



Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 6.30pm

Present:

Ollie Golding	(Chairman)
John Sinik	(Men's Captain)
Lily Brown	(Ladies' Captain)
Emily Monson	
Lorna Bhasin	
Andy Gilbert	
Anastasi Rentouli	
Michael Hill	(Club Chair and Tennis Liaison)

In Attendance:

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

1. Apologies: Mark Young

2. Minutes from previous meeting / matters arising

The Committee noted that the minutes and previous actions had already been addressed, with any relevant matters incorporated into the agenda. No additional matters arising were raised at the start of the meeting.

Minutes from 31st March 2026 were approved.

3. Reports

Racquets Director's Report (DL)

DL had circulated his May 2026 report in advance of the meeting, the report is appended in full at the end of these minutes.

The key discussion points arising from the report were as follows:

Tennis 125 events

- The 125 events are generally proving popular. The 125 Racquets Club Night is full, the Exhibition Match has approximately 300 sign-ups, the Pat Cash Masterclass has one place remaining, LiveBall has 36 entries, and the Member Guest Event currently has 36 members plus guests.
- The Member Guest Event on 4th July is the only event currently behind the others in terms of entries. A communication is due to go out in the Recorder with more information about the activities available on the day.

Action MAY26/01: DL / Club communications to continue promoting the Member Guest Event and wider 125 programme.

125 Exhibition Match

- The Exhibition Match is scheduled for 11th June and around 300 members/guests have signed up to attend.
- The provisional plan is for play to begin at approximately 5.30pm, with doubles first. The precise format will depend on player availability, with the Committee keen to include a stronger gender mix if possible.
- The Committee discussed the possible involvement of additional female players, including whether Jodie Burrage, Olivia Nicholls or other available players could be approached. It was agreed that any approach should be realistic, given tournament commitments and the risk of late withdrawals.
- There will be ball crew support, including girls with Wimbledon experience. The Committee also discussed whether players could be mic'd up, subject to their comfort, with Paul Mendleson potentially compering and introducing player interaction.
- Approximately 100 chairs have been ordered, with additional benches/chairs to be used where possible. The preferred seating arrangement is likely to be behind the bank looking down at the court. Paul Mendelson will be compere. A DJ and other atmosphere-building elements were also discussed.

Action MAY26/02: DL to circulate a provisional schedule and start time to all those registered in the week leading up to the event.

Action MAY26/03: DL / relevant contacts to explore whether additional female players can be secured for the exhibition format.

National Premier League Finals, 22nd - 25th May

- The Club will host the National Premier League Finals from Friday 22nd May to Monday 25th May, with the top 16 men's teams and top 12 ladies' teams. Matches will be played on courts 20-28, with Finals Day on Monday 25th May.
- The Roehampton teams are expected to feature prominently. The Committee discussed the need to make match timings visible to members, so members can attend when Roehampton teams are playing.
- The Committee recognised that hosting elite events requires members to give up some court access. It was agreed that where this happens, the Club should make a stronger effort to turn the event into a positive member experience through promotion, seating, F&B and clear communication.
- Communications will include the Recorder, posters, WhatsApp groups and coach/community channels. The Committee discussed the value of quick WhatsApp updates as court times become clear.
- Seating, blankets, use of the trailer, BBQ/food provision and drinks availability were discussed. It was agreed that the Club should create atmosphere while being cautious about alcohol promotions, given concerns about the behaviour of some visiting supporters.

Action MAY26/04: DL / Club communications to promote the NPL weekend through the Recorder, posters, WhatsApp groups and relevant tennis channels.

Action MAY26/05: DL / F&B to confirm practical seating and food/drink arrangements for the NPL weekend, taking account of spectator experience.

Grass courts and Member access during events

- The Committee discussed whether grass courts could open earlier during periods of reduced Member access, particularly over the NPL weekend when weather conditions were expected to be favourable.
- The current aim is for the grounds team to open one block by 10.30am each day. Where conditions allow, particularly in warmer weather, earlier opening may be possible, although members should not be given guarantees where dew or court conditions may prevent this.
- For the NPL weekend, the team will try to open available grass courts as early as practically possible, while balancing player practice, match requirements and court preparation.

Action MAY26/06: DL / grounds team to continue exploring whether one block can open from 10.00am when conditions safely allow, with clear communication to avoid creating unrealistic expectations.

Indoor court late cancellation / no-show trial

- DL reported that MyCourts can support a financial penalty for members who do not attend a booked court or cancel too late. The system can prevent further court bookings until the fine is paid.
- The Committee discussed member behaviour around indoor court bookings, including members holding courts speculatively and failing to release courts for others. There was support for a trial to discourage non-attendance and late cancellations.
- The Committee agreed in principle to a £10 fine for indoor court no-shows / late cancellations, with a warning and clear communications beforehand. The discussion favoured a simple approach with no general appeal process, except where a member was genuinely on site and used the court but failed to sign in.
- It was agreed that the trial should be communicated well in advance, ideally with data showing the number of no-shows/late cancellations, and with a countdown before implementation. The timing discussed was to begin the trial in August, ahead of heavier indoor court demand in September and once the airhalls return later in the autumn.

Action MAY26/07: DL to prepare communications for the indoor court no-show / late cancellation trial, including relevant usage data, clear start date and wording on the £10 fine.

Action MAY26/08: DL to confirm operational details with MyCourts, including the warning process, sign-in evidence and any limited exception where a member was present but failed to sign in.

Off-peak private lesson trial

- DL confirmed there is a way to set up a separate “off-peak lesson” appointment type within the booking system.
- The Committee agreed to trial off-peak private lessons at £10 below the standard member lesson price. The offer will be open both to existing peak-time lesson members who wish to move and to other members.
- The trial will run from September to Christmas and will be advertised in the Recorder and within the booking system.

Action MAY26/08: DL to set up and advertise the off-peak private lesson trial for September to Christmas 2026.

Club Championships

- The Club Championships are underway, with Finals Day on 20th June and Junior Club Championships on 21st June.
- The Committee discussed the importance of creating a social atmosphere around Finals Day, including planned social activities, a large LiveBall session in the morning and a Wilson Blade Tournament, with Wilson bringing a representative and a racket prize for the winner.

Action MAY26/09: DL / team to continue planning social activity and promotion for Club Championships Finals Day on 20th June.

Team tennis / fast-track membership candidate

- AR introduced a potential fast-track membership candidate, Maria Turnage, a strong female player with previous WTA-level experience who has recently moved to London and wishes to be an active Club member rather than someone who only attends matches.
- The Committee discussed the need for more female players able to support Surrey/National team commitments. It was noted that any fast-track candidate must clearly meet the criteria and commit to playing the required proportion of matches over a 24-month period.
- The Committee was supportive in principle of putting Maria forward, provided she is expected to play straight away, including Surrey League where needed, and understands the match commitment attached to fast-track membership.
- The broader fast-track process was discussed. It was noted that tennis has typically been able to put forward up to two compelling candidates, but the Committee should use these places carefully and give clear messages to other candidates on the waiting list.
- The Committee also discussed whether fast-track members should be asked to contribute more broadly, for example occasional hits with juniors or participation in wider social/team events, while recognising that fast-track membership is different from scholarship arrangements.

Action MAY26/10: MN / MH to take Maria Turnage forward to the Membership Committee as a fast-track candidate, subject to confirming the match commitment and timing.

Padel courts 4-6 and planning update

- MN reported that the planners are amenable, subject to the necessary reports and hurdles, to the proposal for padel courts on courts 4-6. The Board has asked MN to progress the planning application.
- The intention is to submit the planning application by July, with the hope of receiving a decision by the autumn. The planning process requires detailed supporting reports, including noise, lighting, biodiversity, ecology, tree roots and related surveys.

- Noise monitoring and acoustic survey work is underway, with microphones used to capture ambient noise, current tennis noise and the expected comparison with padel noise. Updated acoustic information is required by the Council.
- The Board has indicated that, once the padel application is underway, options for replacement tennis courts can be considered in parallel. However, the immediate priority is not to dilute or complicate the padel application.
- The Committee had a wider discussion about the Club masterplan, consultation, heritage grass courts and how the Tennis Committee's views are communicated to the Board. It was noted that the Tennis Committee's views are communicated through the Tennis Chairman and Liaison Director, and that the masterplan evolves over time in response to planning advice and Club priorities.
- Some Committee members expressed concern about any future loss or conversion of grass courts and asked that major changes to tennis provision are properly considered and communicated. It was noted that any future replacement-court proposal would need its own discussion and due process.

Action MAY26/11: MN to continue progressing the planning application for padel courts 4-6, with a target submission in June.

Action MAY26/12: TC to schedule a separate discussion on replacement tennis court options once the padel application position is clearer.

Replacement tennis courts / surface considerations

- The Committee discussed possible longer-term options for replacement courts, including whether courts 11-14 could be made all-weather and whether floodlights would be possible or likely to create additional planning pressure.
- There was also discussion about different court surfaces, including the possibility of indoor clay or Italian clay under a bubble. It was agreed that any surface change would need proper research, including maintenance, member usage, playing quality and cost implications.

Action MAY26/13: DL / TC to explore examples of indoor clay / artificial clay surfaces at relevant clubs before any further recommendation is made.

Clocks around the tennis courts

- AG had put together a document researching the clocks around the tennis courts. The Committee supported the principle that members should be able to see the time easily from each court block.

- Potential locations discussed included court 14, courts 19-24, courts 15-18 and areas around courts 7-10 / the shop. The Committee also discussed keeping the style consistent and possibly exploring sponsorship from a watch brand, including Rolex, if feasible.

Action MAY26/14: AG to represent the Committee in identifying priority clock locations and practical requirements.

Action MAY26/15: JS to explore whether sponsorship from Rolex or another watch brand may be possible.

Action MAY26/16: DL / Club team to progress practical clock options, starting with the areas where installation is easiest and most useful.

4. Any Other Business

Over 60s men's tennis coordination

- A member concern was raised that coordination for over 60s men's tennis is lacking, with several smaller WhatsApp groups but no single joined-up group or clear route for players to find matches.
- The Committee noted that the women's over 60s tennis appears to be more organised, and that the men's group may benefit from a clearer communication structure or larger shared group.

Action MAY26/17: DL to speak to the member who raised the issue and review whether a more joined-up over 60s men's tennis group or communication route can be created.

Pre-Wimbledon / elite tennis events

- JS request was raised about bringing back a pre-Wimbledon exhibition-style event on the grass courts, which had previously been popular with members.
- The Committee discussed the practical and financial challenges of running a major exhibition event, including player fees, tour rules, sponsorship requirements and the difficulty of securing high-profile players during the grass-court season.
- The Committee also discussed more practical alternatives, including inviting strong players to use the Club for practice in the lead-up to Queen's / Wimbledon in return for playing a scheduled practice set or member-facing exhibition set.
- Names and event formats were discussed informally, including a possible doubles / United Cup-style format and the opportunity to use the Club's grass courts and wider facilities as an attractive offer to players.

Action MAY26/18: JS/DL and interested Committee members to develop a proposal for a possible elite practice / exhibition event for 2026/7, including potential player targets, court requirements, timing and member experience.

5. Date of next meeting:

13th July 6:30pm

Racquets Director's Report – May 2026

Tennis 125 Events

Please see the latest update for the events below:

Event	Entries
125 Racquets Club Night	125 (Full)
125 Exhibition Match	300
Pat Cash Masterclass	31 (1 spot remaining)
125 LiveBall	36
125 Member Guest Event	36 + Guests

Committee members are encouraged to help promote these events to the wider membership to ensure strong participation and successful delivery across the programme.

Airhall Removal and Infrastructure Works

Both airhalls are now down, and the new air handling unit for courts 7–10 has been installed and is ready for when the airhalls go back up in October.

Padel Courts 4–6

The planning application is currently being prepared, with topographical and noise surveys underway to support the application process.

Grass Court Preparation

The grass courts are now open. The grounds team will aim to have one block open by 10:30am each day.

National Premier League Finals

We will host the National Premier League Finals from:

22 May – 25 May

The event will feature both Men's and Ladies' teams and include some of the strongest players in the country competing on Roehampton's grass courts.

A marquee will be installed on the lawn in the sunken garden to serve as the player base, and matches will take place on courts 25–28 across the four days. Finals Day will take place on Monday 25 May and will hopefully involve our teams.

Big Screen Installation (Summer)

The big screen installation is scheduled for Wednesday 13 May.

Under 10 Performance Programme

The programme is now up and running, with strength and conditioning sessions tailored to specific age groups taking place as part of the junior lessons.

We have also started running performance camps during the holidays in conjunction with local Grade 3 and Grade 4 tournaments, allowing juniors to train in the lead-up while also giving coaches the opportunity to watch players compete.

Vets Friendly Matches

These matches are now underway, with all home fixtures being played on the grass courts.

Many thanks to Andy Gilbert and Mikaela Parker for their help organising the teams.

Off-Peak Tennis Ladder (Trial)

Feedback on the trial has been positive, so the ladder will remain in place for the summer term.

I have now added an end date, along with prizes for:

The player finishing at the top of the ladder

The player making the biggest move up the rankings

This should help encourage continued participation and match play.

Club Championships

The Club Championships are now underway, with Finals Day taking place on 20 June.

I have been in contact with Wilson, and they will be bringing a representative to run a Blade Tournament as part of the social activities. All 16 players will use the new Blade racket, with the winner receiving a racket prize.

I have also organised a large LiveBall session in the morning.

Team Update

All matches are now underway.

Nik to provide an update on results during the meeting.

Dan Lott

Racquets Director