



## Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6:30pm

### Present:

Ollie Golding (Chairman)  
Emily Monson  
Mark Young  
Andy Gilbert  
Anastaisa Rentoulli  
Lorna Bhasin  
John Sinik (Men's Captain) on zoom  
Michael Hill (Board Liaison)

### In Attendance:

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

**Apologies:** Lily Brown

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

DL welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Ollie, who chaired the meeting for the first time.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

OG asked whether there were any outstanding actions from previous meetings. It was agreed that minutes should be approved by the committee prior to publication to avoid misinterpretation.

#### Action:

- Committee to review and approve minutes before circulation. *DL*

### 3. Committee Structure and Forum Arrangements

OG outlined the proposed structure for paddle, pickleball, and tennis forums, noting the importance of maintaining clear separation between disciplines.

JS raised concerns regarding how potential conflicts between committees would be

managed. DL confirmed that all further pickleball decisions relating to tennis courts would remain the responsibility of the tennis committee.

OG suggested that tennis representation should be retained within related forums during a transitional period.

**Agreement:**

- Tennis courts and provision remain under the authority of the tennis committee.
- Transitional representation to be maintained where appropriate.

**4. Relationship Between Tennis, Pickleball, and Padel Tennis**

DL outlined the benefits of keeping tennis governance separate from other sports. OG suggested that pickleball could remain aligned with tennis due to lower levels of conflict.

The committee agreed that, regardless of alignment, tennis court control must remain with the tennis committee. The potential impact of additional sports on tennis provision was noted.

**5. Fast Track Memberships**

NS highlighted the need for fast-track memberships to rebuild the tennis section. OG advised that applications should be carefully assessed to maintain club standards.

MH confirmed that the board supports fast track memberships, particularly to encourage female participation. NS emphasised that fast track members should contribute actively to club life.

**Agreement:**

- Fast track memberships to continue, with selective assessment and clear expectations.

**Action:**

- To set clear expectations for fast track and what they need to do for the Club. DL and NS
- To circulate latest male fast track application for TC approval NS

**6. Padel Court Project and Impact on Tennis**

MH provided an update on the paddle court project, including proposed sound mitigation measures. At the pre ap meeting last week the planners did not object to the plans for 5 covered padel courts on 4-6. He explained the next step would be to apply for planning with

the feeling that it would be approved. The planners would want us to soundproof the area the best we can.

NS raised concerns regarding the impact on existing tennis courts and the need to replace any lost provision. EM suggested monitoring usage levels of existing tennis courts before final decisions are taken. NS showed the committee the effects on social, coaching and competitive provision of tennis with the loss of three all-weather courts. It showed that if we do not replace courts 4-6 with another three all-weather courts then we cannot run the activity we are offering currently. Lowering the amount of activity would impact heavily on a lot of tennis members.

**Agreement:**

- Existing tennis provision should be maintained while new facilities are introduced.

## **7. Court Replacement Options**

NS proposed replacing grass courts with artificial courts to maintain overall tennis provision. MH outlined the financial considerations and the board's perspective.

OG suggested a temporary solution to maintain current provision while longer-term planning is undertaken. NS stressed the importance of meeting the needs of juniors and adult members.

There was a discussion on the balance between installing floodlights and preserving grass courts. OG suggested a vote on lighting and maintenance options.

The TC voted on their preferred option of replacing the three artificial courts. The two options for the vote were courts 19-21 with or without lights or 25 – 28 with floodlights.

It was noted that the main times where the programme and playing provision would be heavily impacted would be in daylight hours.

This was 6-0 in favour of 19-21 (with or without lights) vs 25-28. Then a further vote was held whereby the committee was asked if they would reconsider this in the event the health club was expanded, impacting 25-28. The outcome was again 6-0 that 19-21 would remain our preferred outcome.

AG suggested that there could be better viewing areas at the club especially on the front courts (15-18) MH noted that that areas was well used last year with the big screen and we are looking to develop further to make it a social hub of the Club.

Action:

- To see how viewing can be improved on court 15-18 AG

## **8. Timing of Court Works**

NS noted that demand for tennis courts currently exceeds supply.

DL and NS discussed the importance of completing any court replacement works before paddle court construction begins. MH suggested that the doing the padel works at the end of the summer would be a good time as they IGC works would have also started so there is disruption in that area and the board are keen to get it in as soon as possible.

DL highlighted the need for improved lighting, particularly for evening play. MH noted planning challenges related to the proximity of Rosslyn Park.

## **9. Health Club Expansion**

LB expressed concern about the proposed Health Club expansion reducing tennis court space. OG suggested the tennis committee should formally oppose any loss of courts.

LB and OG debated the feasibility of retaining three grass courts following the health club expansion. EM suggested enhancing facilities for children near existing padel tennis courts and outdoor gym areas.

## **10. Coaching and Junior Programme**

NS and OG highlighted the need to improve junior tennis provision. DL and NS noted strong demand for coaching and limited court availability.

OG suggested incentivising off-peak court usage by offer members cheaper lessons at times between 1pm and 4pm in the week.

### **Action:**

- To look at the current level of lessons during this time and work out cost to club in this period. DL and NS to report back to TC.

## **11. Court usage, bookings and cancellations**

OG asked if it was possible for the system to allow Members to book hard courts in the summer but if the grass courts are open then the booking automatically gets changes to a grass court. DL explained the current system members book an all-weather court and then can change the booking themselves if the grass courts are in play up to 24 hours before.

AG asked if the no shows and late cancellations should be investigated as there seems to be quite a few over the winter months.

Action:

- To investigate how many 'no shows' and late cancellations to see if there is a more effective system to decrease this from happening. DL
- To see if MyCourts can auto change court booking from all-weather courts to grass 24 hours before. DL

## **12. Communication and Marketing**

AR emphasised the importance of improved marketing and communication. DL and EM noted the challenges of engaging a large membership across multiple channels.

## **13. Member Survey**

EM proposed a member survey to gather views on court replacement and the Health Club expansion. OG advised delaying the survey until more information is available to ensure clarity and accuracy.

**Agreement:**

- Survey to be considered once proposals are sufficiently developed.

## **14. Any Other Business**

OG suggested scheduling the next meeting for early March. DL noted an upcoming pickleball working group meeting that may influence court planning.

EM reiterated the importance of addressing perceptions that tennis is being neglected.

## **15. Date of Next Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> March at 6:30pm**

**AOB was put forward.** The meeting ended at 9:20 pm