



**Padel & Pickleball Hub Working Group  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 – Bridge Room  
2pm – 4pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Marc Newey	Chief Executive
	Andrew Wakely	Tennis Committee Chair
	Lorna Bhasin	Tennis Committee
	Nick Yates	Padel Representative
	Serena Norgren	Pickleball Representative
	Tim Freeman	Trevor May Contractors
	Paul Lindsay	Racquets Manager
	Nick Bunn	Health Club Committee Chair
	Dan Lott	Racquets Director

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Stuart Reeks	Health Club Manager
<b>On-Line:</b>	Michael Hill	Tennis Liaison Director

**Apologies:** Carolyn Ward, Charlotte Codd, Colin Hector and Joy Stevens

## **1) Welcome & Apologies**

MN thanked everyone for coming and explained that what he wanted to achieve from the meeting which was to look at the different configuration of the options that we want to consider and to agree as a group what to take to the planners, getting it down to about two, maximum three options. Looking at options with and without covers. MN asked for all to read the advice received from LUC on the best options to seek planning for which will be attached to the minutes.

## **2) Minutes and matters arising – 12/2/25**

Minutes were approved.

### 3) New Schemes update

*Drawings were shared on the screen so the different options could be presented by NY and discussed by the group.*

#### Courts 4 – 6

There is room for five Padel courts on there. On Court 11 there is an option to convert it to four Pickleball courts. It was noted that this will receive objections from Woking Close so we would discount at this stage.

They would be looking to get a cover for three courts, leaving two open but if this option stops them moving forward then they would rather have more Padel courts without a cover.

Ideally, Working Group would like a cover covering all five courts but could fall back to three if planning suggested a cover for five was too big.

MN explained getting a cover in this location could be justified through the proximity to the ITC where they have a concentrated built development in one area, which is an argument to minimise the openness, and they would still do the VSC. They are working with Paddock School who already use the swimming facilities and are looking to work with another organisation for autistic children.

#### Courts 25 – 28

Court 25 would be taken by the Health Club to extend the outdoor pool area and 26 to 28 pre grass would be converted to four smash courts which ultimately would be dark green clay and not red.

Croquet Lawn 4 would then become a grass court. Would need to take out the hedge and flower beds for two courts which would be doable but not desirable.

#### Courts 17 – 18

AW suggested that they move Pickle from Court 11 down to 17 or 18. It was noted that unfortunately you cannot get four Pickle courts on one tennis court.

NY drew this as an option but is not in favour of putting Pickle on Courts 17 and 18.

TF advised that if you rotated you could get six Pickleball on there but thought they would be all orientated north and south which would not be a bad thing anyway particularly if they didn't have a roof.

#### Courts 19 – 22

These are the least used but best presented grass courts because they are the furthest away from the Clubhouse. Didn't think they would get four smash courts on these and would need floodlights. There was a discussion by the group regarding LED lights and tweener lights as a substitute.

DL concern was by using tweeners we are making courts that are less premium than the others, he is of the mindset we should try and make the whole facility as premium as possible. He likes to have banks of courts, advantageous for running socials and coaching groups. Keeping banks of grass courts together and banks of the same surface together just makes it a lot easier for matches, social plays etc.

DL explained that in his professional opinion that they should have a show court on lawn 4 without rotation with a possible stadium build around it, with a block of six courts which are grass totalling seven in all.

MH said many members felt Grass Courts 26 – 28 are the premium grass courts and noted that was one of the reasons the club continues to play its Championship finals on them. DL agreed for viewing but not for playing- courts 19-22 have just been laser levelled.

#### Courts 15 – 18

DL would be worried to put padel or pickleball on courts 15 -18 as would change the feel and look of the Club especially as they are using the Piazza more to run events from, and this is the area where they will be having a big outdoor screen.

NY agreed with DL that having a permanent structure with a roof on those courts would not be a good idea. Others agreed saying there has been opposition to this idea.

#### **4) Conclusions and next steps to meet the Planners**

The meeting focused on the configuration and planning for new Padel and Pickleball courts. Key options discussed included covering 4–6 Courts for Padel and potentially courts 17 and 18 for Pickleball, with concerns about member and planning approval. The group considered the impact on tennis courts, particularly the loss of grass courts 26-28. They also discussed the feasibility of floodlights for courts 19-21 and the potential for a future air hall. The consensus leaned towards prioritizing Padel court covers and managing Pickleball with temporary lines and scheduling adjustments. The meeting discussed the allocation of courts for Padel, Pickleball, and Tennis. The plan involves covering courts 4-6 for 5 Padel courts, using courts 17-18 for Pickleball, and resurfacing tennis courts 19-22. Tennis will lose three grass courts and gain four all-weather courts. Pickleball will have permanent courts 17-18 and/or temporary lines on courts 12-14. The tennis committee needs to decide on which grass court replacements. We already have floodlights for courts 4-6 and for courts 17-18. The plan aims to balance the needs of all sports while minimizing disruption to existing users.

#### **Actions**

- Explore the feasibility of a roof over 4-6 for 5 Padel courts.
- Evaluate having 6 Pickleball courts on courts 17&18. It was felt that we would not look to cover the courts so this would not be included in the pre-app. Back up of courts 13 to 14 if needed.

- Talk to planners about extending outdoor pool area and installing a new playground.
- Investigate lighting options for 19-21 if Smash courts are moved there.
- Review these suggestions with the Tennis Committee on June 9<sup>th</sup>, and then the Board prior to any pre-app submission.
- Once the planning constraints have become clearer we would organize a presentation for members to get feedback on the proposed court configurations.

#### **5) Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed after date with Planners confirmed.