



**Minutes of the Tennis Committee Meeting
held on Monday 13th July 2026 at 6.30pm**

Present:

Ollie Golding (Chair)
John Sinik - online (Board Liaison)
Emily Monson - online
Anastasi Rentouli
Lorna Bhasin
Andy Gilbert

In Attendance:

Marc Newey (Chief Executive)
Dan Lott (Racquets Director)
Nik Snapes (Tennis Manager)
Rhys Beecher (new CEO)

Apologies: Mark Young; Lily Brown

2. Minutes from previous meeting / matters arising

DL confirmed that most actions from the 19 May 2026 minutes had progressed, including successful delivery of the 125th Anniversary Exhibition Match and the National Premier League Finals. Remaining items (the indoor court cancellation trial, Club Championships and the clocks project) were picked up under the agenda items below.

Minutes from 19 May 2026 were approved.

3. Reports

Racquets Director's Report (DL)

DL had circulated his July 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 / CTC International Competition

- The 125th Anniversary events programme concluded successfully, with all events extremely well attended. The Committee thanked DL and Nik Snapes for the scale and quality of the programme, delivered largely by the two of them across many weekends.

- The Club's final 125 event, the CTC International Competition, takes place from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 July, welcoming visiting teams from Biarritz, Barcelona and Berlin. Each team fields six players (two Men's 35+, two Men's 45+, one Ladies' 35+ and one Ladies' 45+), playing singles followed by doubles. Semi-finals are scheduled for Saturday, with the final, third-place play-off on Sunday. There will be a Club dinner on Saturday evening. DL will run the event across the weekend, hopefully on the grass courts.

Indoor Court Late Cancellation / No-Show Trial

- DL's report included the proposed member communication for the trial £10 late cancellation / no-show fee for indoor court bookings, to run from 1 September to 31 December 2026.
- EM reviewed the wording and confirmed it read well, noting it had “thought through all of the possible ramifications” and was sensitively put.
- It was agreed that the wording was approved as drafted.

Action JUL26/01: DL to send the member communication in mid-August, ahead of the September trial start.

Off-Peak Lesson Discount Trial

- DL outlined a proposal, originally suggested by Ollie Golding, to offer a £10 discount on lesson fees for members booking off-peak lesson slots, to encourage a shift in demand away from peak times.
- The Committee discussed whether to apply the discount immediately to all off-peak bookings (estimated by DL to cost the Club in the region of £200 per week) or to introduce the differential at the point of the Club's routine January fee increase, by raising peak lesson prices while holding off-peak prices flat. JS set out the case for the latter approach, noting it avoids a direct hit to the Club's finances and reads better publicly than discounting off-peak prices and later withdrawing the discount. MN supported this approach.
- It was noted that many existing off-peak lesson bookers are juniors attending during school hours and cannot move their lesson time further, so the trial is aimed primarily at shifting members currently booking peak slots.
- It was agreed that the trial should run for a fixed term of January to March 2027, timed to coincide with the January fee increase, rather than as an open-ended offer, and that it will require Board approval.

Action JUL26/02: DL to bring a formal proposal (peak price increase with off-peak prices held flat, trial to run January–March) to the next committee meeting for the committee to approve.

Club Championships

- Finals Day took place on 20 June across Courts 25–28 and was a great success overall, although several draws were smaller than in previous years — the Women's Open Singles had only six entries with two walkovers, and the Men's Over-45 Doubles was also notably down.

- JS queried whether entry fees were deterring participation; NS explained that fees are intended to discourage entrants who do not intend to play and cancel their matches, rather than to generate revenue.
- The Committee discussed restructuring Finals Day for 2027 to build more of a social occasion around it as has been tried before — for example a Friday evening singles final and barbecue, followed by a Saturday ‘Club takeover’ day using a compass/round-robin format so more Members play more matches, building to an evening celebration. This year's celebration had effectively been folded into the separate 125th anniversary event.
- The Committee compared this with Padel's well-attended two-day Championship and Squash's consistently strong post-event turnout (80–100 members) and MN suggested speaking to Paul Lindsay about how those sections build that atmosphere.
- JS suggested a modest budget for something special for participants; MN confirmed this is an operational decision that can be approved by RB.

Action JUL26/03: JS and NS to set up a working group, open to any Committee member, to develop ideas for boosting participation and the social/celebration element of the 2027 Club Championships.

Grass Courts / Possible Resurfacing of Courts 11–14

- The grass courts have been in constant use throughout the summer under Chris Hughes and his team, opening at 10.00am most days.
- DL and NS have been looking into alternative all-weather surfaces for a possible future resurfacing of courts 11–14, including Queen's Club's re-laid clay courts (played outdoors for most of the year, indoors under a bubble from October) and the National Tennis Centre's “Red Plus” carpet/clay hybrid surface, which can be trialled indoors from September and outdoors over winter.
- Queen's Club has offered Roehampton the opportunity to trial both indoor and outdoor play on their courts; this is an informal offer, not a commitment.
- The Committee noted that clay requires regular hand-watering, a change in maintenance and member behaviour to brush after playing and that the humidity inside a bubble is not a concern for clay.
- DL and NS recommended prioritising a trial of the NTC Red Plus surface, as the closer and more directly comparable option, over the full Queen's Club model, since Queen's closes its outdoor clay courts completely over winter.

Action JUL26/04: NS to arrange a date in September for interested Committee members to trial the NTC Red Plus surface (and Queen's Club), ahead of any resurfacing recommendation for courts 11–14.

Padel Courts 4–6 – Planning Update (MN)

- MN reported that the noise survey for courts 4–6 has been completed and returned favourable results; the current recommendation is a transparent acoustic (Perspex) screen around 16 metres long, rather than solid glass, to keep noise on courts 4-6

within the Council's required limits. WBC are very concerned about rising noise levels in the whole area next to Woking Close residents.

- Lighting/floodlight reports have also been completed, with lighting able to be angled to prevent spill.
- Two further supporting reports are required before the planning application can be submitted. Once submitted, a decision is expected to take around three months, with the Board hoping for a positive outcome this autumn.
- It was clarified that the Board has so far only approved submission of the planning application for courts 4–6; no decision has been taken on any other courts, and use of courts 19–21 has not been given up. Once the courts 4–6 decision is known, the Board will consider options for the wider tennis court configuration as a second stage, with Tennis Committee input on surface and programme requirements.

Action JUL26/05: MN to continue progressing the padel courts 4–6 planning application, with submission to follow once the outstanding supporting reports are complete.

Court Reconfiguration and Grass Court Preservation – Letter to the Board

- The Committee has been drafting a letter to the Board setting out its position on court reconfiguration and padel expansion, intended to ensure the Board has the Committee's views before any building work begins. OG has incorporated points previously raised by EM; the draft will be circulated by email for comment before being sent.
- Key points proposed for the letter: any replacement courts should be built before or alongside the padel courts, never after, so that tennis capacity is not reduced even temporarily; the grass courts (particularly 25–28) are central to the Club's identity and the impact of the new padel courts on tennis participation should be assessed before any further tennis courts are considered for conversion.
- The Committee discussed requesting a wider membership consultation on any fundamental reconfiguration of the courts, similar to that carried out for the Indoor Golf Centre. There was general support in principle for the Board consulting members on a decision of this scale, noting that four new directors have joined the Board since the matter was last considered.
- EM suggested that the putting green area could offer an alternative site for two or three padel courts that would avoid the loss of any tennis courts, and that no option should be treated as a foregone conclusion.
- EM proposed that, if any grass courts must be lost, only courts 19 and 20 (not 21) should be given up, preserving two intact banks of four grass courts (21–24 and 25–28), given the importance of complete four-court banks for inter-club fixtures. DL and NS noted that, operationally, an uneven split would be preferable to an even split if one were ever required, though a thorough options analysis is needed before the Committee reaches a recommendation. NS undertook to do this.
- The Committee noted that courts 19–20 have seen particularly high demand this year (approximately 50% higher utilisation than last year, with courts 25–28 close to 70% utilisation compared with around 50% last year), reflecting strong player

preference and favourable weather, and that this should be weighed against the original case for padel, which was partly based on grass tennis court under-utilisation.

- JS disclosed, for transparency, that he is about to become a shareholder in one of the UK's largest padel companies, and confirmed this does not change his position and he will continue to represent the Committee's views as before.

Action JUL26/06: Committee to finalise and circulate the position letter to the Board.

Action JUL26/07: NS/DL to prepare detailed court layout options and scenarios for Committee consideration ahead of the courts 4–6 planning decision.

Padel Forum and Pickleball

- Padel now has its own advisory forum, separate from the Tennis Committee, which the Committee agreed is the right structure going forward.
- MN raised, as a longer-term idea rather than a committee proposal, the possibility of relocating pickleball to the existing two padel courts area and if the playground is moved, providing dedicated three to four pickleball courts and reducing pressure on tennis and padel court space. Padel will still have five courts if they receive planning approval for courts 4-6. The Chair of neighbouring residents at Fairacres has been consulted by MN/RB and has raised no objection providing noise reduction measures are enhanced. No decision was made; this remains an idea for future consideration.

Team Update

- All junior and adult league teams have finished for the summer, except for the Men's 1st and Ladies' 1st teams and the Veterans, who continue into the autumn.
- Both the Men's and Ladies' National Premier League teams won their divisions and progressed directly to the finals in Bournemouth on the first weekend of September, without a further qualifier.

Clocks around the tennis courts

- JS reported no further progress; his Rolex contact has so far only offered a meeting rather than corresponding by email, with a meeting expected at some point over the summer, though no date is confirmed. JS has also looked into alternative suppliers directly but found large waterproof clocks difficult to source.
- DL noted that the Paris Racing Club has several large clocks around its courts and will make contact to identify their supplier.

Action JUL26/08: DL to contact Racing Club Paris to identify their clock supplier.

Action JUL26/09: JS to continue pursuing a meeting with Rolex regarding possible clock sponsorship.

Membership / Fast-track candidate

- MN reported that Maria Turnage's fast-track candidacy, expected to be ratified at the last Membership Committee meeting, did not make the new Committee's agenda but he will follow up with the new Chair Fiona Pollard.

Action JUL26/10: DL to follow up with MN and the new Membership Committee chair to progress ratification of Maria Turnage's fast-track candidacy.

4. Any Other Business

Interclub Singles Leagues

- DL reported that the interclub singles league format needs revisiting to improve competitiveness, following a high volume of member complaints about the current format. Working with Andy Gilbert, DL is developing revised rules covering withdrawals, non-response to match requests and promotion/relegation.
- The Committee will not meet again before September; the proposal will be worked up informally over the summer with input from MY, then circulated to the full Committee for comment ahead of implementation in September.

Action JUL26/11: DL to circulate the finalised interclub singles league rule-change proposal to the Committee.

5. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 15th September 2026, 6.30pm.

Racquets Director's Report – July 2026

Tennis 125 Events

The Racquets team has delivered an excellent programme of events as part of the Club's 125th anniversary celebrations over the past few weeks. All events have been extremely well attended and have received excellent feedback from members. A big thank you to Paul and Nik for all their efforts making these events a success.

Our final 125 event will take place from 17–19 July, when Roehampton Club hosts the annual CTC International Competition, welcoming teams from Biarritz, Barcelona and Berlin. All matches are scheduled to be played on the grass courts.

Event	Entries
125 Racquets Club Night	125 (Full)
125 Exhibition Match	300
Pat Cash Masterclass	32
125 LiveBall	44
125 Member Guest Event	100+

We also ran a mini tennis festival over the main celebration weekend where coaches and juniors dressed in all whites and completed a series of games and challenges to win prizes.

Padel Courts (Courts 4–6)

The planning application is currently being prepared, with topographical and noise surveys underway to support the submission. MN and RB will provide a further update during the meeting.

Grass Courts

The grass courts have been in constant use throughout the summer, and it has been fantastic to see such high levels of member activity.

A huge thank you to Chris Hughes and his team for consistently preparing the courts to such a high standard, opening them at 10:00am most days and ensuring they were ready for the busy programme of events and competitions held throughout the season.

National Premier League Finals

Roehampton Club hosted the National Premier League Finals from 22–25 May.

The event was a tremendous success, attracting excellent spectator numbers and creating a fantastic atmosphere around the grass courts. It was especially fitting during our 125th anniversary year that both the Roehampton Men's and Ladies' First Teams won the national titles.

Congratulations to Nik and Laura for captaining the teams and thank you to Nikki Clark and her team for ensuring the event ran so smoothly.

Following the success of this year's tournament, we are now in discussions with the organisers about hosting the event again in 2027.

Big Screen Installation

The big screen has once again proved very popular throughout the summer, showing major sporting events including Wimbledon and the FIFA World Cup.

It is scheduled to be removed on 27 July, and we hope to bring it back next summer as it creates a fantastic atmosphere in the centre of the Club.

Under 10 Performance Programme

The Under 10 Performance Programme is now fully underway, with age-specific strength and conditioning sessions integrated into the weekly coaching programme.

We have also introduced performance camps during the school holidays, scheduled alongside local Grade 3 and Grade 4 tournaments. This gives players the opportunity to prepare for competition while allowing our coaching team to observe them in tournament environments.

Our next camp is planned for the end of August in preparation for the Surrey County Championships.

Veterans' Friendly Matches

The Veterans' Friendly Matches are now underway, with all home fixtures being played on the grass courts. We are also sending some members to the AELTC for the quadrangular fixture in August, who compete with other London clubs in a nice friendly fixture.

Thank you to Andy Gilbert and Mikaela Parker for their continued support in organising the teams.

Indoor Court Late Cancellation & No-Show Trial

Please see below the wording prepared to send to the membership for this:

Dear Members,

Following feedback from members and a review of indoor court usage, the Tennis Committee will be introducing a trial late cancellation and no-show policy for indoor tennis court bookings.

Over the winter months, we have seen an increasing number of indoor courts being booked but not used or cancelled at very short notice. This prevents other members from accessing courts during our busiest periods and reduces the overall availability of indoor court time.

To encourage members to cancel courts they no longer require and to improve court availability for everyone, the Club will be introducing a trial £10 Late Cancellation / No-Show Fee.

Trial Period

The trial will run from 1 September until 31 December 2026.

During this period, we will monitor booking behaviour, member feedback and court usage before reviewing the effectiveness of the policy and deciding whether it should become permanent.

How the Trial Will Work

A £10 charge will be applied if:

- A member fails to attend a booked indoor court (no-show).
- A member cancels an indoor court booking after the permitted cancellation period (12 hours before the booking start time).
- A member checks in but does not use the court.

To encourage members to release courts as soon as they know they can no longer use them, any late cancellation charge will automatically be refunded if the same court and time slot is subsequently rebooked by another member. (The refund only applies if the same court and time slot is rebooked.)

Members with outstanding late cancellation or no-show charges will be unable to make any further court bookings until the outstanding balance has been paid.

Exceptions

We appreciate that genuine mistakes and unforeseen circumstances can occasionally occur.

Where a member was present at the Club and used their booked court but failed to sign in correctly, the Racquets Team may remove the charge following verification.

Why Are We Introducing This?

The aim of this trial is not to generate revenue, but to ensure our indoor courts are used as efficiently as possible and remain available to as many members as possible.

By cancelling courts, you no longer require as early as possible, you give another member the opportunity to play. The automatic refund of the late cancellation charge, where the court is successfully rebooked, is designed to encourage members to release unwanted bookings promptly for the benefit of everyone.

We appreciate your support during this trial and will review member feedback and booking data before deciding whether the policy should become permanent.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Racquets Team.

Interclub Singles Leagues

Following member feedback, it is clear that the current league format requires reviewing. The main issues raised relate to players withdrawing during the league cycle, not responding to match requests and the current promotion and relegation system.

Working alongside Andy Gilbert, I am developing a revised league structure and updated rules to improve participation, accountability and the overall member experience. Once the proposed format has been finalised, it will be circulated to the Tennis Committee for approval ahead of implementation in September.

Club Championships

The Club Championships Finals Day took place on 20 June, with all finals played across Courts 25–28.

Whilst entry numbers were slightly lower than previous years across several events, those who took part enjoyed an excellent competition and Finals Day was a great success. We will review ways to increase participation and member engagement ahead of next year's Championships.

Alongside the finals, we ran a Wilson Blade Tournament, with all 16 participants using the latest Blade racquets. The winner received a new Wilson Blade racquet.

We also hosted a large LiveBall session in the morning, with 28 members taking part.

Team Update

Nik will provide an update on team performances and league results during the meeting.

Dan Lott
Racquets Director