2pm

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Victoria Stephens	
Lily Brown	
Howard Spence	
Lorna Bhasin	
Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Nick Yates	

In Attendance:

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

Apologies: Kat Kovacevic, David Burditt, Fred Warneryd

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the meeting from 16th May were discussed and approved.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds (PB)

ITC

PB reported that the ITC courts have been repainted in August along with all perimeters. MN stated that members must not take coffee and tea on to these courts as it stains the surface and does not come off. AW also noticed red sand comes into the ITC when players come in from the smash courts.

Action- DL will organise a foot bath outside courts 4-6 so players can clean feet before entering ITC. Notices to Members via My Courts will be made.

Courts 4-6

These courts were renovated in the Spring as the carpet wasn't draining as it should. Trevor May came in and brushed the courts up to get the sand back to the surface, extra sand was then added. This has improved the playability and drainage of the courts, but these courts are now 10 years old and should be the next courts to be replaced. NS added due to the age of these courts they play much faster than the new clay surface on 15-18. Agreed we need them to be consistent.

Action- MN to look at replacing these courts in the next 2 years with new advantage red courts.

Courts 7-10

The proflex courts are performing well and dry after showers very quickly in warm weather. There are also squeegees at the side of these courts so members can clear the surface water if needed. The airhall will go over these courts in October. We are still waiting for Covair to confirm the exact date. Chris Hughes has looked into the heating system so it should be working better as a frost protection system this winter.

Court 15-18

These courts are performing well since being laid in August. They have been topped up with sand once and will be topped up again in the next few weeks. The recent rain has helped bed them in and member feedback is positive. DL stated that members have now been

encouraged to sweep these courts (along with courts 4-6) after member and coach play. This will ensure the sand is evenly spread across the surface and stop it from compacting in certain areas. VS requested some more sweepers as there are only 4 between the block of 4 courts currently.

Action – DL to order some more sweepers for courts 15-18.

Grass courts

All grass courts are now out and being resown and top dressed. 60 tonnes of top dress have been laid down. The courts will be covered soon so the seed can germinate by November and be cultivated ready for next May.

Liaison Report (MN)

In DB's absence MN reported some key points from the recent member survey and discussed with the TC in what order the Board is looking to implement the developments. The padel and pickleball provision was discussed regarding where new courts could potentially go. The full results of the survey along with the future plans will be discussed in the member forum on 26th October. The tennis AGM will be held on Monday 30th October at 7pm.

Racquet Directors Report (DL)

DL requested the TC to consider some points from LL and the active pickleball players as per the racquet directors report. The TC agreed that the club would host the Franklin Premier Pickleball league finals on 24th March 2024. This would be a great way to showcase pickleball competition and how it works to the membership. It would use 2 courts in the ITC for the day and members would be encouraged to watch and support both Freddie and Louis who are playing in the event. There is also an opportunity where top ranked players could run a clinic and exhibition for our members.

Action – DL to plan this with LL and organise some member experiences alongside.

Padel Report

PL reported the IPadel Finals are on 7th October in Bristol. The Surrey leagues also up and running for padel with the ladies' teams now playing in the week which helps with court space over the peak weekend times. PL is also looking to replace the mesh on the padel courts as its bent and loose so not performing how it should.

AOB.

NY asked the if there is scope for a ladies' second team in the National Club padel leagues next year as he believes we could compete at this level. TC agreed that we can enter another ladies team in 2024.

LB asked if we should be letting members use the slinger ball machine on indoor courts in peak times. TC agrees that this should not be allowed between 9am and 12pm and 4pm and 9pm in the week and between 9am and 12pm at the weekends.

Racquet Directors Report – Sept. 2023

Courts 15-18

These courts were successfully changed to advantage red courts in the summer. The feedback so far has been very positive. The courts play very slow which is great for coaching and social play. They will also help us schedule matches throughout the winter as these courts should now be playable courts all year round. Tim Freeman has advised us to encourage members to sweep these courts after use to ensure we have the optimum playing conditions, and so they drain more effectively. A message has been sent out to all members and instructions are on the entry gates. The side gates on courts 16 and 17 have now been locked for access and will only be used for maintenance. This will ensure members don't spread the red sand in through the concourse. Shoe brushes and mats are outside the entry gates so members can clean shoes before leaving courts.

Tennis Programme

The adult tennis programme is still growing with LiveBall, Pay and Play and cardio sessions in great demand. I will be adding sessions over the term to cope with increase in demand. I've also added a 6-week tennis clinic this term that is fully booked.

I am also exploring the idea of a tennis trip abroad for next year.

The junior programme for the Autum term is in a strong position with many of the sessions fully booked. We have moved some of the sessions over from a Saturday to a Sunday to ease the pressure on Saturday mornings. So far this has worked well and by 10am we aim to have most of the courts free for social play and matches.

Nik has organised some external junior tournaments that will be held at the club this term. They will use blocks of court in off peak times, and it gives our juniors a chance to compete externally at their home club.

Tennis Club night has been popular over the summer using 4 grass courts with 16 players most weeks. Now the grass courts are closed for the season club night will be moved inside on courts 1-3. Vets' tennis on a Thursday afternoon is now coupled with Pickleball on the end court. Ladies pickleball is growing in popularity and the session gets 16 players each week.

In October we have some Wilson demo tournaments running for adults and juniors. These tournaments mark the launch of Wilson's new 'Shift' racket and will give all members a chance to use the racket during the tournament then the winner will get to keep the racket as the prize.

Pickleball

The pickleball sessions are still going from strength to strength on 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 16 ladies regularly attending. Louis and Freddie do a great job in promoting and encouraging members to play. Over the summer the courts were left up for Friday morning so members could have another chance to play. This was also well attended.

Please see below some pickleball points for the tennis committee to consider:

Please see a couple of things to raise regarding pickleball at Roehampton Club below:

1. Frankling Premier Pickleball League – Finals
2. Additional evening session at Roehampton Club
3. Limited National Team training for select players.

1. Franklin Premier Pickleball League - 24th March 2024.

The Premier Pickleball League was created as a competition to put the best players in the country together in a competitive but fun format.

The Franklin PPL is a team event where teams compete over 6 best of 3 set matches to 15, rally scoring (men's singles, women's doubles, mixed doubles, women's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles). Both Louis and Freddie are in the league competing in its first season. There are 6 teams in the league and each team will play each other twice throughout the league season and then standings from the league will determine teams seeding for the play offs and championship match at the end of the season.

<https://www.pickleballengland.org/premier-pickleball-league/>

The final is tentatively suggested to be held at Roehampton Club due to the quality of the facilities, but also because it could be an excellent showcase to promote pickleball played at a high level to Membership. Top ranked players would also be happy to run some pickleball clinics in order to help facilitate the finals being held here.

2. Additional evening session at Roehampton Club

Sessions are now extremely popular at Roehampton Club with Ladies' morning having a waitlist most weeks now, as well as Club Night filling up. As well as this, the Friday roll up is gathering pace with 10+ players regularly attending between 09:00-11:00. There is appetite for another evening session, with the date suggested being Wednesday evening from 7-9. I believe this session will fill very quickly.

3. National Training Pickleball – once a week at Roehampton Club

Would the Tennis Committee be happy for once a week from 19:30-21:30 on a Thursday evening for a select few of the National Team to train following Club Night at Roehampton Club.

Rules

Would always be one of Freddie or Louis there.

Max 8 Players

Louis to record names for Security and for information purposes.

Again, in return, these players would be happy to run coaching clinics / a pro-am in return for this.

Team tennis

The team tennis season is now underway with all the surrey winter leagues. 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.

Roehampton Club have had some huge success stories in recent weeks with the men's and ladies' teams making it to the National finals in Bournemouth on the 8th – 10th September. Both teams made it to the final with Roehampton taking on Sutton. The men managed to retain the National title and the Ladies repeating last years result with a close loss to Sutton. Congratulations to Nik Snapes who worked so hard to make this all possible.

US Open Success

Joe Salisbury managed to make it a hat trick of US Open Men's doubles titles winning the event yet again. This is the first time anyone has ever done this at the US Open. Huge congratulations to Joe who is now making history.

Hannah Klugman also made it to the girls' singles quarter finals before an injury to her stomach forced her to pull out. This is an amazing achievement at just 14. Hannahs ranking is now 14 in the world under 18. And I'm sure there is plenty of success coming her way over the next few years.

Friendlies

All the summer friendlies took place throughout August involving Queens, SGH and Hurlingham. The fixtures are becoming increasingly difficult to field players and takes a large amount of my time looking for players. I will review this going into summer 2024 and look to find a member willing to take this over who wants to play and organise them.

On 2nd September we send a team to Carrickmines to play in the CTC event involving all clubs over 100 years old. This was a great event with all players enjoying the fixture and will look forward to taking part in 2024.

This year Roehampton also took part in the first mixed quadrangular fixture at the AELTC. This was a great event with 3 mixed pairs in the 30s.40s and 50s age groups.

Club Championships 2023

The club championships were another great success this year. The finals day for this year's club championship was on Saturday 24th June. This afterparty was a huge success with 130 tickets sold for the evening. Costing the ticket to include a drink and the food made it much easier and will stick

with the same format for next year. Hosting with a golf event also made it more popular and helped mixed the tennis players with the golfers.

Coach CPD Day

On Thursday 29th June Paul Allum came to Roehampton to talk about his work in match stats and has worked with Djokovic to help him win more matches. He showed the coaches how we can use the stats to help our junior players improve and show how he runs coaching sessions using this information. Paul also gave the coaches the first access to his website that his building so they can use with club members.

Another CPD day is planned on Tuesday 19th September with Simon Whealtes and Dr Piotr Unierzyski from Poland. The day will focus on The Polish System & Return of Serve.

Padel Report

Padel Club Championship Results 2023

Saturday 2nd September saw the annual Padel Club Championship Finals take place.

The threat of the English summer rain thankfully avoided the large crowd gathered for four closely fought matches accompanied by Pizza and drinks.

The vibrant atmosphere made for a fun afternoon and standard of Padel on show for Members and guest was highly entertaining with the results below:

Open

Ed Savitt and Chris Salisbury beat Craig de Silva and Oli Golding 7-5, 7-5

Over 45s Open

Craig De Silva and Jorge Alcover beat Nick Yates and Fred Warneryd 6-7, 6-3, 10-6

Ladies Open

Daisy Maclean and Natasha Marks beat Amy Cairns and Katy Preston 7-5, 6-3

Mixed Open

Daisy Maclean and Ed Savitt beat Amy Cairns and Nick Yates 6-0, 6-1



Ed Savitt and Chris Salisbury



Daisy Maclean and Natasha Marks



Ed Savitt and Daisy Maclean



Jorge Alcover and Craig De Silva

Men's National 1st Team

The Men's team finished runners-up in the National Finals. A convincing three wins from three in the group stages saw the Team progress to the semi-finals where they beat David Lloyd Bushey.

The final was against Rocks Lane 'A' who were pre-tournament favourites. Two very close matches sadly went the way of Rocks Lane but a great achievement from the Men to finish runners up for a second year at the National Finals.

[LTA - Tennis for Britain - LTA Padel National League 2023 - National Finals - Team: The Roehampton Club \(4\) - General](#)

Squad: Chris Salisbury (Capt), Adam Sundblad, Javier Etayo, Francis Lanagan, Louie Harris.

Women's National 1st Team

The Women's team finished runners-up in the National Finals, winning tow match against Esher and East Glous Club but losing out to winners Harbour Club 'A'.

[LTA - Tennis for Britain - LTA Padel National League 2023 - National Finals - Team: The Roehampton Club \(13\) - General](#)

A great effort by the women, well done all.

Squad: Katy Preston (Capt), Steph Cornish, Steph Williams, Amy Cairns, Laura Deigman, Daisy Maclean.

Good luck to the Men's National 2nd Team playing this weekend.

The Men's team, squad below, will be competing in the LTA Padel National League Regional Finals

Squad: Craig de Silva (Capt), Bojan Jelovac, Ed Savitt, Oli Golding, Jonny Binding, George Palmer.

Dates – 23 and 24 September

Venue – National Tennis Centre

Draw – tbc

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

September 2023

Date of next meeting – 30th October 6:30pm