



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting**  
**held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm**

**Present:**

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Ollie Golding	
Emily Monson	
Howard Spence	
Mark Young	
Nick Yates	(Padel Rep)
Sandra Drum	(Padel/ Pickleball Rep)
John Sinik	(Men's Captain)

**In Attendance:**

Marc Newey	(CEO)
Dan Lott	(Racquets Director)
Nik Snapes	(Tennis Manager)
Paul Lindsay	( Racquets Manager)

<div data-bbox="220 231 698 264" data-label="Text"><p><b>1. Apologies:</b> Lorna Bhasin, Lily Brown,</p></div> <div data-bbox="172 302 592 336" data-label="Section-Header"><p><b>2. Minutes from previous meeting:</b></p></div> <div data-bbox="172 373 1149 407" data-label="Text"><p>Minutes of the TC meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 was discussed and approved.</p></div> <div data-bbox="172 483 297 516" data-label="Section-Header"><p><b>3. Reports</b></p></div> <div data-bbox="172 554 474 588" data-label="Section-Header"><p><b>Course and Grounds (PB)</b></p></div> <div data-bbox="172 625 1343 726" data-label="Text"><p>Chris H feels that there may not be sufficient run off for four pickleball courts on 12 to 14 when the air hall is erected and in operation. MN confirmed that three pickleball courts would be set up per tennis court.</p></div> <div data-bbox="172 764 1352 867" data-label="Text"><p>Base line wear on the grass courts this year is going to be more evident because of the frequency of the changes needed to be made for court rotation. For the 2026 season we will need to have more stable programme for the rotation of the courts otherwise baseline wear is going to be an issue.</p></div> <div data-bbox="172 905 1349 974" data-label="Text"><p>Chris and PB are talking to AELTC regarding air hall heating units, to try and resolve the issues which our Italian made air handling units are giving us.</p></div> <div data-bbox="363 1060 924 1073" data-label="Text"><p>-----</p></div> <div data-bbox="172 1157 693 1190" data-label="Section-Header"><p><b>Padel and Pickleball Hub Update (MN, MH)</b></p></div> <div data-bbox="172 1304 1365 1514" data-label="Text"><p>MN updated the Committee on the preferred options the padel and pickleball working group were looking at. Courts 4-6 would be the location for 5 padel courts with the best chance of getting permission to have a roof over all the courts. This would result in 3 clay tennis courts with floodlights needing to be replaced. It's down to the TC to consider where the new courts would go. Option A would be on grass courts 19 to 21 and option B would be courts 26-28. In both locations it is possible to fit in 4 clay courts in a row.</p></div> <div data-bbox="172 1554 1365 1659" data-label="Text"><p>The location of the pickleball courts was originally suggested to be on courts 17-18. The TC decided this was not the best place for them to go and to permanently take out 2 tennis courts was too much at this point in time.</p></div> <div data-bbox="172 1698 1352 1803" data-label="Text"><p>JS was opposed to putting pickleball and padel on courts 17 and 18. The reality is that the noise of these sports is somewhat overwhelming and thought putting pickleball and padel on these courts is a huge mistake and the backlash from all Members will be fierce.</p></div> <div data-bbox="172 1843 1365 1911" data-label="Text"><p>JS asked why we need to accommodate pickleball at all as we are already an established tennis club. MN, MH told the TC about the popularity of the game, how it already has 200 Members playing for a</p></div>	<div data-bbox="1414 199 1484 226" data-label="Text"><p>Other</p></div>
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day and a half per week and is a good Member social and well being experience

NS talked through the court usage stats over term time for all court surfaces for summer and winter. All indoor tennis courts at peak times were very high in court usage. Therefore, it was put forward that we could potentially use indoor tennis courts for pickleball more often in the off-peak times. Between 1pm and 5pm in the weekdays and in the evening at the weekends. This could potentially give pickleball indoor court provision on a more permanent and regular basis to build up the section to have some permanent outdoor courts in the future.

In the meantime, court 1 in the ITC could be marked up for several weeks over the summer to gain data on how much pickleball will be played if we had permanent courts.

**Action – DL, PL and NS will come up with a trial programme that could be possible from an indoor tennis court perspective and show TC.**

The TC agreed the Club has lovely grass show courts. It would be a shame to lose these. However, if we were to lose the current grass show courts (25-28) to a pickleball and padel hub or clay courts we can mitigate this disappointment with an amazing show court on croquet lawn 4 with theatre seating in area behind the clubhouse.

EM thought Grass courts 25 to 28 are the most favoured in the club, in a natural amphitheatre which lends itself perfectly to the Club Championships. There now seems to be an inevitability that the Health Club will expand to cover court 25, leaving just three grass courts, closest to the road. The activities planned in the extended pool section, largely for children and teenagers, suggest that this extension will no longer be the peaceful area that it currently is. If this is the case, and if a sacrifice of grass courts is required, EM would agree (reluctantly) that padel (and pickleball) or clay courts with floodlights should therefore be in this area. A rump of three grass courts will not be adequate for matches. EM felt the noise of padel and pickleball will hopefully not be so intrusive in that location. EM hoped that it should be possible to accommodate padel and pickle, as originally envisaged, in that ample space, obviating the need to put lines on tennis courts for pickle elsewhere.

The remaining six grass courts could then be celebrated and enjoyed, with perhaps improved viewing (as suggested in the past by the Club), with the walled garden providing one showcourt to replace the four lost.

Other alternative locations for padel and pickleball (4-6, or 15-18, the latter strongly opposed by EM and others) have major cons, involve finding alternative locations for the lost hard courts, and leave a scattered rump of grass courts.

OG agreed. While losing 26-28 would be a shame, creating the new show grass court on the existing croquet lawn at the top seems a reasonable outcome. However, this would also be contingent on being able to get a roof to at least partially cover the Padel courts. He didn't see the sense in putting in 5 if we cannot get a cover for any of them.

After long discussion on both locations the TC agreed that keeping the larger block of grass courts together is most appropriate. EM said "As we would lose 12 meters of court space for the Health Club extension on court 25 we would only ever be able to fit in 3 grass courts with rotation on the bottom block. So, by leaving courts 19 – 24 alone this would give the club 6 premium grass courts in one block which is most beneficial from a programming perspective as easier to run social and

matches and various other events without splitting the courts.”

Other members of the TC asked if we could explore the idea of having some courts covered if we put the padel courts on 26-28. NY stated that planning had been turned down previously as we asked for a large retractable canopy covering the whole block of 4 tennis courts. Perhaps if we only asked for 3 covered padel courts it could be possible. MN agreed this idea could be discussed in the planning pre app meeting.

**Action – MN/DL/MH will go to the planners to explore the possibility of a cover over padel courts on 26-28 initially with the fall back being courts 4-6 to be 5 padel courts with a roof covering all courts. Then to replace the 3 clay courts with floodlights on 26 – 28. With the potential of court 28 to be 4 pickleball courts. TC to confirm at a later point if the configuration will be 3 smash and 4 pickleball or 4 smash tennis courts.**

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### **Racquet Directors Diary – June 2025**

#### **Grass courts**

Opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Feedback been very good so far.

#### **Padel and Pickleball Hub**

Update from working group meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May in meeting.

#### **Tennis Club Championships**

Clun Champs are underway with draws upon the noticeboard. We had health draws sizes across all events apart from a few. Ladies’ singles were low, men over 70s doubles and mixed over 60s had to be cancelled. Finals day is set for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June. This year we are not doing the after party but having more social playing events on in the day for members. I have a large liveball session running across 4 courts with 28 players booked in and then an American doubles tournament after. Players who participate will receive a Pimm’s to go and enjoy the finals afterwards. We will try and see if we can get any of the pros to play an exhibition match later in the afternoon. We will have a bar running all day on the bottom block of grass courts.

#### **Tennis Programme**

The adult tennis programme is still growing with regular coaching sessions throughout the week such as liveball, pay and plays and cardio sessions. This term I have been revamping club night on Wednesdays to try and get a larger demographic of members playing. I have moved the courts used to 15-18 and grass courts 25-28. Hopefully having this in the centre of the club will create more buzz and other members see it happening each week. From after half term club night will be extended to 9pm to allow younger members who work time to come for a game.

#### **Rackets Club Night**

On 21<sup>st</sup> May we will host the first 'Racquets Club Night' involving all the clubs racquets sports. Members will have the chance to play tennis, squash, padel, pickleball, table tennis throughout the evening. Its £1 a pint at the outdoor bar and we will have a BBQ running. This event has proved extremely popular with over 200 Members currently signed up to attend. This may be something that we do more regularly to bring the different sections together more often.

### **Outdoor Screen**

We have hired a large outdoor screen for the piazza area throughout the summer so Members can watch Queens, Wimbledon and other sporting events outside throughout the summer. We will have a bar and deck chairs on some artificial grass to make it look more appealing. It should be installed on the 8<sup>th</sup> June and come down at the end of July. The events team will also use it to run some movie nights throughout the summer.

### **Padel**

- General play and court bookings remain popular.
- Next social event - Parent and Child padel on 17th May – fully booked.
- Tournament:

Roehampton Club will host the 4th annual HoP (Home of Padel) event on 14 June and once more encourage Members to compete.

- Club Teams:

The Men's iPadel team won the Finals weekend. Great achievement.

National leagues competition draws now out and to be played over the Summer and in September. Roehampton Club will host 1 day of the women's Division 2 group, in which we have a team playing.

### **Pickleball**

Thursday sessions remaining popular and Friday morning roll-up has seen extremely positive uptake.

The BoE sessions have now stopped for summer, and we will look at the use post September and with the resurfacing of the BoE Sports Hall.

Depending on the resurfacing schedule of courts 7-10 this summer if Pickleball is not able to have courts lined out for July PL would like to suggest the use of ITC court 1 for pickleball over the month of July.

4 permanently taped courts over this period to allow Pickleball and tennis.

If some of the taped lines come up through use, they can easily be redone rather than doing each time.

We can then arrange more sessions to test and promote the Member engagement.

Club Champs – We would like to host the Roehampton Club Members Pickleball Club Championships between 23-25 October. Please could Pickleball have ITC courts 2 and 3 for the Thursday and Friday, current normal pickleball days, and the Saturday AM slots. We can then look at

multiple events and encouraging more members to be involved. This date was not agreed but the TC said ok to a date when all airhalls are up Thursday through to Saturday lunchtime.

### **Team Update (NS)**

NS has organised a captain's night on the 5<sup>th</sup> March so both our men's and ladies captains can meet all the other team captains and discuss teams and fixtures ahead of the summer season.

**Men's O30 won National Championships-** They have now qualified for European Championships in Turkey in October.

**Men's 1 and Ladies 1** reached the finals of NPL at St Georges Hill Finals on 23-26<sup>th</sup> May. Women won and Men were runners up in exciting finals.

Men's O55 won Div 2 and are now in Div 1 in winter and summer

### **Surrey League**

Men's 2- 1<sup>st</sup> in division 3

Men's 3- 5<sup>th</sup> in Div 6

Men's 4- 5<sup>th</sup> in Div 16

Ladies 1- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 1

Ladies 2- 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 4

Ladies 3- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 6

Ladies 4- 6<sup>th</sup> in Division 9

Men's O55- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 2

Ladies O50- 2<sup>nd</sup> In Division 2

Midweek 1- 1<sup>st</sup> in Division 5

Midweek 2- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 6

### **Summer League**

We have entered teams for National League and Surrey League summer from 8&U to O60. When fixtures are released, we will move as many of these to off peak times when the utilisation is at its lowest. We are going to make a push to try and engage all our best seniors and juniors to play national league over the next two years rather than for other clubs with an aim that the club is as successful as it can be in its 125<sup>th</sup> year.

### **Roehampton Seniors Open**

Alex Ward, Bojan Jelovac and Richard Ground (doubles) we all champions of their categories  
John Sinik, Richard Ground and Hannah Ward were runners up in their singles categories.

**Individual Achievements-** Henry Patten won Australian Open Doubles, Tommy Gabor was part of the GB team that won the Winter Cup, Alex Ward was the GB captain at United Cup in Australia and playing for GB in O30 World Champs.

**Padel Report (PL)**

**Court update:** In meeting.

**Teams:**

We have submitted entry to the Spring/summer iPadel leagues and awaiting Surrey competition format.

**Team Training –**

Will look after the Feb half term to use the Wednesday evenings, probably fortnightly, for Team training.

This was meant to start after Easter but will try a few sessions before, if possible, with court booking and demand.

Surface remains slippery with and after rain fall.

HoP (Home of Padel) event pencilled in for 14 June but tbc by organisers.

The Padel social offers are being looked at now with the hope of improved weather after the Easter break.

**Dan Lott, Racquets Director June 2025**

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**AOB**

A fast-track application was put forward for a family with two children playing a high level of tennis for their age group and the father being team standard for his age group. The TC turned this down as did not want to have fast tracks through at this present time.

AW informed the Committee that their request to the Board for Henry Patten to be awarded Honorary Membership following winning Wimbledon and the Australian Open had been rejected by the Membership Committee. The Committee was very disappointed to hear this and asked for the written reasons to be circulated so they could appeal if necessary to the whole Board. AW to action.

The meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Date of next meeting TBC.