

YOUNG MEMBER FORUM MEETING
24th February 2026

In attendance: Marc Newey, Esther Van De Pette, Oliver Milton, Vitalii Sanduliac, Stuart Reeks, Dan Lott, Issy Simpson (by phone), Patrick McPhillips, Hannah Mason and Carolyn Ward (minutes)

Apologies: Ricky Pharo, Simon Baker, Nikki Clark, Helen Bolt, Emma Powell, Olivia Huxtable, Peter Crocombe, Max Lawaczek, Dani Huleatt and Tom Groom

1. Welcome

Marc thanked the members who had recently stepped down for their contributions over the years and welcomed the new attendees to the Forum and introductions were made.

PMcP – Member since January 2023, plays tennis, golf and uses the Health Club, originally from Newcastle but has now moved to Putney.

IS – Member since 2019, part of the golf section and sits on the Golf Committee, is the Club's female club champion and has represented England and now Scotland in golf.

HM – Been a member since 2018, currently on maternity leave, plays too many sports but Creche is her current favourite thing. Has knowledge in Hospitality and happy to voice the opinions for young people with young children.

Introductions were also made by the Board Directors and Staff Members attending the meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising – 9/9/25

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

SEPT25/01: Look at buying a screen – Screen to be rented from 13th May until end of July.

It was noted that they will be getting the screen slightly earlier this year to include World Cup games and other events, they will also look to purchase some director chairs for comfort.

In the Summer anticipating more people, will have a van serving drinks, will be able to order food as well from the van but pick up to be poolside with have a bleeper system so you know when food is ready and have runners to bring food/drink to those in the screen area.

Will be creating an under 8s area in the gardens, will have a portable bar for adults nearby.

Working through all the details with Vitalii, Kevin and Debora – trying to anticipate the busy times, when there are events, weekends.

Marquee addition mid-May through to end of July for extra provision and 125 celebration events. Trying to keep wait for food down and marquee will provide cover for rain.

HM thought the screen was super popular but thought we needed more tables and a better layout as having lines of chairs is good for a quiet watch but not if you want to socialise with others.

Action FEB26/01: Any ideas from a young member perspective on how to improve the facilities at the Club to be passed to OM/DD so they can be raised at the House Committee.

FEB25/07: Booths in the bandstand and Reading room – idea to be raised again at House Committee due to phone call complaints.

YMF are keen to have a pod in the reading room (£12k) so people can make calls. Have suggested that the first 30 mins is free and member is charged for the second hour and this be bookable through reception or online.

OM commented that they are trying to add more working areas.

HM wanted to know the logic of that strategy.

It was noted that the Club wants to support members working before and after sport but not all-day remote working.

Forum discussed if one phone booth would be enough and if we should consider a booth in the bandstand as well or even outside in the gardens.

Action SEPT25/02: Polo Room use on Mondays and Fridays to be promoted – In Progress (will be promoted in the Top Ten email to Members and next month's Recorder).

It was noted that they will ask F&B staff to pop into the Polo room to see if people want a coffee etc.

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

OM explained that they are looking at making the Bandstand a multi-use area. Can be used term time as a work area 8am – 4pm, after 4pm for kid's activities, pinball machine etc.

It was noted that if we have these areas we can then take people out of the Club Café.

HM asked if House Comm was trying to solve too many problems?

OM said that they had initially looked at the Bandstand as a place for the teenagers but aware that this is a useful space and believe they can strike a balance.

OM informed the Forum that he is currently working up some costings with Debora for approval by House Comm.

EDVP asked if we could have a QR code down at the Bandstand so members could order drinks.

SEPT25/04: OM to ask for the Smoking Policy to be tabled on the House Agenda and feedback to the YMF – to be kept on as a pending item.

OM confirmed that this has not been addressed, and it was noted that currently allowed is smoking in the staff smoking area, golf course, carpark and there is a dedicated bench in the Piazza. No smoking is allowed on the Terrace.

Those who smoke seem to be mainly golfers and young people vaping at events. One school of thought was to ban it completely as we are a health/ sports club. Most members wanted the choice and dedicated external areas served that best.

YMF perspective is that it should be out of site, not made convenient.

SEPT25/05: Bar Age Policy (allowing 12 – 16-year-olds in the bar) - MN will review and come back to the whole membership with clarification – Trial has been extended to June.

YMF was informed that they are doing a trial, via House Committee and want a period to view it and then the Board will decide based on feedback.

Some YMF members were still unhappy that the trial was done without a general member consultation. Waiting to see if kids misbehave or not in a trial is not good illustrative feedback.

EDVP explained how it feels hostile when staff ask the children's parents if they are 12, why would families take them in if they were younger as they know the rules? Families do not feel welcome but tolerated and this is not right as we are a family club and take so much money from families.

HM asked if there could be some clarity on where you can go but she does not feel that this has been communicated well, i.e. she will go to the Juice Bar and find a quiet corner to breast feed.

OM thought that sometimes we just need to educate the parents better on how to supervise young children.

IS asked what the thinking was on extending the trial to June as the bar has been open since May 2025? Could there be a compromise for both parties, no 12 – 16-year-olds at peak times when you may have a golf shotgun coming in or a rugby/football match. Children can watch sporting events with their parents in the Club Café.

OM stated that there has only been a handful of parents with kids, he will see if the House Committee can make their decision sooner rather than later. Part of the trial was getting people used to it and letting the noise die down.

MN commented that the staff are stuck in the middle on how we police it. An early decision would be welcome as being a trial encourages strong views to be made from both sides and staff are stuck in the middle.

YMF concluded that if House Committee/ Board knew what direction they wanted to go in it would be better to announce its decision as soon as possible as stretching out the trial was not going to soften anyone's view and it was making it worse for staff.

PMcP wondered if you should allow children in the bar once they have reached the age of 16, earn their stripes as it were.

Some older members are not happy with 12 – 15 year olds with their parents taking up areas that would normally be deemed as adult areas.

MN stated that he would feedback this to the Board.

The minutes from the 9th September meeting were approved.

3. Food & Beverage / Social Events

Update given by Vitalii Sanduliac.

Bar has been open since May, now doing Carvery's every Sunday, once a month a bigger carvery. Uptake on carvery is good.

Started steak nights (first Monday monthly), looking to increase twice a month as the Bistro evenings will not happen in the Summer.

Will look to do BBQs June and July but need to consider where the smoke is going to go.

From 5th March will be introducing a Nordic menu for the Bistro, every Thursday and Friday.

MN commented that the Bistro evening is the most expensive meal we produce but you can bring your own wine.

HM asked if the finer details and pictures of the steak night and bistro evening could be shared to attract younger members of the Club as currently there is just text and photos would be good, more visualisation required.

Action FEB26/02: HB to upload to the website pictures of the steak night / bistro evening to encourage younger members to book.

OM asked if they could put on a date night, where couples could drop off their kids at the Creche so they could book the Bistro evening.

MN was not totally opposed to the idea but was concerned about how young the kids maybe, i.e. having 4-year-olds here until 9 or 10pm and suggested that they could consider starting the Bistro evenings earlier (6pm – 8pm) and do some activities for the kids whilst the parents eat.

It was noted that the older generation like dining in the Polo room, but they could open the canopy and have the same food to attract a younger group.

MN asked the Young Member Forum what things the Club could do to make them want to come here and be more enticing to a younger demographic and suggested that Pat, Hannah and Issy become ambassadors for promoting the Bistro and would be happy to give them a free bottle of wine for their table as an incentive if they dined there and spread the word to other young people.

MN suggested that they do some more wine tasting events and perhaps host a Young Member Call My Bluff evening for members aged 18 – 35 years old.

VS informed the YMF that they will be updating the menu second week of March, but some foods will stay on the menu as very popular.

4. Sports update

Tennis

DL updated on the 125 events:

10th June – Racquets Club night (all racquets' sports and social event, turn up and mix in) will have screen up and there will be drinks and BBQ.

11th June – Grass court exhibition with professional players.

20th June – Club Championships finals day.

27th June – Summer Party with Pat Cash and his band, will be doing some tennis clinics in the day.

4th July – Member Guest Event (Members can bring a guest for free, will be loads of different tournaments and BBQ).

22nd – 25th May – National Premier League (Men and Ladies First Team Doubles) being played over the Bank Holiday Weekend.

Can put out the fixture list but do not normally know who is playing, trying to encourage people to come and watch, will promote the premier league and exhibition night.

Action FEB26/03: DL to send out a Racquets round up to the younger membership.

Padel

DL informed YMF that Padel will do a 125 event, but nothing has been confirmed yet.

OM asked the YMF what their feelings were about giving up 3 grass courts for Padel?

It was noted that they want the grass courts when the sun is shining and think they are such a big selling point, great to have them but at the same time we definitely need more padel courts. Can only use grass tennis courts for about 6 months whereas padel can be used all day, every day all year so are in favour of giving up three to put clay on.

MN informed the Forum that the Tennis Committee preference would be to give up the grass courts 19 – 24 if the planners allow but if we were to give up grass courts 25 – 28 then potentially they could gain 4 clay courts with floodlights, with a kids area and extended pool area. All agreed that would be the best solution.

EVDP left the meeting at 8.49pm.

5. Health Club update

SR gave a quick update.

Staff – Two new PTs have joined the team (Nicole and Suzanne). Sophia currently on maternity leave and is due back Oct/Nov 2026.

Gym floor reorganisation and Outdoor Gym – Expanded free weights and functional training areas. New half rack for compound movements, upgraded bumper plates and adjustable benches and will be reviewing the outdoor gym. Will be opening the outdoor gym on a Saturday for 10 – 12 members, to accommodate adults and juniors and act as an overflow to the indoor gym. At the moment only open for Classes. There will be a member of staff to support but will be a free area to train and work with.

Equipment contract review – Exploring Matrix/Life Fitness alternatives to Technogym. SR is going to a trade show tomorrow and will sit down and review the Technogym offering as their service is not great when it comes to the speed of repairing the equipment.

New Class formats – Sound bath medication monthly, Body Pump Heavy (slower tempo, heavier weights), Hyrox-specific training for Excel competition. Masterplan for Health Club to have more reformer beds. Upgraded the bikes, introduced more data driven classes during the morning, will look to see if they can do one class at the weekend.

Cold Plunge – This was installed in December and now down to 7 degrees- very popular. Induction process for H&S and Purple band must be worn once you have completed the induction.

Adult Swimming – There are now 2 sessions in the evening (Monday and Wednesday at 7pm), Sue is looking at introducing beginner adult classes as well.

Female Changing Room renovation – Showers are currently out of use due to the water damage behind the tiles, slight delay in sourcing some of the materials, should be finished by 3rd March but pushing them hard to finish sooner.

All noted by YMF with thanks to the HC team.

6. AOB

None.

7. Date of next meeting – 5th May 2026

Action Summary

No.	DATE	ACTIONS	BY	STATUS
FEB25/07	12/2/25	Booths in the Bandstand and Reading room – idea to be raised again at House Committee due to phone call complaints.	OM	
SEPT25/01	9/9/25	Look at buying a screen – Screen to be rented from 13 th May until end of July.	DL	Complete
SEPT25/02	9/9/25	Polo Room to be promoted – will be promoted in the Top Ten email to Members and next month's Recorder.	HB	In Progress
SEPT25/03	9/9/25	MN to cost up the Bandstand for one booth and go back to the House Committee for consideration.	MN	In Progress
SEPT25/04	9/9/25	OM to ask for the Smoking Policy to be tabled on the House Agenda and feedback to the YMF.	OM	Pending
SEPT25/05	9/9/25	Bar Age Policy (allowing 12 – 16-year-olds in the bar) – MN will review and come back to the whole membership with clarification – Trial has been extended to June.	MN	On Hold
FEB26/01	24/2/26	Any ideas from a young member perspective on how to improve the facilities at the Club to be passed to OM so they can be raised at the House Committee.	YMF/OM	
FEB26/02	24/2/26	HB to upload to the website pictures of the steak night / bistro evening to encourage younger members to book.	HB	
FEB26/03	24/2/26	DL to send out a Racquets round up to the younger membership.	DL	