

Padel committee meeting 5 August 2026

Present : M Brown (MB), R Chipperfield (RC), J Samra (JS), L Lazarou (LL), M Hughes (MH)

Apologies: N Prosser (NP), D Sidaway (DS)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Previous minutes

- Reviewed and approved as drafted

Safeguarding and health & safety

- No new matters arising; one accident reported

Board matters

- MB updated on board related matters specific to padel
- Noise levels (Barnt Green issue) and pricing

Padel governance

- No new matters

Padel metrics

- July headline data reviewed and June key statistics discussed

Pay and Play

- No discussion at this meeting

Marketing

- No discussion at this meeting

Internal leagues

- No discussion at this meeting

Padel programme

- Update on Megan Davies

Padel pod and grounds

- Vending machine issues
- Court surface issues

Club championship

- Update on progress; format of finals day

AOB

- No other matters raised

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Apologies: N Prosser (NP), D Sidaway (DS)

Agenda and metrics circulated in advance of meeting.

Last minutes – approved as seen.

Safeguarding and health and safety

No safeguarding matters reported.

One accident noted; RC in Padel Matchplay session had hit his head badly on the glass at back of court 2. Head was bandaged and no ongoing issues. Incident logged in book.

Padel board matters

MB listed the following issues from the June main board:

Noise levels were raised again especially in conjunction with the successful claim of £50k against Barnt Green by a difficult neighbour due to excessive noise and music.

The complainant had used a different environmental body to that used for the planning authority so the club needed to be on guard as our report was the same as originally used by Barnt Green and did not include music in the testing.

The matter was discussed at some length with the following possible solutions arising:

Limit music to specific sessions such as Corporate or coaching or tournaments eg finals day

Apply a cut off limit of say 7.30pm albeit that still gives issues with level of noise pre that time

Approach neighbours for agreement; potential though for triggering action by them

A definitive total ban on all music at all times

No overall agreement so will be raised again and no doubt discussed at the Board as there is a steady trickle of members complaints on this issue.

The board had also looked at future pricing of padel courts and the committee was asked to consider this in light of the current local marketplace. This question was debated fully but no conclusions reached at this stage.

Governance

NP to arrange for by-laws to be displayed in pod and on website in due course.

Padel metrics

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

All statistics were marginally up on previous month when adjusted prorated for a five week reporting period:

Utilisation **48 %** (June 46%) (cumulative **36%**)

Played in month **365** (June 349); Guests **213** (176); **16** net new Pay & Play (PP) now totalling **255**

Income in month **£11.1k** (June £8.6k; 4 weeks) and cumulative **£74k**

Pay and Play

PP registration numbers continue to rise reaching 255 at the end of July.

No update on PP survey so MB will report back at the next meeting.

Padel marketing

No update at this meeting.

Padel internal leagues

No update at this meeting.

Padel programme

The main issue from the last meeting was the position of Megan Davies potentially joining the padel team and doing a Level 2 coaching course.

A meeting had recently been held with Megan, MB, Steve Chilvers and Graham Loader. This established that Megan would like to do the Level 2 course and had already booked on a Worcester course. It was likely that the accreditation would be achievable by the end of September. In the interim given her tennis experience it would be possible for Megan to run basic social and beginner classes to gain this knowledge to complement her Level 2 work.

This would enable the light programme to continue as Mike Harris was now leaving as well as Leon so cover was needed for sessions as MH had other commitments at times and Darren Lewis could not seem to commit any more time. MB acknowledged the support of RC and JS who had run various member-led sessions when no coach was available at the weekend.

Padel courts and grounds

There were ongoing issues with the vending machine not operating still and the machine running out of stocks of food/drink and padel balls by the end of the weekend in particular.

Internet signal problems may cause the malfunctioning and it was agreed to put up a simple sign so people were not afraid to reboot the machine by turning it on and off if it was not working

System needs to be worked out with reception on restocking as it certainly should be checked on Saturday lunchtime before reception closes to avoid weekend issues. Question raised whether low stocks can be monitored by Pam Hart as sales are electronic. Another factor is players inadvertently buying tennis balls rather than padel and it was agreed to put clear signage up and probably reduce tennis balls to one row to avoid confusion as they must be low sellers.

Flooring experts had visited on 30 July as part of the maintenance programme and had carried out the following repair work:

Court 1 – T section levelled and glued down better and right corner gapping closed

Court 2 – Gap on right back corner now flush

Sand left on court 1 gradually bedded in but had raised member issues with slippiness.

In these extreme weather conditions sand will inevitably rise and groundstaff do negligible maintenance of the padel courts. For this to be done more regularly MH explained a type of petrol mower would be needed so it could become a weekly job in summer months.

Club championships

Subcommittee had been reviewing the event and finals day and the following matters arose:

Progress

Most on schedule. Latest tournament status posted on sheets in the pod so can be monitored. Committee will make decisions on who goes through in the event of disputes on arranging matches and it was agreed that pairs unable to play on finals day must concede at semi final stage as finals will only be played on Saturday 12 September.

Budget

DS was in charge of finances and was sourcing trophies/towels/honours boards.

Sponsorship

DS will provide pull up banners to promote SITU Group sponsorship on the day.

Initial promotion

LL to devise a big Save The Date poster to be put on padel entrance gate and then change the poster in the following weeks to drip feed details of the format of the day.

Normal channels of Facebook/email/Instagram to be utilised later with Georgia's involvement and need to book Georgia for the day for photographs etc.

Catering

This will be done in house with a bar and food hub to be situated on the grass courts.

Regarding food LL asked if the catering team could consider a change in menu from barbecue and burgers to something which could work down on the grass courts. Suggestions were for burritos/tacos and Spanish themed food given padel's roots and also for consideration to be given to vegetarian/vegan/gluten free options. MB to discuss with NP.

Other entertainment

LL had sourced a DJ for £300 for the day and was still working on possibility of a bouncy castle.

Clayton had agreed to run Touch tennis on Courts 3/4/5 during the afternoon.

Order of play

Provisional ideas were for play to start at 10am and last finals at 6pm with main mixed final in middle of day and concluding with unisex A finals.

JS proposed main and plate events of the same draw to be played at the same time. Agreed.

There may be multiple finalists so schedule will need compiling nearer finals day.

Timing of presentations; present as we go or at halfway for three events or all at the end. All had merits so will be reviewed at next meeting.

Numbers

Hard to predict as first event and dependent on weather, support network of finalists and the level of marketing.

Seating and viewing

Given uncertainty on numbers the outline plan is to use subject to permission the squash seating on the canalside back and tennis indoor seating on the empty court 2. Any other chairs and benches could be alongside courts 1&3. Viewing also from the marquee on the grass courts. Scoreboards; use indoor tennis ones as can be wheeled in and check for best viewing position and may need names of finalists to be done.

Court supervisors

Team of say 5 or 6 needed to update scores and oversee issues and disputes.

Sub committee

Sub-committee to liaise regularly in August on progress on these matters.

Any other business

No matters raised

Next meetings

Provisionally set for Wednesday at 5pm on:

2 September (Board 14 September); MB away for Padel meeting as Board rearranged

7 October (Board 19 October)

7 November (Board 19 November)