



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting**  
**held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm**

**Present:**

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Fred Warneryd	(Men's Captain)
Kat Kovacevic	(Ladies' Captain)
Lily Brown	
Howard Spence	
Lorna Bhasin	
Mark Young	
David Burditt	(Liaison Director)
Marc Newey	(Chief Executive)
Nick Yates	
Astrid Drayson	

**In Attendance:**

Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)

1. **Apologies:** Victoria Stephens, Peter Bradburn

2. **Minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes of the AGM held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October were discussed and approved.

Two Directors from House Committee joined the meeting with Debra Drago the Dep.General Manager to discuss how they can get more members and guests to eat and drink at the club. They asked the TC about ideas and feedback from their experiences of F and B. Good feedback was given.

3. **Reports**

**Course and Grounds (PB)**

- We are still pursuing the fix for the revolving door on Air Hall No 2. Trevor May to take up with Covair the contractor.
- The heating element on Air Hall No1 is being very temperamental and so we are trying to source a specialist air handling company to look at this.
- Court 11 is holding water in the far northeastern side and so we are looking at how to connect into drainage in the area to relieve the issue.
- Still waiting for arrival of the padel court brush, we do need a dry period for the sand to be dryer to attempt moving around. Will action next week.
- Courts 7 -10 have some cracks on the surface which we have reported to Trevor May.
- Grass lawns are fine for winter, 19 to 24 are in good condition with good turf cover. Lawns 25 to 28 will need overseeding in spring to bulk up the sward content.

## **Racquet Directors Report – December 2023**

### **Mini Racquets Programme**

Next year the club will be launching a mini racquets programme specifically designed to give members from 2- 5 years old their first taste of racquets sports at Roehampton. Danielle Snapes has joined the team as the Mini Racquet's Co-ordinator and together with the team will be putting together a comprehensive mini racquets programme that will complement our current offering. This will also act as a pathway into the junior coaching programme. Mini camps over the Christmas period will be running from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Junior Programme**

We have prepared the junior and adult programme for next year. Bookings will be made available from next week.

## **GPS Check In**

Miles has now increased the radius to 175 metres and moved the centre point for the check-in area slightly to the west, as such it should now overlap both the far Eastern and Western sides of the grounds encompassing the courts. This means members should be able to check in for all courts with their mobile devices.

## **Ladies Doubles League**

I have noticed that a lot of ladies members are booking more than 90 mins per day in peak times on indoor courts. This seems to be because the ladies' doubles matches are taking as long as 2.5 hours! Therefore, from January the format will be changed to 15 games like the other leagues so the matches can be finished in 90 mins. I have also asked miles to put a restriction on the bookings, so members are only able to book 90 mins of indoor court time per day.

## **Airhalls**

Both airhalls were inflated over the October half term and have now dried out. The door to courts 9 and 10 in airhall 2 is still broken and we are awaiting the replacement door from Covair who are yet to give us a date of when they can come and replace this. The heaters in both airhalls are working and the temperatures is set to 10 degrees for frost protection purposes. I have ordered some more mats for the court's entrances to all indoor courts. There have been several comments about the temperature in the airhalls. Its important that members understand they these are not heated, and the heating system acts a frost protection.

## **Pickleball and Padel Hub**

After overwhelming support at the recent Members Forum and the Tennis AGM its now clear that courts 25-28 will be converted to a new padel and pickleball hub. We are now looking into the best configuration of this area along with researching the best padel court supplier to make the best facility possible. We are also looking into improving our current 2 padel courts by replacing and upgrading the mesh in January and improving the surface with more sand and regular brushing.

## **Pickleball Report** *(Louis Laville)*

Pickleball has seen exciting growth at the Club over the Summer months.

There are now 5 organised sessions a per week, which leads to over 60 Members playing pickleball between 9am Thursday Morning to 11 am Friday morning. In between the sessions, the court is available to book for either pickleball or tennis which leads to court 1 usage being maximised on Thursdays and Fridays which is great to see.

There are now 171 Members on the Pickleball mailing list which a member is added to once they have attended a session.

The 09:00-10:30 ladies morning has now run 3 times and has had 6, 10 and 15 players respectively attending. The 10:30-12:00 session is usually always full and at times has a wait list, this is the same

with Club Night. The pickleball practice afternoon is increasing hugely in popularity with there being over 10 players in each of the last four sessions between 2-3pm. Finally, the Friday roll up is popular with 16+ players attending in the past few weeks!

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, myself and 11 Members are going to Mallorca to play in the Mediterranean Open: <https://mediterraneanopen.com/>

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December the Club will be hosting a Christmas Ladies Morning and Christmas Club Night. This will cater for 40 players in each, with a round robin fun format with lots of prizes available. Ladies Morning is already oversubscribed with a waitlist and the Club Night has 16 Members signed up as well.

We have had a couple of Members ask if they can book court 1 during the week and play pickleball instead of tennis. They would tape their own court and put all equipment away following the session. Please could the Tennis Committee confirm either way regarding the possibility of this outside of Thursdays and Friday Mornings. **TC considered this but felt that the taping up of courts should stay on Thursdays and Friday mornings. The new hub looking to be in play for Winter 2024 will provide more courts.**

## **Padel Tennis report** *(Paul Lindsay)*

### **Social sessions:**

We continue to run the two Monday evening Club Nights and Saturday Club Morning. PL planning more one-off social Club evenings between March and June 2024 to raise the social inclusion/profile of Padel.

### **Internal Leagues:**

There has been a slight reduction in league pairs with commitment, injury and weather the main factors this run. The four internal leagues (Open, Off-Peak, Ladies and Over 45s) provide Members with opportunity for competitive games.

With high court demand and arranging matches proving difficult, pairs are now removed from the next league run if they fail to play a match or inform the league organiser.

### **Teams:**

We continue to run iPadel Men's, Women's and Mixed in the winter. Surrey matches will start again in the new year.

### **Tournaments:**

LTA Grade 4 has been given a provisional date of 13 July 2024.

HoP tournament suggested/proposed date is 22 June 2024.

Club Championships – PL looking at the best weekend to host the finals and to move matches later in the day and incorporate an early evening BBQ for players/spectators.

### **New Hub:**

The development will change the offering of the sports. Mainly the social and team offering, whilst elevating pressure on courts for general play. PL – suggest not squeezing in maximum number of

courts into the area but utilising the space/amphitheatre to include a show court for both Padel and Pickle – still allowing 4 or 5 Padel and 6 or 7 for Pickle.

DL also asked the TC to consider if members could book the ITC courts and tape their own pickleball courts up to play outside the normal pickleball days. (Thursday and Friday mornings). **The TC decided that members should wait until we have dedicated courts to play more social games, as it can be off putting for tennis players and the taping of courts etc should be done by club coaches/staff to ensure no damage is done to the court surface.**

**Action – DL to inform LL to send out comms to pickleball players to inform them.**

MN explained that the airhall and the ITC do not have heating systems per se but do have the ability for the air handling units to act as a frost protection system. This means that the heating will be triggered when the temperature falls below a certain point to stop them from freezing. The idea is to keep the air temperature inside the indoor courts 5 degree above ambient. Unfortunately, it's not possible to heat the airhalls and ITC due to planning regulations imposed when we received permission for the airhalls.

**Action – DL to ensure comms sent out to membership to explain this so all members are clear, and we can manage expectations.**

## **Liaison Director Report**

DB updated the TC on the current projects. The IGC is going through the formal planning stage in January. We would then know about the planning permission in April 2024. If everything goes to plan, we will hopefully have the IGC open for the summer 2025.

Other projects included upgrading the clubhouse kitchen to electric and taking out all the gas. This would reduce costs and our carbon footprint. The whole kitchen will be refurbished throughout January and February. During this time members would only be able to purchase a small selection of hot food such as sausage rolls, pizzas etc with a limited menu. Cold food such as sandwiches would also be made available.

The refurb of the upstairs areas is likely to be planned for January to March 2025. This will involve a complete renovation of the bar and all the meeting rooms along with the installation of the new balcony extension.

## **Padel and Pickleball Hub**

MN explained that he took the proposed plans of the padel and pickleball hub on courts 25 to 28 to the planning meeting. The planners have previously said no to a permanent roof structure over the area. However, they have informed us that they will consider a retractable roof. This would run from the westside of the courts and cover 40 meters across to the east side. The courts will be designed taking this into consideration if we did get planning for a retractable roof. We also need to ensure there is wheelchair access to the courts so they can be used for the community and members at off-peak times. Another consideration is to use some of the space to extend the outside pool area at a later date. The next planning meeting regarding this is on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**Action – MN to confirm the space we are leaving for the pool area so team can start to plan the area for the courts with layouts etc.**

AD questioned whether we need to design the courts with international events in mind as we are a member's club and should focus on members playing rather than hosting external events. Therefore, would rather have more courts. MN stated that the design of courts would be looked at once we know the area we must use and the planning decision regarding the roof has been made. The show courts would be a great addition for our club events and member matches also. We will plan the courts with the whole Committee we can when we have all the relevant information.

**Action – Racquets team to work with NY and Trevor May on best layout of courts for the new padel and pickleball hub and revert back.**

NY questioned the playing surface of the current padel courts as many players have slipped and can be dangerous when wet. He suggested to the TC that perhaps they should look at replacing the surface to a Mondo surface that's used on the world padel tour and perhaps it would be better to replace than to buy a brushing machine. The TC will consider this and, in the meantime, extra sand and brushing will be done to the courts to try and improve the playability and safety.

**Action – Racquets team to organise padel courts to be brushed and extra sand added. Also, to investigate the replacement of the padel surfaces.**

Date of next meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> February