

Padel committee meeting 8 July 2026

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

Apologies: M Hughes (MH)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Previous minutes

- Reviewed and approved as drafted

Safeguarding and health & safety

- No new matters arising; some minor court issues

Board matters

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

Padel governance

- By-laws finalised; can be put in pod and on website

Padel metrics

- June headline data reviewed and May key statistics discussed
- Options for improving utilisation of courts

Pay and Play

- Format for reception to contact agreed and to be rolled out

Marketing

- Update on recent events and reconsider new and previous initiatives

Internal leagues

- Second league finalised; Third league launched

Padel programme

- Issues arising from Leon Smith's departure and programme in general

Padel pod and grounds

- Vending machine problems resolved; laminated signs now ready

Club championship

- Update on progress; sub committee to meet in interim

AOB

- No other matters raised

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N Prosser (NP)

Apologies: M Hughes (MH)

Agenda circulated in advance of meeting.

Last minutes – approved as seen.

Safeguarding and health and safety

No matters reported.

DS commented that right corner of 1 was lifting and gapping and MH had previously stated back of court 2 needed looking at. NP had arranged an upcoming visit from Alan Jordan to assess these matters so update at next meeting.

Padel board matters

MB listed the following issues from the June main board:

Financials were still strong; profit of £36k for 8 months to May.

A formal code of disciplinary procedure had been drafted which would assist in tackling issues and abuses in a more systemic way.

Leon Smith was leaving the padel coaching team and various discussions were held on the consequences of this for the padel programme.

A script for engaging with the PP community was being worked on by MB.

MB gave an initial briefing on the format of first Padel finals day on September 12th.

Governance

Final version of by-laws had been circulated and approved.

NP to arrange for display in pod and on website in due course.

Padel metrics

May final position and flash June data had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Most statistics were slightly down and especially guest numbers but this was against May which had been the best month to date:

Utilisation **46 %** (May 48%) (cumulative **34%**)

Played in month **349** (May 359); Guests **176** (232); **25** net new Pay & Play (PP) now totalling **239**

Income in month **£8.6k** (May £9.5k) and cumulative **£63k**

Average cumulative club income per session remains at £18.80 (last month £18.80) against financial target model of £18 per session.

The reasons for the slippage are probably various with the opening of the Mount Padel being the prime factor but it led onto a wider discussion on utilisation of the courts and marketing.

We have clearly identifiable areas of minimal usage which despite pricing offers and albeit relatively light marketing have not improved the situation even in good weather to any degree.

Member engagement is reasonable with leagues, club tournament, social games and classes but it is hard to see the level increasing much more and if that is the case then the court usage as per DS may have broadly plateaued especially given the recent good weather.

This developed into a discussion on whether we were happy with the existing model or if it needed change (if that was a viable option) to increase utilisation in early morning and afternoons. It was not known why we were not using the Playtomic platform albeit that must have been in the original discussions. MB to speak to Steve Chilvers to find out about these matters and others would look at the Playtomic app and how it might function.

The reasons possibly for considering Playtomic are its greater outreach to the padel community which would be far more than any of our marketing could achieve to fill up some degree of the unused court time. The Playtomic rating system would be more widely understood than Padel Levels and might attract players so their matches count towards ratings which currently precludes us as a venue. Furthermore we now have approaching one year of data to assess how to best accommodate members and non-members in the overall system.

Pay and Play

PP registration numbers continue to rise reaching 239 at the end of June.

Steve Chilvers had emailed MB a complete list of PP members for purposes of contacting them.

The list shows how many times they have individually booked a court but it takes no account of them playing in classes.

MB had sorted these players into categories (never booked, booked once, 2-5 times and more than 6 times) and a separate simple script devised for each category.

This had been passed on to reception for action. Their feedback was that cold calling was usually extremely difficult and unproductive so a simple form with easy completion had been set up to message the PPs directly and this approach would also allow for easier collation of feedback.

This will be started in the next few weeks and MB will report back at the next meeting.

Padel marketing

No update from Padel Mix so NP to chase up a response.

MB had forwarded an email from Georgia Crowe asking for marketing content so committee members were asked to consider what needs promoting in a six week cycle.

Two padel birthday parties had been held which had been a success with good uptake in the bar and restaurant after playing.

It was felt that social media marketing was hard to follow depending on whether Facebook or Instagram was used and what achieved the best target audience.

LL returned to the topic of students using courts whilst back for summer. She would look at devising a poster but would have to be book and pay in reception if there was traction.

MB to follow up on whether we can get schools involved for the next term.

Simon Calrow had hosted an informal event on a Sunday afternoon inviting friends from the running club which had gone well and promoted the club.

Padel internal leagues

In MH absence MB gave a brief update on the leagues.

Second round completed – 140 players in 11 leagues and 35 pairs had played all matches.

Prize draw had been done during tennis finals day.

Although originally there was to be a break MH has launched next round which runs to 23 November and again has 11 leagues.

MB was asked to find out how many hours of admin are involved in running the leagues.

Padel programme

The key note was that Leon Smith had taken up the coaching position at the Mount which excluded him from any padel coaching here so some revision of the team and programme would be necessary.

It was noted that the current programme was relatively light and there was minimal individual coaching and there was essentially no defacto head of padel. This led to a low department cost but inevitable lack of accountability in monitoring and covering sessions. Currently RC and JS are doing member led sessions as this coming weekend but this cannot be a long-term situation

Megan Davies had been informally approached by some committee members and expressed interest in joining the padel team. Given her tennis coaching level she would automatically as a Level 1 coach at Padel and Level 2 accreditation would require a course attendance and then a few months of practical work.

It was agreed that if interested that Megan should do the course as a matter of priority. It was understood that local courses at Sutton were available in August and September. RC commented that it might be possible to get LTA funding for the course as they were keen to promote female padel coaching. DS warned against taking funding as it might bring Megan into the LTA orbit. All of this needs further consideration.

MH had suggested via committee app to part fund the course and pay a modest retainer to cover admin and for him to play a mentoring role. This would need further discussion between the relevant parties.

In turn this brought up the question of a padel retainer as a means to create accountability and responsibility in a central role as part of this rethink of the programme.

DS had already sent an outline of a lead role to JS/MB and it was agreed that this needed to be looked at alongside financials as part of any offering.

MB would speak to Steve Chilvers initially on this matter.

Padel courts and grounds

There had been issues with the vending machine being broken and also out of padel balls.

Problem due to service engineer re programming the machine incorrectly which had now been resolved and more balls were to be stocked and checked more regularly.

Laminated signs were now ready for the front gate.

Court issues as previously discussed would be assessed by Alan Jordan from the contractors and reviewed at the next meeting.

Club championships

Limited discussion held on club champs due to time and the following were key updates:

Entry

Unisex 81 pairs and mixed 31 pairs. Unisex A/B/C draws and Mixed A and B

Income £1,120 plus £300 SITU sponsorship giving £1,420 to cover tournament.

Finals Day

Too many matches for semis and finals to be played on same day so only finals ; 10 in total.

Trophies being sourced by DS; combination of medals and towels (as proved popular at tennis finals day). All finalists to receive some award

Honours boards to be situated in the pod unless room in main hall by removing old events.

LL is working at finding a DJ for finals day.

LL will contact Relocatable Structures regarding extra seating for finals day.

Sub committee

Agreed that sub-committee meet in the interim to update on format of finals day and matters such as seating and viewing , catering and other on the day entertainments. Discussion in full at the August meeting to finalise.

Any other business

No matters raised

Next meetings

Provisionally set for Wednesday at 5pm on:

5 August (Board 17 August)

9 September (Board 21 September)

7 October (Board 19 October)

