

## **Padel committee meeting 3 March 2026**

Present : M Brown (MB), R Chipperfield (RC), M Hughes (MH), D Sidaway (DS), N Prosser (NP)

Apologies: J Samra, L Lazarou

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **Safeguarding and health & safety**

- No matters arising

#### **Board matters**

- MB updated on board related matters specific to padel

#### **Padel metrics**

- Monthly format of report agreed and February key statistics discussed

#### **Pay and Play**

- The PP issues were discussed at length covering communication and equipment
- Club Whatsapp to be revisited for better integration and more emailing of PP members

#### **Marketing**

- Sponsorship agreed with SITU group to cover leagues and club championships
- New web page development and timescale
- Off peak promotion possibilities

#### **Internal leagues**

- Successful launch and reasonable number of matches played to date
- Allocation of league sponsorship money agreed

#### **Padel programme**

- Family padel sessions continue to be under review and criteria to be reassessed
- New class of Padel Activate on Monday lunch introduced
- Cancellations still to be monitored for appropriate timescale for rebooking

#### **Padel pod and grounds**

- Low level lighting issue addressed
- More access to locker codes for committee members to help with PP access problems
- Courtside storage trunks; costed and on next spending round
- Dispensing machine installed and awaiting commissioning
- Reseeding of back of courts once possible
- Urgent need for sanding on courts 1 & 2
- Ongoing issues of floodlights tripping on court 3

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Agenda circulated in advance of meeting.

Last minutes – approved as seen

### **Safeguarding and health and safety**

NP updated the meeting. No safeguarding matters arising. One bad fall in January logged in accident register and no February incidents to report.

### **Padel board matters**

MB listed the following issues from the January main board:

Financials were satisfactory given poor weather; profit of £10k to date

Babolat rackets and balls to be provided in shop as part of new deal with Racketworld

Website development imminent on padel page and would need immediate review and response

Ball dispensing machine to be installed shortly

Request for primetime annual block booking of a court unanimously rejected

### **Padel metrics**

MB had sent a January shortform report covering participation and financial data.

Form and content agreed as to be adopted for meetings going forward.

Steve Chilvers had kindly completed the form for February for participation and income ( profit will be known once monthly costs finalised) and given MB access to Mycourts to review all padel related data.

MB outlined key statistics which were encouraging given February's weather:

Utilisation 29.2 % ( cumulative 26.5%)

Played in month 217 ( Jan 214); Guests 108 (109); 22 new Pay & Play (PP) now totalling 118

Income in month £4.9k ( Jan £4.4k) and cumulative £25.3k

### **Pay and Play**

As the PP numbers are increasing and as of meeting date were 123 a wider discussion on PP level of numbers and the WLTSC PP experience ensued.

It was agreed not to cap the total at 150 absolutely yet as over 40 PP members had never booked a court. RC commented that they could be awaiting better weather or playing elsewhere

Various matters were raised by the committee on known experiences observed:

Confusion over gate access code and locker code

Issues with lockers and bats and balls provided

General signage and matters such as how to turn on floodlights

Naturally these factors are compounded late at night and at many parts of the weekend

Everyone felt that we need to revisit communication with the PP community.

MB will draft an email to be sent en bloc to the PP members to try to cover some of the issues

RC noted that at weekends he would often be at the club in part and MB and DS too so it made sense for other people to have the locker codes. After discussion it was agreed that NP would provide all the committee on the committee app with a 4 week screenshot of the codes to provide back up for this matter and the same would be given to Pete Kular for weekends.

The question of equipment was then addressed. Some locker bats are now severely damaged. MH commented that any replacements need to be low end carbon bats which will serve a general community use better. DS raised the possibility of creating a second hand padel bats section within the shop as when members upgraded their rackets this might give some stock for the lockers and give members access to spare rackets.

As previously agreed padel balls at some point will not be provided in the lockers. The dispensing machine was installed today but will need sorting for contactless payments and other issues. An emergency stock of old balls will be in the pod. This will need communicating.

On communication it was felt that the club Padel Whatsapp needs to be revisited as it would provide the best platform for integrating members and PP and give options to arrange games similarly to Playtomic. RC commented this is used at other clubs where Playtomic is not in place. This needs addressing urgently as existing club app is not fit for purpose.

### **Padel marketing**

NP updated the meeting on marketing developments.

Sponsorship had been secured for the leagues and club padel champs with SITU ( DS's company) which would cover £300 each for the leagues in 2026 and the 2026 champs.

Ongoing discussions being held on individual court sponsorship at £1,500 per court with Muras Baker Jones possibly interested. DS commented that we needed to be mindful of the look of the padel courts with sponsorship and signage not dominating the optics to its detriment.

NP expanded on the club's new website which would include padel and that a draft on 16 March would need quick feedback and checking. It was agreed that MB would share the link with all committee members but they would only have 24 hours to review and comment back to MB who would collate it all and proof check as well.

The question of off peak promotion was again considered to attempt to fill the mainly empty times between 9.30 and 3.45pm. RC commented that we should think about ladies only morning sessions incorporating a drink afterwards which might work but there were issues around coaching costs and splitting of revenues between departments that might need to be resolved to make this work. Corporates and schools were other possibilities that might utilise this space and the members would think on how best to action this going forward.

## **Padel internal leagues**

As previously reported the leagues launch had been a success with 96 members playing and some reserves in hand and MH was monitoring participation.

To date approximately 26% of matches had been played so March league play should boost utilisation and MH had emailed all players to get their matches arranged before 4 April.

The sponsorship money provided by SITU of £300 was discussed as to allocation and after debate the following basis was agreed. There would be three rounds of leagues in 2026; a second round April to early June and then a final round in probably October-November. This would then free courts up in the four summer months for members and PPs. Each round would have £100 of sponsorship. Two prizes of £50 per pair to be awarded. One prize would see all seven division winners go in hat for a draw and the second to be drawn from all pairs who had completed all their league matches. Monies to be applied to Club V1 card for use in shop or bar. The format of the prize announcement to be discussed at the next meeting.

MH would send an email to all league players this week confirming these decisions.

## **Padel programme**

All the amendments to the program discussed and agreed at the last meeting had been implemented on Mycourts and freed up some prime time slots for members and PPs.

MH had introduced a new Monday lunch session of Padel Activate which was going well and encouragingly had a high level of female bookings on it.

MH had arranged cover for his sessions in his absence for the next few weeks with only the Saturday social needing a lead which could be done by members as previously SC had overseen it so some committee members would do this if necessary.

The only class proving difficult was Family Social on a Sunday. It can be poorly attended but even when full is subject to abuse with members bringing non member partners and even others children. It was agreed that we need to persevere with this as there must be some form of junior outlet but it was critical to define the terms of the class and then communicate it appropriately.

There is still an issue occasionally with court cancellations being done with comparatively little time to allow for rebooking so this needs to be monitored.

Amber and Megan are looking at getting appropriate Padel qualifications to provide further emergency cover for the program.

## **Padel courts and grounds**

The low level court lighting issue had been addressed.

No progress on car headlights albeit this will become far less of an issue soon.

MB had researched appropriate sturdy storage trunks to put courtside. Reasonable quality ones could be sourced for around £75 each and three would be needed. This was probably urgent even as weather improves for all players but especially PP as more competition in the area will develop. No scope in the club's immediate capital project cashflow for this but it will remain a priority in terms of low level spend.

Bats and balls - these matters had been addressed by earlier debate. Low carbon replacement bats and ultimately balls not being provided in lockers.

Dispensing machine – installed 3 March and awaiting commissioning.

Suggestion box – no progress

Back of courts – muddy and slip hazard. Not reseeded as of yet but this will become a priority once we get the supply of seeding.

Courts 1&2 – per MH these are becoming quite slippery and need sand applying as a matter of urgency by groundstaff.

Court 3 – per MH there is still the occasional issue of the floodlights tripping and the cause is unclear and may be due to players or security accessing the box which apparently is possible. Signage may be needed if this proves to be the case.

### **Any other business**

No matters raised.

### **Next meeting**

Provisionally set for Wednesday 8 April at 5pm.

Later due to Easter weekend.