

## **Padel committee meeting 6 May 2026**

Present : M Brown (MB), R Chipperfield (RC), J Samra (JS), D Sidaway (DS), L Lazarou (LL)

Apologies: M Hughes (MH), N Prosser (NP)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **Previous minutes**

- Reviewed and approved as drafted

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

- Issue of unsupervised juniors (non members) using facilities

#### **Board matters**

- MB updated on board related matters specific to padel; see section

#### **Padel governance**

- By-laws drafted; comments being collated for second version

#### **Padel metrics**

- April headline data review and March key statistics discussed

#### **Pay and Play**

- Need to communicate more with PP; leagues/tournaments/socials/bar use
- Local competition growing

#### **Marketing**

- Initial marketing and club promotions using socials
- Corporate events; meeting with Padel Mix

#### **Internal leagues**

- Second league in progress; backlog of matches

#### **Padel programme**

- Potential changes to programme re social sessions

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

- Dispensing machine now working and new storage boxes in place
- Signage needs to be improved and consider back of courts by canal

#### **AOB**

- Initial discussion on format of club championships

## **Padel committee meeting 6 May 2026**

Present : M Brown (MB), R Chipperfield (RC), J Samra(JS), D Sidaway (DS), Liz Lazarou (LL)

Apologies: M Hughes(MH), N Prosser(NP)

Agenda circulated in advance of meeting.

Last minutes – major issue was the 25% discount for early weekday play had been approved by the Executive Committee and implemented on Mycourts. Other matters reviewed.

Minutes approved.

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

An issue of safeguarding was raised regarding unsupervised juniors.

A junior family member had booked a court but was not then present so three under 14 year olds as non members were given locker and gate codes. There was no supervision and they were unfamiliar with the game so potential for injuries and incidents with other members and guests on adjacent courts was possible. Per DS no issues arose but this led to a wider discussion on rules regarding junior play.

At present draft by-laws state juniors have same rights to booking and courts as adult members. It was noted that guests ( junior or adult) are not told any rules of etiquette so the lead must take some responsibility so it was suggested if they did not play then they should be physically at the club at the beginning and end of the session in case any matters arose.

Furthermore the consensus was that under 16s should not be able to book courts as the lead and MB would enquire if Mycourts could deactivate them from this facility as suggested by LL.

These matters would need to be included in the next version of the padel by-laws.

The safeguarding matter would be emailed to Nikki and Judy Loader for completeness.

### **Padel board matters**

MB listed the following issues from the April main board:

Financials were in line with expectations; profit of £19.7k for the half year

Half year members update by chairman would include a padel presentation; this had just been emailed to MB and would be forwarded to committee members on a confidential basis

MB would attend both presentations and encouraged committee members to try to attend at least one if possible to gauge the padel mood of the club

The issue of safety for juniors was raised especially the use of goggles for under 16s playing squash and racketball. Committee felt this was not a prescribed guideline for padel.

Storage boxes; approval given to get quotes. Subsequently purchased and now on court.

Issue of music being played on padel courts was raised regarding other padel court users and outside tennis court users as a matter of concern.

A wide ranging debate ensued on this area as music was used by padel coaches and now by occasional members as well. There was the issue of it also being done on the outside tennis

courts. The padel culture is one to include music but this is often at padel only facilities and indoors but is also played at tournaments too. It was felt that a complete ban was probably too draconian at this stage so the proposed guidelines were that music should be noise level appropriate and lyric appropriate and the default was that if other padel or tennis players requested it to be turned off then that would be the final position.

This would also be drafted into the next version of by-laws.

Fraudulent use of the padel courts was again discussed by the board.

Padel committee noted another instance of a member booking a court for four friends and not attending themselves and again giving gate and locker access to non members who then returned the next day without booking and were ejected by RC and Pete Kular. This practice needs to be urgently addressed to prevent it getting out of hand at weekends and in the summer.

The board also discussed the pricing issue of when all four players are not named that additional charges are made including for singles play.

### **Governance**

MB had drafted a first version of club padel by-laws which had been circulated to the committee and copied to Steve Chilvers for his input.

Once replies had been collated and incorporated by MB then a second version would be sent out to all parties for a further review.

Various matters arising from this meeting would also be incorporated into the second draft.

### **Padel metrics**

March final position and flash April data had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

All key statistics were significantly up given better weather:

Utilisation 47 % (Mar 36%) ( cumulative 31%)

Played in month 359 (Mar 288); Guests 176 (146); 41 net new Pay & Play (PP) now totalling 181

Income in month £11.8k (Mar £6.9k) and cumulative £44.7k

The big increase is also attributed to a big spike in PP sessions which emphasises the importance of PP participation and retention.

RC commented that May's mix might reduce for the reason of a large backlog in league matches due to end mid June which were typically being left to the last moment.

Average cumulative club income per session is currently at £17.08 (last month £16.50) against financial target model of £18 per session.

### **Pay and Play**

PP registration numbers continue to rise reaching 181 at the end of April and a small number had reverted to being full members albeit none this month.

There was still no active engagement by the club with the PP community.

JS commented that given their financial importance that we need to perhaps set up a PP league perhaps at the weekend or for PPs to be included in the internal leagues.

It was noted that this might be difficult to administer and also that we had no sense of PPs level of ability or whether they wished to participate in a more structured competitive format.

Other options might be to run a small PP weekend mini tournament event to gauge interest or to set up a PP social slot at the weekend. If this was done at 12pm it could follow the Sunday social and allow for time in the bar until 2pm afterwards. On this point LL felt if weekends were going to be promoted then longer bar opening hours might be necessary. RC also observed that a few more PPs were coming up to the bar after a game but the footfall was still much lighter than wished. LL suggested we think of a scheme such as offering a voucher for a PP once they had booked say 5 sessions to encourage using the bar and restaurant. We would need to look at terms and conditions and admin practicalities but agreed that this was definitely worth exploring.

We need to formulate communication with PP group on these various options to test the water.

This engagement is becoming critical as we already have this base but do not wish to lose them and DS noted that nearby facilities( Wombourne had just opened at £32 and The Mount opening shortly at £24) were lower pricing options and Bradshaws would presumably be similar.

Another matter on PPs was their booking slot of 7 days in advance and although it was not appropriate for them to enjoy the 14 day window of members perhaps they should have that timeframe for booking club sessions. This would need to be explored alongside technical issues of Mycourts to determine feasibility.

### **Padel marketing**

MB updated the meeting on marketing developments.

Website still in progress. MB had met with Georgia and Early weekday play discount had been promoted on most recent Friday socials and would be pushed again.

We still need to consider other promotions using this platform.

RC suggested a Friday 12pm ladies social plus lunch as it was usually a relatively quiet slot and that Leon could run it. MB would liaise with NP on mechanics and marketing.

First corporate event taking place on Friday; Reformer Pilates club with 12 beginner padel ladies having coaching with MH and then lunching at the club.

There followed a discussion on corporate padel led by DS who had attended a few such events.

DS had set up a scoping meeting with Padel Mix; corporate events/ coaching and padel equipment provider based in Cheltenham who had run the events used by his company.

Meeting set for Thursday 7 May; DS,NP,RC,JS and MB would attend.

DS stated that they would take all the administrative burden out of the process of marketing and setting up such events and we could provide courts and catering facilities to give us good business without the other factors.

DS also outlined that they have a range of rackets and balls that could be provided at highly competitive prices albeit we would need to work this arrangement out alongside the ongoing discussions with Racketworld for the shop.

Full discussion to be had at next meeting.

### **Padel internal leagues**

MH had provided in his absence via email an outline of the latest position on the leagues.

Second round of matches had started slowly only 31 completed per MH.

MH will send an email next week to prompt action on arranging matches in good time.

### **Padel programme**

MH had also emailed on the status of the programme which was now seeing all sessions pretty much fully booked with some waiting lists.

At present some day sessions are running with 15 not 12 to accommodate numbers but we need to be mindful of too much sitting out especially if attendees are paying a premium.

Some negative feedback on Wednesday social at 7.30pm which had been extended to 10 but given cooler weather players were understandably more frustrated if sitting out in the evening and an extension to three courts had been requested.

This proposition was discussed at length in the context of the court capacity and the amount of sessions for social padel and the following was proposed:

Wednesday social increase to 3 courts

Friday Improvers ; cease session as sometimes not full

Sunday social increase to 3 courts

This would need some further feedback especially from MH and take a few weeks to implement in any case.

### **Padel courts and grounds**

Vending machine was working well in the pod.

New storage boxes were courtside for keeping equipment and valuables dry.

Digital clock was not losing time.

MH had requested more sanding on courts 1&2.

Glass had recently been cleaned on all 3 courts.

Occasional issues with lockers bats and balls but generally working okay.

LL requested we investigate netting or something for the canalside of the courts to prevent balls being lost.

It was also noted that the area behind the hedge was potentially hazardous for players trying to recover balls so may need to be looked at and improved.

MH had noted that better signage was needed for the padel gate which was agreed.

### **Any other business**

One matter of AOB which was a request from MH to have an initial discussion on the Padel club championships; only item to date was a finals day set for mid September by MH.

A range of discussions were briefly had on number of events/draws/format of finals day/entry fees etc and it was felt a sub-committee was best placed to oversee this matter.

MH would need to play a role and RC,LL and DS agreed to be part of this body.

They would try to discuss before next meeting so the project could be developed further.

### **Next meetings**

Provisionally set for Wednesday 3 June at 5pm ( Board 15 June)

8 July ( Board 20 July)

5 August ( Board 17 August)

9 September ( Board 21 September)