Tennis Committee Meeting Minutes

held on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 6.30pm

Present:

Ollie Golding (Chairman)

John Sinik - online (Board Liaison)

Emily Monson

Lorna Bhasin

In Attendance:

Dan Lott (Racquets Director)

Nik Snapes (Tennis Manager) - joined after the start

Apologies: Anastasi Rentouli; Lily Brown; Andy Gilbert; Rhys Beecher; Mark Young

2. Minutes from previous meeting / matters arising

The Committee reviewed matters arising from the 13 July 2026 meeting. The indoor court cancellation trial was now in operation, the Committee's court reconfiguration letter had been sent, and Maria Turnage's fast-track candidacy had been confirmed. Further discussion is recorded under the relevant items below.

3. Reports

Racquets Director / Tennis Manager Updates (DL / NS)

Padel Courts 4–6 / Court Reconfiguration and Member Consultation

- DL reported that the planning application for five covered padel courts on courts 4–6 was awaiting a decision, expected at the end of October. Rhys Beecher had received the Committee's letter and met OG; next steps were due to be discussed by the Board, with Tennis Committee input into an options paper.
- Members questioned whether planning consent would necessarily commit the Club to the proposed layout. A smaller scheme of four padel courts, retaining one of courts 4–6, was suggested. DL's understanding was that five covered courts remained the intended scheme; other members understood that consent would give an option rather than an obligation to proceed. No alternative layout was agreed.
- JS reported that RB had assured him that a membership consultation would take place. The Committee stressed that any consultation should precede the loss of tennis provision, present options impartially and reach a representative cross-section of members. Concerns were raised about low participation and the influence of organised interest groups. No turnout threshold or binding vote was agreed; DL clarified that he had not himself received definitive confirmation of the consultation arrangements.
- The Committee reiterated the importance of preserving the grass courts, particularly courts 25–28, for their setting, heritage, member use and ability to host events and elite players. Retaining sufficient grass courts also allows wear to be managed across the season. Members raised concern about possible

multi-use development and the wider direction of the Club; no such scheme was approved at this meeting.

- Options discussed included limiting any grass court conversion to courts 19–20, alternative use of the putting green/shop and croquet/outdoor gym areas, and reconsideration of other sites. These remained suggestions subject to feasibility and planning. JS understood that the previously considered Rosslyn Park opportunity was no longer available in the near term, although he did not have the detailed reasons.
- NS had updated court utilisation data for 2024–2026, including term-time analysis. He explained that removing courts would increase pressure on the remaining courts during the busy April–September period. Court groupings, year-round programming, shading from fencing, events and the quality of the grass offering all needed consideration. DL and NS would assess the advantages and disadvantages of viable options before the Committee settle on its preferred position.
- The Committee supported presenting a clear, united case around a small number of workable options. JS read his proposed Board liaison report, including the request for reassurance on consultation and a reminder of earlier leadership assurances that the Tennis Committee would have the final say on changes to tennis provision beyond courts 4–6. The wording was agreed as a record of those assurances.

Action SEP26/01: Committee members to send DL any additional feasible options for inclusion in the paper for RB and the Board.

Action SEP26/02: DL/NS to set out the operational advantages, disadvantages and impacts of viable court replacement options once the planning position is known, for Committee consideration.

Action SEP26/03: JS to submit the Board liaison report, including the Committee's requests on membership consultation and its role in decisions on replacement tennis provision.

Indoor Court Late Cancellation / No-Show Trial

- The trial was confirmed to apply to indoor courts only. Members discussed whether a player attending the Club should be able to transfer an indoor booking to an available outdoor court in good weather without incurring a charge.
- It was agreed to allow transfers made in person at the Club and review the arrangement. The Committee recognised that a late release could disadvantage members seeking indoor courts, but also wished to encourage use of the outdoor courts and provide a reasonable member experience. Reception would need clear guidance; the arrangement would not be separately promoted to members.

Action SEP26/04: DL to clarify the in-person indoor-to-outdoor transfer arrangement with Reception and keep its operation under review.

Coaching Fees and Qualification-Based Rates

- The Committee considered the proposed January coaching fee increases and the wider question of whether rates should continue to be determined by LTA qualifications. JS questioned whether the current structure adequately recognised coaching experience and high-level playing credentials. OG and NS declared personal interests and indicated that they would not vote on the matter.
- Arguments for retaining qualification-based rates included a consistent and transparent structure, an incentive for professional development, choice of price for members and the financial contribution from group coaching. Arguments for change included the value of different coaching skills and experience, and barriers to completing higher qualifications, particularly for coaches with caring responsibilities.
- Flat rates, premiums for exceptional experience and a gradual transition were discussed. Benchmarking already circulated showed that comparable clubs generally used tiered rates; Queen's also applied certain premiums, while Holland Park used a flat rate. Members recognised that an immediate change could produce substantial increases for some members and reduce programme income.

- No change to the charging structure was agreed. Any wider reform would require further consideration. The proposed January fees also required circulation to the full Committee for a vote, given the limited attendance and declared interests; they were not formally approved at the meeting.

Action SEP26/05: DL to circulate the proposed January coaching fees to the full Committee for a vote.

Off-Peak Lesson Package Trial

- DL explained that holding selected off-peak prices below peak rates would be difficult to administer through the existing systems. He proposed an off-peak package of six individual lessons for the price of five, with all six lessons taken off-peak. Group coaching would not be included.
- The Committee agreed to bring the trial forward from January to after October half-term, with all package lessons to be used by 31 December 2026. The aim was to move flexible private lessons away from busy periods, improve access for other members and use spare afternoon capacity once the air halls were in operation. Coaches would help identify and encourage suitable members.
- Moving or adding a LiveBall session at an off-peak time was also discussed. DL noted that existing sessions made efficient use of peak court space and suggested testing an additional session before disrupting established sessions. No timetable change was agreed.

Action SEP26/06: DL to introduce the six-for-five off-peak individual lesson package after October half-term, brief coaches and review the trial, with lessons used by 31 December 2026.

Trial of Alternative Surfaces for Courts 11–14

- The Committee discussed a visit to trial the outdoor Red Plus surface and an indoor clay option at the National Tennis Centre, with approximately half an hour on each. These were potential options for courts 11–14; no surface recommendation was made.
- Wednesday 23 September was suggested but did not suit enough members. A Committee poll would be used to find a suitable date, aiming to include members with different playing levels. The practical implications of using different surfaces inside and outside the bubble would need further examination.

Action SEP26/07: DL/NS to poll the Committee for suitable dates and arrange the surface trial visit.

Fast-Track Memberships

- DL reported that the Membership Committee had agreed two fast-track memberships per sports section per year, with full joining and membership fees payable. Maria Turnage's candidacy, put forward by Anastasi Rentouli, had been confirmed at the Membership Committee meeting on 11 September, subject to conditional two years, which would now be applied to all fast track members.
- JS requested clearer terms on the treatment of the joining fee if a member could not fulfil the required obligations. DL explained that the intended arrangement was repayment of the joining fee less 10% for each year, but would check why this was not clear in the circulated draft.
- The proposed requirement to be available for 70% of matches was debated, with 60% or two-thirds suggested as alternatives. Views differed and no clear revised percentage was settled. DL and NS emphasised active management and early discussion of any difficulties, rather than an unexpected decision at the end of the review period.

Action SEP26/08: DL to check the fast-track joining-fee refund wording with RB and the membership team and report back to the Committee.

Conditional and Ambassador Memberships

- DL and NS outlined proposals to replace the existing scholarship arrangements with clearer contractual obligations, regular review and the ability to end arrangements where the agreed contribution was not delivered. The objectives were to enhance the Club's profile, support junior development and provide value to the wider membership.
- The proposed categories distinguished fee-paying fast-track members, professional players contributing through team tennis and other activities, and elite or ambassador players whose contribution might

instead include exhibitions, clinics or Q&A events. Members supported recognising the different contributions rather than imposing match commitments that touring players could not realistically fulfil.

- A proposal for 12 men and 12 women was being put to the Membership Committee, encompassing existing arrangements rather than simply adding new members. NS explained the case through limited, largely off-peak utilisation by professional players and the value of their contribution. Detailed category treatment and individual obligations remained to be settled following approval in principle.
- The Committee supported the direction of the proposals and the importance of retaining relationships with successful players. DL and NS would return to the detailed conditions once the Membership Committee's response was known. No new membership allocation or individual contract was approved at this meeting.

Action SEP26/09: DL/NS to return to the Committee with the proposed conditions once the Membership Committee has considered the membership framework.

4. Any Other Business

Tennis Committee Elections

- Lorna Bhasin and Mark Young had reached the end of their three-year terms and would need to submit forms if they wished to stand again. Nominations had been circulated across the Club. Members were encouraged to identify suitable candidates, with discussion emphasising representation of different parts of the tennis membership. Lorna was thanked for her contribution should this prove to be her final meeting.

Off-Peak Tennis Guest Fees

- Those present did not support the suggested off-peak guest-fee concession, noting that the aim was to spread existing members' play across the day and that the arrangement would be difficult to administer. No change to guest fees was agreed.

Christmas Tennis Event

- The Committee supported repeating the successful Christmas event and discussed a possible one-point slam tournament format to allow greater member participation and involvement from the Club's professional players. The date would depend on operational and player availability; the final format was not settled.

Action SEP26/10: DL/NS to identify a suitable Christmas event date and player availability so that a save-the-date can be circulated.

5. Date of next meeting:

To be circulated. RB wished to establish six Committee meeting dates for the coming 12 months so that attendance could be planned in advance.

Action SEP26/11: DL to liaise with Carolyn and circulate six meeting dates for the next 12 months.