



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 27th February at 6pm

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Kat Kovacevic	(Ladies' Captain)
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)
Paul Lindsay	(Racquets manager)
Tim Freeman	

1. **Apologies:** Fred Warneryd, Lily Brown

2. **Minutes from previous meeting:**

Minutes of the AGM held on the 4th December 2023 were discussed and approved.

3. **Reports**

Course and Grounds (PB)

- Maintenance has been planned this week for courts 4-6. The courts were installed in 2009 and are now the next courts to be replaced. This will be done at the end of this year or next year. Until then we plan to brush the courts up to get the pile fibres to stand more upright and lift the sand particles, this will help stop the sand and dirt particles becoming impacted at the bottom of the pile. At present these courts are holding water due to this. The planned maintenance should help until the courts are replaced with new advantage red courts similar to those on 15-18.
- 7-10 airhall heating unit is still having issues. The heating element had a mechanical issue that the contractors are still trying to resolve. It's likely that some parts will need to be replaced therefore the issue will not be resolved until the airhall comes down on the 24th March. However, the problem will be fixed for October when the airhalls go back up. Until then dehumidifiers have been placed in there to try and stop the condensation forming and making the surface damp.
- Grass court lawns are in good shape for the summer season. Now the weather is improving the team can get onto the lawns and start prepping for the summer season.
- Padel courts have also undergone maintenance. We now have a new brush that seems to work well on all synthetic surfaces. Trevor May came to do some work on the padel courts but due to the wet weather were restricted on how much they could do. However, they will be coming back on a dry day to carry out more court renovation that should see the courts give more traction.
- The Board is looking into placing a ground source heat pump under courts 25-28 when they are dug up in preparation for the new padel and pickleball hub. This is a sustainable way to heat the swimming pool and should save a lot of energy over the years.

Padel and Pickleball Hub

- The original plan to have a telescopic roof covering all courts in the planned padel and pickleball hub have been rejected by the board due to the costs coming in at over £2m.
- The new layout for the hub will allow for 5 new padel courts and 6 new pickleball courts.
- The covering now proposed is to protect three padel courts and three pickleball courts (including the pickleball court suitable for adaptive wheelchair play) from adverse weather is a series of three linked arched canopy style roofs. Each canopy roof comprises a lightweight steel structure, with galvanised and powder coated 200 x 200mm SHS steel columns supporting eaves beams running just outside the long sides of each padel court and the pickleball courts to the north. Spanning between the eaves beams are either galvanised steel lattice frames or galvanised and powder coated cold rolled steel ribs supporting a tensioned translucent off white fabric covering. Gutters collect water runoff from the fabric and direct it to powder coated downpipes and below ground surface water drainage. The underside of the roof structure is 6 metres above the padel court and pickleball playing surfaces, the minimum clear height required for playing both sports. With a span of a little under 13 metres, the highest point of the roof will be approximately 8.5 metres above playing surface level. In this case, with the ground level to the north and south being 0.5 metres above playing surface level, the height of the roof structures above adjacent ground levels will be 5.5 and 8 metres respectively.
- The new plan also allows an 8-metre area free to extend the pool outdoor seating area at a later stage. Until this time the area will be utilised with some other sporting activities for families.
- AW asked about the possibility of using a dropdown mesh on the current padel courts to stop the rain coming in sideways. TF stated this may not be possible due to the excessive load it will produce on the foundations. If we were to do this the foundations would need to be given extra support. AD and NY argued that it may not solve the issue and the rain will still come in the padel playing mesh that runs across the other 8 metres of the court.
- NY asked if there was potential to switch the barrel on the new hub design so it runs the other way and would therefore make lobbing at the side of the padel courts easier and give a higher apex. TF to look at this but we must be mindful of the planning restraints and what they would allow in terms of maximum height at the apex plus the designation of a building on MOL.

Action – TF to draw up plans with barrel design switched round.

- TF showed TC examples of padel court surfaces and how they are constructed differently between straight fibres that are in filled with sand to make them stand upright and textured fibres that are bent over at the top. Once supplier (Mondo) used a combination of these techniques.
- The surface issues members are experiencing on the padel courts currently maybe due to several factors. The courts have been in for 2.5 years with heavy usage and without regular maintenance the fibres may have become impacted and therefore slippery in places.

Action – Rackets team to make sure padel courts receive regular maintenance to improve

playing performance.

- MN stated although the court surface of the current padel courts can be slippery we are not sure if replacing the surface will solve all the issues. Instead, we are going to carry out more maintenance on the courts and see if this improves things. Then we will plan to change the surface with a different version when we build the courts at the new hub. This way we will have all 7 courts with the same premium surface. TF stated that the expected life of a surface on padel courts should be around 5 years. The current courts would be down for 3 years by this time.

Action – TC to decide on best surface for new padel courts by October.

- KK asked if the plan for the hub could include some access to a water fountain. MN agreed that this would be in place, so players have access to water. KK also mentioned it would be a good idea to have a water fountain on courts 7-10. PB agreed this could be done by using the feed from the sports shop.

Action – PB to investigate how best to install a water fountain on court 7-10.

- MN informed the TC that we need to get planning approval to start work on the hub in October ready for a Jan opening.

Action – MN and TF to finalise plan for planning pre-application.

Tennis Dress Code

The survey results of the tennis dress code were discussed by the TC.

47% of the members wanted the current dress code to remain the same.

32% of the members wanted it changed to a more relaxed dress code.

20% of members were indifferent.

TC decided that the current tennis dress code will remain with 67% of the members min essence not wanting to change.

Tennis Teams Results

KK asked about the potentially having more team results posted somewhere and made more visible for members. NS stated that as we have over 50 tennis teams, we would need to create a way of doing this the most efficient way. TC agreed that all team captains could send preseason and post season match reports reports to the men's and ladies captain, they would then organise these to publish on the club's website and noticeboard for all members to see. The reports could include team photos and seasons results etc.

Racquet Directors Diary – Feb 2024

Airhalls

We are planning on taking both airhalls down the w/c 25th March. Airhall over courts 7 – 10 will be first followed by courts 12 to 14.

Courts 15-18

These courts have proved very popular through the winter months and have allowed us to schedule matches, coaching and social member play. Chris Hughes and his team have been putting together a maintenance plan so they can be brushed regularly as this greatly enhances the playability and the drainage.

Tennis Programme

The adult tennis program is experiencing significant growth, evidenced by the increasing demand for weekly group coaching sessions. Currently, all four LiveBall sessions are fully booked until the end of the term, highlighting their popularity among members. To accommodate this demand, these sessions will now be bookable on a weekly basis, ensuring members have ample opportunities to participate.

Additionally, I've organized serve and return clinics, doubles matchplay sessions, and video analysis sessions throughout the term, providing a diverse range of learning opportunities for our adult players.

Meanwhile, our junior program for the Spring term is already in full swing, operating at maximum capacity with minimal available spaces. Weekend private lessons are also in high demand, presenting challenges in scheduling.

Tennis Dress Code

The survey went out to members on 2nd February.

After a week of the survey being live, we've currently received 542 responses (492 complete and 50 partial), representing a 17% response rate. This is now up to 674 responses. Information will be presented in the TC meeting and a decision made on the dress code going forward.

Pickleball

Pickleball has continued its accelerated growth at Roehampton Club. Both Ladies mornings are oversubscribed with us having to introduce a ban for no shows due to its popularity. The Thursday afternoon session now regularly is 70%+ occupied and at times full. Club Night is always 90%+ occupied. Friday Roll Up has had 15+ players every session this year with it having 19 or more on two occasions.

113 different members have played pickleball this year with the keenest members having already played 10 sessions! We have 214 Members on the pickleball mailing list.

On Thursday 28th March we will be running an Easter Extravaganza, like the Christmas event. This will also include scores going into DUPR, pickleball's rating system. This will lead to about 70+ members having official pickleball ratings.

Following this we will look to run a 'Club Champs' in the summer. Notably Men's and Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. The ratings will allow us to seed pairings and create a fun tournament atmosphere.

Challenges/Opportunities:

1. Only having Thursdays and Friday mornings to play – if there was an opportunity for a day earlier in the week – Monday maybe, that would be amazing for numbers and pressure on the club sessions.
2. Once the weather improves, is there an option to have a lined court outside, perhaps court 11 to become multi-purpose.

Finally, would like to thank the Committee for allowing myself and some of the national players to train in the evenings after Thursdays session. I will get them all back in the summer for a pro-am and exhibition on 'finals' day.

Louis Laville

Team tennis

The upcoming team tennis season promises to be bustling, with Surrey leagues, National Club leagues, and junior teams all gearing up for action. This surge in activity will inevitably lead to high court occupancy on weekends, prompting us to strategize ways to allocate matches into off-peak times, though this may not always be feasible.

In collaboration with Queens, SGH, and Hurlingham, I've coordinated the fixtures for the vets' friendly Triangular and Quad Cup competitions. In the coming weeks, I'll work closely with AW to recruit players and appoint captains for these fixtures.

A highlight from recent events includes the Roehampton ladies' invitation to a friendly match and afternoon tea at the AELTC on Saturday, February 10th. The Roehampton team emerged victorious and relished the delightful afternoon at the prestigious club.

Preparations for the summer season leagues and tournaments are well underway, with entries being submitted for adult, junior, and vets' teams. These events encompass a range of competitions including Surrey league, National Club League, and seniors' knockout tournaments.

Exciting news for the men's team as they currently lead the NPL league standings, positioning them favourably for the upcoming finals scheduled to be held at SGH in the coming months.

New Members

Over the last month 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 2024

The finals day for this year's club championship will be Saturday 22nd June. We aim to plan another social event in the evening with a band. This year we plan to sell tickets as we did last year with the tickets being available online 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. Louis will also run a gold shotgun event in the afternoon so the golfers can come and join the party in the evening.

Coach CPD Day

We have a coach ed day planned for after Easter with coach education consultant (Simon Wheatley) we will also run some member clinics on the day. 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

The mesh on the padel courts has undergone an upgrade, now replaced by Pro Padel's 4mm mesh, an improvement from the original 3mm installation. This enhancement has garnered positive feedback from players, noting increased security and performance.

Scheduled for Wednesday, February 21st, Trevor May will commence court maintenance by utilizing a specialized brush and adding sand. This initiative aims to elevate the pile of the courts, mitigating slipperiness when wet. Success will prompt the implementation of a regular maintenance plan integrating these methods. Should surface issues persist, consideration will be given to replacement options.

We've enrolled in iPadel leagues, with Surrey leagues already underway for the season.

Club nights on Mondays and Saturday morning sessions continue to enjoy high popularity. Expansion of these sessions awaits additional court availability in the padel and pickleball hub.

Padel and Prosecco event planned for March 11th.

Paul Lindsay has organized two external padel events for this year: the HOP Padel event on June 15th and an LTA-sanctioned tournament on July 13th. These events provide members with opportunities for external competition while highlighting Roehampton as a premier padel venue.

The Padel Club Championships are set to commence in August, culminating in the finals on September 28th. We plan to maintain the same events this year, with potential expansion pending increased court availability.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

February 2024

Meeting concluded at 8:15pm.

Date of next meeting – 30th April