



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 30th September at 6:30pm**

Present:

Andrew Wakely	(Chairman)
Ollie Golding	
Emily Monson	
Howard Spence	
Lorna Bhasin	
Lily Brown	(Ladies Captain)
Nick Yates	(Padel Rep)
Sandra Drum	(Padel/ Pickleball Rep)
Serena Norgren	(Pickleball Rep)
John Sinik	(Men's Captain) on zoom
Michael Hill	(Board Liaison) on zoom

In Attendance:

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

1. Apologies: Mark Young

2. Minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the TC meeting on the 9th June 2025 was discussed and approved.

3. Reports

Course and Grounds

MN updated the TC with PB departure. Chris Hughes will be looking after all tennis court preparation and will report into MN.

- Courts 7 -10 now finished, took longer due to the number of layers required for new surface (plexipave). Weather also caused delays, but courts should perform well now and are ready for when the airhalls go up later in October. Works done at no cost to the Club.
- Chris and the team are now working on the grass courts to get them ready for next season.
- 15-18 have performed well. Members have asked about why gates are closed at the side? These gates are maintenance gates and have a lip that keeps the sand in and contamination out. It's therefore a potential trip hazard. Grounds will be putting in a new gate in the middle of the courts at the back, so members don't disturb the other courts as currently the back gates are not in between the courts.
- LB asked if we ever water 15-18 as sometimes slippery in the dry conditions. NS stated that in the summer months if we watered them, they would dry out very quickly. Generally, you don't water them, but they do play better in the wet so perform better through the winter. CH will monitor and wet the courts accordingly.
- MN stated 11-14 were the next courts to be replaced so TC should think about what surface to have there in the future- plexipave or poroflex.

Padel and Pickleball Hub Update (MN, MH)

MN updated the Committee on the CGI images of padel courts on courts 4-6 with roofs and padel and pickleball courts on courts 25-28. LUC has advised to go to the planners with the best option to get a roof first. This would be the option with the courts on 4-6 with a canopy roof over 5 courts. Over the 3 courts the canopy roof would be a continuous barrel, and the roof shape would be on the same plane as a lob as we want the ball to move in the curvature of the roof. For the other two courts that would be end on end and therefore it's not possible to achieve the so the barrel would be the same direction as on the current

canopy on padel court 2.

The TC bought up concerns with balls going out on to tennis courts if there was not a roof on some of the courts. NY explained if we get the roofs then there would be a mesh that comes down between the top of the glass and the start of the roof. This would protect from the rain and stop the balls going out. If we didn't have a cover, then we would have to get netting to stop this.

There were also concerns about the baselines of grass courts behind the padel courts whether it would affect the shade on the courts. MN explained that we have UV growing lights that go on in the evenings that would help with this.

It was asked if the roof of the canopy had to be white? NY confirmed that the planners insist on this, so it blends in with the clouds.

The CGI images of the padel and pickleball courts on 25-28 were shown. There have been some objections from residents on Roehampton Lane as they don't want the padel courts with a cover in this area. MN explained that all courts would be green in colour to match the environment. If the padel goes on courts 4-6 then the grass courts here could be changed to 3 smash courts to replace the lost all weather courts.

A long discussion around the loss of tennis courts followed with members from the TC expressing their feeling that the plans are encroaching on the tennis provision and if the Club needed to go from 2 to 7 padel courts.

OG expressed his view that while the TC was split in terms of priority with representatives for padel and pickleball sitting in. there is a point that this should be separated and padel and pickleball have their own committee.

MH pointed out that a lot of these discussions have been had before and the Board feels there is adequate support in increasing the padel provision. The main view is that the padel courts should be covered and therefore the best possible place for this is courts 4-6. That would be a board decision and then would look to the TC to decide on what surface they would want for the courts to replace the 4-6 surface. They would be supportive in having a grass garden court on the 4th croquet lawn.

Nothing is set in stone, and this would certainly go to consultation of the membership but, from the board's perspective, given the visibility of this project over the last three years, we are highly confident that many members are supportive in that expansion of the padel provision.

Action – MN will to pre planning with proposal for a roof over courts 4-6.

LB asked to discuss pickleball and its use in the ITC. The sessions are popular, but this is because they are coach led activities, and we need to see if there is a demand for

MN

permanent courts with players booking courts and playing themselves. DL stated he had tried to book the B of E so we can offer pickleball but off site. As this doesn't impact any other sports. SN pointed out that the players weren't keen on going off site to play and the quality of the courts were not good. The Friday morning is another peak time the indoor court is used for pickleball, and the proposal would be to move it later in the day so it can be used for tennis from 9am till 12pm then bookable for pickleball from 12pm till 5:30pm. DL commented that the courts had now been refurbished at B of E.

The TC agreed to move this to later on Friday and had discussions about the future of pickleball and where it should be played. The racquets team will try and find a location where we can get a permanent court that's bookable 7 days a week. This will then gather data of how popular it would be without club organised sessions. DL quoted the stats of the member bookings for pickleball while the courts were up on court 1 over the summer. there was a 5% utilization of member booking for social play. During the same period, it was 45% for tennis on the courts. LB thought pickleball should prove its popularity on one outdoor court before we commit to changing a tennis court into 4 pickleball courts.

The TC thought that court 11 could be best for pickleball with the larger run offs and softer, quieter surface.

Action – DL and PL to investigate the potential to have a semi-permanent outdoor pickleball court that doesn't impact other sports. PL to inform the pickleball community that after half term the Friday pickleball option will be social play from 12pm till 5:30pm.

DL/PL

NY stated that perhaps it's feasible to convert the existing padel courts into 3 to 4 pickleball courts once there are 5 padel courts on 4-6. That's way the pickleball would have a permanent home with a potential cover, it would not impact tennis and potentially allow us to put 4 tennis courts on 25-28 replacing the 3 lost on 4 to 6. Some felt that this could be a good short-term solution.

Action – NY, DL and PL to investigate space of existing padel courts and see what viable from a pickleball court perspective.

NY/DL
/PL

OG explained the idea of the Xmas pro- am as in RD report. The TC agreed that we could charge members to participate, and the money will be split between the playing pros and a charity.

NS went through the bursary nominations for this year, and TC agreed with the recommendations. OG also stated it would be good idea if they could help mentor the juniors as a way of giving back. OG was keen to use the scholars and other high-level players to create a mentoring programme.

Action – OG, NS and DL will think about how the mentor scheme would work.

OG/
NS/DL

Racquet Directors Diary – September 2025

Grass courts

The grass courts have been very well received by members and guests throughout the summer. Both Blocks are now closes for winter work and will reopen in May 2026.

Courts 1-3

Works has been carried out in the ITC to fix the bumps that were randomly appearing. This was being caused by some kind of metal element in the surface that was giving out gas making the surface rise in places. The bumps have been dug up, filled and re painted.

Courts 7-10

Resurfacing of these courts begin over the summer. The surface will now be plexipave. Once completed we should have a premium surface that performs well. Due to the number of layers of materials and drying times this has taken a few weeks and were not ready at the start of term as hoped. However, it's important we get these courts right this time. These courts have not cost the club anything. The contractor has admitted errors in previous woks.

Airhalls

Both Airhalls will have new air handling units fitted to them this winter. This should fix the previous issues we have had the last few years with the burners cutting out and backup generators not kicking in. We are looking to put both airhalls up in October half term, but this could be delayed depending on when we receive the new units.

Padel and Pickleball Hub

Update in meeting

Tennis Club Championships

The club Championship finals were held on Saturday 21st June. This was an action-packed day with lots of member activity. We had 28 players doing LiveBall on courts 15-18 followed by an American tournament with 16 players. The main finals were held on courts 25-28. On the Sunday Nik and I ran the junior club championship where over 100 juniors competed. Both days were a great success, and we will look to continue the same format next year.

Tennis Programme

Both the adult and junior tennis coaching programme resumed on 1st September. The junior programme is very busy with most groups full. Our under 8 programme is highly popular which means we are fully utilising the use of ITC court one for these coaching groups. Each session has 16 players in at a time. There will be the usual pinch points at the busy times, and we remain focused on a balance across all social, coaching and competition

options for members. The adult programme continues to be busy also with the liveBall sessions fully booked most weeks.

Roger Taylor Event

On the 9th October the club is hosting an evening with Roger Taylor. Roger will be interviewed by Marcus Buckland about his life in tennis. He has written a book, and they will be available for purchase. The event is free for members, and they can sign up at reception.

Wingfield court system

DL has agreed to trail the Wingfield court recording system (<https://www.wingfield.io/en>) on court 1 for a 3-month period. This is in connection with GSA (<https://goldensetanalytics.com/>) A company that producing match stats for pro players. They are trialling the system, and we will use it to help our juniors receive some free match analysis with information from their matches being charted and then sent to them in a report form. If the trial is successful and club members enjoy it, we will look to keep the system on the court on permanent basis.

Rackets Club Night

We ran another 'rackets club night on Thursday 11th September. This had over 115 members come and play all our racket sports again. This was also used to celebrate the opening of the new bar terrace where all players went up to the terrace for drinks and a buffet style curry after. This was another huge success with great feedback so another one will be planned – perhaps a Xmas special. Date TBC.

Outdoor Screen

The outdoor screen was a huge success with a lot of positive member feedback. I have now secured the screen for a longer period next year to cover all the main tennis events but also the world cup will be on so we will have it throughout that period. From May to July.

125 Tennis events

Over the last few months, we have been putting together the tennis events to help celebrate the 125 next year. The main tennis events will be as follows:

1. CTC tennis events against other international clubs that are over 100 years old. (age groups to be decided/ dates wise looking maybe towards September TBC) this will be advertised through CTC and sent around clubs.
2. Club Champs exhibition match –Get some well-known (top 50) players to play exhibition match on finals day after the last matches. This will be top players playing singles practice set. with Q and A after. Cocktails and buffet after.

3. Member/guest event – members can invite guest for doubles tournament or fun social event. Details TBC.
4. 125 LiveBall – 125 members playing liveBall at the same time with DJ, BBQ and outdoor bars.
5. 125 Rackets Club Night – big club night like previous ones with party afterwards, DJ etc.
6. NPL Finals doubles championship May 22nd to 25th. With Pro Am.

DL, NS and the tennis captains will lead on these with Mark Young but would like the TC to get involved to help make a success.

Xmas Pro Am

DL and OG have discussed the idea of having a pro-am at the end of the year. This will involve the club's tennis scholars and other high level team players. The idea would be to run a handicap tournament in the ITC on 19th December. Members would play against all the pros in a fun event that will help the membership get to know the tennis scholars etc. It would also be a nice way for them to give something back to the club. We have had a lot of the pros already confirm they will attend. TC to discuss if we should run some charity auction or event.

Tennis Scholars mentoring programme

OG, DL and NS are looking into ways we can utilise the high level of tennis scholars we have at the club. These will include ways to help our promising juniors with a mentoring programme in place. Details to be discussed in meeting.

Pickleball

Pickleball is continuing to be popular at the club. PL has done a great job taking over pickleball and will continue to be the head of the section. In the weeks leading up to the summer we hired the sports hall at the bank of England to give member more opportunity to play the sport. This was not as successful as we imagined with members not wanting to go off site to play as much as we thought they might. PL and I have since been back to see the site now the sports hall has been completely resurfaced. This should make the experience much better; however, its clear members do not want to travel off site.

We left court 1 marked up with 4 pickleball courts over the summer to see if it would be popular with members booking courts and playing outside of the club organised sessions. This was popular with some members but also made it clear that doing this permanently on an indoor court would upset a lot of the tennis players. Although its only taking one tennis

court members have pointed out that it does affect the neighbouring courts due to the noise.

We have also had feedback regarding the use of court 1 during Friday morning between 9am and 12pm. This is taking a popular indoor court at peak tennis time. The TC to discuss moving this out of the peak tennis time and instead have the 4 pickleball courts in play from 12pm till 5:30pm so it can be used for tennis from 9am till 12pm. Moving this out of peak time would appease more tennis members but also give pickleball players a chance to play.

SN has also asked on behalf of the pickleball community if court 1 to be used on Sunday evenings from 6pm till 10pm for bookable pickleball as well as tennis. This is generally an off-peak time for tennis and would give the pickleball players who don't have opportunity in the week to play. TC to discuss.

Team Update (NS)

All the Surrey league winter teams and the junior team trophy competition have been entered for the winter season. Fixtures details have just been released to all the team captains.

Nik and I were in Bournemouth for the National Club Finals at the start of September with our men's and ladies 1st teams. The ladies team won the title beating David Lloyds Raynes Park in the final. The ladies were 4-0 after the singles meaning they claimed the title for the first time in 13 years.

The men's team made it to the final against Raynes Park. After a rain delay play didn't start till 2pm and the match went all the way to the doubles shoot out with Raynes taking it 11-9 after Roehampton having match points. The level of the finals was the best yet with more teams keen to take the title. Special mention to Nik for captaining the teams throughout the season.

Padel Report

The men's and ladies NCL padel teams competed in the finals weekend on the 13th and 14th September at the National tennis Centre. The ladies did a great job against some very tough opponents and manages to win the relegation battle to stay in the top league of team padel for next year. The men's 1st team made it to the final for another consecutive year and got so close to the title yet again but were narrowly beaten by Rocks Lane 10-8 in the match deciding tiebreak. Unfortunately, the men's 2nd team lost their matches and will now be relegated to the lower division. The men's 3rd team will play the finals of the 2nd division on the 20th and 21st September.

The men's 3rd team got to the final in their event and means they will now be promoted to the top division next year. This means the 3rd team and the 1st team will be in the top division. With the 2nd team playing in the division below. PL and DL will meet with all the

captains ahead of next season to restructure the teams, so the appropriate players are playing in the correct teams etc.

Padel finals day was on the 20th September and had some great matches scheduled through the day. The scheduling of matches has been difficult for players this year with a lot of other external competitions happening around the first few weekends of September. Therefore, PL and DL will look to run padel club champs over a weekend next summer. Matches can start on the Friday evening and conclude on the Sunday afternoon. This will make it easier for players to commit to play and do not have to worry about scheduling their own matches. We will either cancel the HOP tournament or move it to another weekend so we can run this in June.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director

September 2025

AOB

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm

Date of next meeting – AGM 27th October 7pm.