

YOUNG MEMBER FORUM MEETING
9th September, 7pm

In attendance: Oliver Milton, Katy Preston, Justin Colver, Simon Baker, Vitalii Sanduliac, Stuart Reeks, Dan Lott, Marc Newey and Helen Bolt (minutes).

Apologies: Emma Powell, Olivia Huxtable, Nikki Clark, Cameron Fraser, Dominic Vincent, Pete Crocombe, Ricky Pharo, Dani Huleatt, Harriet Canby, Tom Groom and Carolyn Ward

1. Welcome

Marc thanked the small group for suggesting an early start.

2. Minutes and matters arising – 6/5/25

MN went through the minutes and action points from the last meeting.

Action MAY25/01: A large outside screen to be hired mid-June/July for the Piazza area – **Complete.**

This was noted as a huge success helped by the weather. Will be getting it again from May 2026 but will not keep it for the Ryder Cup.

OM asked if the screen can be utilised better in the future.

MN explained that the Club is not permitted to install anything permanent, but discussions were happening around purchasing a big screen for the future. Problem with storage when not in use. Rental cost is approximately £1000 a week.

Action SEPT25/01: Look at cost feasibility of buying a screen.

SB

Action: FEB25/07: Phone Call Booths in the Bandstand and Reading Room – **on Hold.**

SB did research and received a quote. House Committee had asked management to stand down on implementing that for now. Need to promote the Polo Room more for hot desking.

KP queried about where phone and video calls can be made.

OM informed the Forum that the Polo Room can be used for hot desking, priority Monday and Friday if no meetings booked.

Action SEPT25/02: Polo Room to be promoted.

HB

KP asked what the reason was for not installing the booths?

OM explained that they wanted to give the Polo Room sometime to work in.

KP thought that was fine, but it didn't solve the problem of having a private call. Still an issue of where private phone calls can be made indoors.

Action SEPT25/03: MN to cost up the Bandstand for one booth and go back to the House Committee for consideration. **MN**

Action MAY25/04: DL to set up a booking system for the Monday night – **Complete.**

It was noted that the Monday Night racquets sessions had worked well.

JC asked if someone at each session could organise the next one.

DL commented that it was easier throughout the summer with the grass courts in play.

KP asked if they could have 8-week blocks.

Action MAY25/05: Court Fee to be proposed off-peak weekdays / Sunday afternoons to include guests with a food/drink incentive.

MN needs to take this proposal to Membership and Marketing Committee as more consideration needed.

OM suggested the option to block-buy guest passes.

Forum discussed promoting an off-peak time with guests and trialling this for a month.

3. Health Club

Stuart Reeks gave an update from the Health Club.

October half term – additional gym equipment and larger function and free weights area.

Kaiser spin bikes installed and training coming up. Data projected onto the screen. Sessions to be rolled out.

Lucy looking into a Sound Bath session. Maybe on a Sunday evening / afternoon.

National Fitness Day – 24th September – a whole day of activities. Additional classes, assessments, master trainer from Kaiser delivering a spin class. Snacks and give aways.

Swimming Programme – technique sessions, swim with confidence, beginners' swim session, speed / racing session, mindful relaxation session. Staff v Members swim Lake Windermere – swim as many lengths as you can throughout the day.

Looking to introduce new sessions into the adult swim programme.

Lucy doing an U40 fitness and social session on Friday 12th September, 6.30pm. HYROX, pizza and people.

Staff v Members 12th October - £10 including football and burger afterwards in Clubhouse.

HYROX – now affiliated with HYROX – classes now available. Looking to do the classes outside. May break the event down and do them indoors. Tricky to do all 8 indoors.

Cold-water plunge bath coming in a couple of weeks. Members must be inducted. Education piece, be careful with users.

4. Sports

Racquets

DL gave a quick update.
Indoor courts 1 – 3: contamination removed, and surfaces replaced.
Courts 7 – 10: still being resurfaced.

Top block grass will close this week after Racquets Club Night – 190 booked.
Bottom block grass will close next week.

Padel/Pickleball Update

Padel Club Champs
NCL Padel Finals at the NTC this weekend.

Pickleball – Club Champs later in the year, social sessions back on Thursday and Fridays.
Left the lines down on court one throughout the Summer so Members could book it on MyCourts.
Still waiting for a decision on a Padel/Pickle Hub.

Bournemouth – Acoustic panel around their Padel Courts which helps with the sound. Rain mesh and a roof, CGI drawing plan for courts.

There was a discussion around the options.

JC asked on the timings and would it be by the end of next year?
SB confirmed probably not as the IGC will be prioritised before that.

Golf update

SB gave an update.

Golf Committee have approved a 10-bay, one-tier design for the IGC.
Hope to start build early 2026 and will be a shorter build than the original two-tier version.
New Pros in the Sports Shop.

Young Member events around the Ryder Cup. 9-hole competition on the Friday night followed by food and drinks. Shotgun on Sunday, kitchen and Members' Bar open late for viewing in the competition.

Scratch Team beat Wentworth and through to the County final at Addington Palace.

KP commented that it was hard to get preferred times to get out on the golf course and asked if there would be more discipline put in place as there seem to be golfers who shouldn't be out there at key times.

SB confirmed that there are restrictions at weekends but no restrictions in the week. The Golf Committee has been looking at it and analysing the Tag Marshall data – age, handicaps, playing times and booking timings. They will review a season's worth of data throughout the winter and put in place some relevant restrictions.

There are ongoing discussions with the Golf Committees, and ideas around a new golfer programme to teach etiquette and rules etc.

JC queried if there were too many Members.

SB confirmed that Members are using the Club more than ever before.

DL commented that tennis has been like that for 5+ years due to a change in demographics.

5. Food and Beverage / Social Events

Update given by Vitalii Sanduliac.

New Members' Bar and Function spaces now open.

A few teething problems but everything now working fine. Seems that everyone is enjoying it.

Terrace

KP observed that surely the primary thing is to keep the roof open when it is sunny.

Needs time to settle down and work things out. Roof to be closed throughout the winter to keep the heat in. Heaters and blankets will be available.

Terrace opens at 8am when the Club Café opens.

OM suggested offering pizzas for £5 to take pressure off the kitchen.

Great news that the Terrace is super-popular, but the first Sunday of September was challenging. Working through some teething problems. Food is so much better than previously.

There will be no phone calls on the Terrace and no smoking on the Terrace or in the Terrace Garden.

OM commented that the House Committee need to look at the general smoking policy.

Action SEPT25/04: OM to ask for the Smoking Policy to be tabled on the House Committee Agenda and feed back to the YMF. OM

Members' Bar

KP mentioned that at the YMF in January Joy Stevens consulted with YMF about the age of Juniors in the Members' Bar / Terrace. YMF made it clear that they were not in favour of under 16's in the Bar.

It was noted that the YMF thought the age 12 is too young for a bar. The change from age 16 to 12 is a big change without consultation of the adult membership.

Even Members who have younger children disagree with the 12 and over age in the Members' Bar.

It is difficult to tell anyone who is 12 years old, plus babies in prams have been allowed in the bar. No consistency.

MN has advised staff that babies in prams should not be in the bar but at times have to travel through it to access the Terrace.

It was noted that the House Committee wanted the rule of 12+ in the Members Bar and was agreed by the Board.

MN advised that there is strong feeling from a large number of Members is that they do not want children in the Members' Bar.

The parenting of many Junior Members is often not satisfactory but the team will do our best to police it.

OM advised that the House Committee wanted to trial the 12+ children in the Members' Bar. There was an area previously where families could dine with their children. Children must be supervised, needs to settle down. The Terrace is a family area; the bar is bigger and therefore there should be space for that. So far, Junior Members are sitting down to eat with their parents and then leaving.

KP asked would you take your children to Soho House for a meal? There are no tables after a round of golf for the adults as there are children taking up the seats. There is a nice space for families to have meals in the Club Café and Terrace- why are they able to take space up in the Members bar as well?

OM commented that Junior Members and their families do not want to miss out on the new spaces.

KP complained that there was no adult-only space in the Club. Even some parents want an adult only setting. Unhappy that it was changed without consultation with the Members.

KP would be happy for a compromise, i.e. off-peak hours and would have no issue with 16+ in the Bar as it was before.

OM explained that nothing has been ruled out. Talking about teenagers and not children, testing how they behave in that environment, do not want to have to be in a position to over-police it.

JC thought it was a good suggestion to put timings on it.

MN suggested giving teenagers the option to go to the Club Café or on the Terrace.

KP mentioned that there was a lot of dissatisfaction about it and suggested every full Member to be given the option to vote in a poll. Wanted to know who in the House Committee makes the decision on who can use the Members' Bar?

MN advised that it would be the Board as a whole. The majority decided on a trial.

KP stated that it was an issue for many Members of all ages and an important one, the age shouldn't have been changed without consultation.

OM advised that the decision has not been fully made yet, they are waiting to see how it works out. Everyone wants to try it out at the moment. The teenagers may not want to be in the bar going forwards. Just trying to understand how it is working out.

KP asked how long the trial is.

MN said that they will review at the Board meeting in November and asked if others on this forum were feeling the same way? KP replied the whole YMF were united in their view and all were upset.

SB left the meeting.

JC agreed and felt like it should be an adult place in the evenings. Teenagers watching Wimbledon on a weekend lunch time did not seem so bad.

KP said that it was good to know that it is a trial.

Action SEPT25/05: MN will review with House Comm and the Board and come back with clarification.

6. AOB

None.

7. Date of next meeting – dates for 2026 to be confirmed.