

Padel committee meeting 9 September 2026

Present : M Brown (MB), J Samra (JS), L Lazarou (LL), M Hughes (MH), N Prosser (NP).

By invitation: S Chilvers (SC)

Apologies: R Chipperfield, D Sidaway (DS)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Previous minutes

- Reviewed and approved as drafted

Safeguarding and health & safety

- No new matters arising

Board matters

- MB updated on board related matters specific to padel
- Whatsapp set up/Corporate flyer/Ongoing court booking abuse/Members pricing

Padel governance

- Whatsapp group policies; discuss at next meeting

Padel metrics

- August headline data reviewed and July key statistics discussed

Pay and Play

- No specific discussion at this meeting; See Club Chairman's comments in AOB

Marketing

- No discussion at this meeting but covered in AOB with Club Chairman

Internal leagues

- No discussion at this meeting

Padel programme

- Revisions to programme classes and pricing and issues on running the programme

Padel pod and grounds

- No discussion in September

Club championship

- Last discussion on matters relating to Champs finals day

AOB

- Observations from the Chairman
- Questions to the Chairman

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By invitation: S Chilvers (SC)

Apologies: R Chipperfield (RC), D Sidaway (DS)

Agenda and metrics circulated in advance of meeting.

Steve Chilvers had been invited to attend this meeting.

Last minutes – approved as seen.

Safeguarding and health and safety

No safeguarding matters reported. No health and safety matters arising this month.

Padel board matters

MB listed the following issues from the August main board:

Specific Whatsapp groups had finally been set up and the padel uptake was reasonable in the first few days with about 70 members. SC, NP and MB were admin. Rules and policies to be devised for use and policing.

Racketworld to attend on Padel Finals Day.

Initial corporate marketing flyer had been done and sent out online. Price of £50 plus VAT was considered to be on the low side. Wolves Ladies having a corporate afternoon soon.

Ongoing security and bookings misuse taking place still. SC and NP were aware of the main offenders and with the new disciplinary procedures it was agreed that more enforcement would take place. Pete Kular had handled some situations well but there were some matters that might require more formal handling and even require Martin Kaye as HR experts to resolve.

Members' court prices would be held for now but kept under review.

Governance

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

A discussion would be held next meeting on Whatsapp group rules and policies.

Padel metrics

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

All statistics were broadly similar to previous month when adjusted prorata for a four/ five week reporting period where appropriate. Weather was still a big factor in August when club is quiet.

Utilisation **47%** (July 48%) (cumulative **37%**)

Played in month **358** (July 365); Guests **244** (213); **27** net new Pay & Play (PP) now totalling **282**

Income in month **£9.4k** (July £11.1k; 5 weeks) and cumulative **£84k**

Average income per session £18.80

Pay and Play

PP registration numbers continue to rise reaching 282 at the end of August.

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

Padel marketing

Marketing covered this month in AOB and questions to the Chairman.

Padel internal leagues

No update at this meeting; discuss next month as not finishing until end of November.

Padel programme

MB had circulated a document prior to meeting outlining the existing programme and questions regarding any changes in numbers/pricing/consistency of terms and cancellation/cover issues.

It was agreed that after these discussions that MH should arrange a meeting with Darren and Megan to get their input to the ideas put forward so a final committee decision could be made at the October meeting.

MH felt the number of classes was about right as it was a light program and members were already used to organising their own games as well. Darren had the only prime time slots so any new classes would need to be offpeak as weekday evenings were generally fully booked.

We cater for Beginners/Improvers/Social/Matchplay but have no designated ladies or junior slots which might fit into offpeak and could be something that might work with Megan's schedule depending on the priority of her tennis commitments.

Class pricing was discussed at length and there seemed no rationale to weekend classes being £3 compared to weekday at £6. It was agreed that all classes with a coach lead should be £6 and if member/volunteer led then it would be priced at £3 then there was at least consistency.

It was noted that this change would need far better management of the program so that at least one if not two weeks ahead the staffing was known. SC stated that it would require someone to be in charge of the programme for this to work.

It was acknowledged that the programme had not worked well for the last two months with lack of cover/lack of coaches and repeated late cancellations and attendees not informed in time.

The Padel Coaches group chat had been in use for this purpose but was not really controlling the situation as direct accountability was missing.

Numbers need to be fixed to 8s and 12s as if prices are increasing then it is not appropriate for players to be sitting out especially as weather worsens.

There was a general discussion on the names given to classes and that the player level was reasonable as there had been feedback of much weaker players making sessions difficult for coaches and participants alike. The player standard as used on Mycourts needs to be reconsidered by the coaches who will have the best experience of this matter.

SC commented that Padel Levels had been utilised effectively at East Glos for their padel programme. MH originally had admin rights to give a player assessment and some WLTSC

players were on Padel Levels but it was agreed that another push was needed to try to harvest more support for use in setting appropriate playing standards.

Regarding class names it was felt that Activate was an outlier and should be rebranded as Improvers. The term 'Social' was more problematic as it might appear to vary from an old-fashioned mix-in to an Americano style tournament or something in between depending on the level of coaching content as well. Coaches need to give input on this subject after meeting.

Administration of the cancellation process was revisited and SC reminded all that NP was the ultimate arbiter of cancellation and refunds if the courts were deemed unplayable. The window of cancellation was still an issue as to low numbers or weather and that class attendees were informed of the decision on a timely basis by phone messaging not email to avoid visiting the club to find the session called off. This policy needs working through and then administering in some form to ensure the problems of recent months are not replicated.

Padel courts and grounds

No discussion at this meeting due to time.

Club championships

Final checklist of items pre finals day on 12th was run through as follows:

Progress

No major problems foreseen; MH/LL had checked status pre this meeting. 6 of 10 finals complete already and others in hand and walkovers will be enforced if someone cannot now play a semi-final. LL to email NP latest schedule by Wednesday so promotion can take place.

Budget

DS was in charge of finances and had sourced trophies and prizes. Stored in NP office.

Spare budget as no DJ (see below) so LL would organise goodie bags (Padel Party Package) and would buy directly and supply receipts rather than use club items.

Racketworld

Disappointingly had pulled out today on promoting themselves on Finals day.

Promotion

LL had devised a Save The Date poster as well as a Finals Order of Play poster. This will be sent out via normal channels from tomorrow.

Georgia only able to attend for a few hours in the morning so SC kindly agreed to assist with photography at the presentation stages of the day.

Catering

This will be done in house with a bar and food hub to be situated on the grass courts. MB had discussed with NP and catering was slimmed down to make it more workable on the day as no outside contractors. Hot drinks to be provided from the bar as no means of serving nearer other than using urns which was rejected. Piran Rolls and his girlfriend to host a cake stand with proceeds to charity and 20% to club's SEND fund. Request for other cakes to go out as matter of urgency.

Other entertainment

LL had been let down by the DJ so speaker to be used with a family friendly playlist.

Clayton running the Touch tennis on Courts 3/4/5 during the afternoon. Courts booked.

As spare budget LL to liaise with NP and shop on kids prizes as various slow moving items could be utilised for this purpose.

Order of play

LL was in charge of the order of play and would liaise with MH on issues.

Agreed that LL/MH would contact finalists to remind them of times. Do Thursday or Friday latest

Leave Megan on order of play although Jayden playing in exhibition for A consolation final.

Presentation times as below to be put on poster.

Presentations to be made at 1pm and at close of play. Check with finalists before playing if they have to leave so that some may be done separately (will apply to Jameses in 10am final).

Tony Pinson will be at the club from 1pm to do presentations alongside SC as chairman.

Microphone (Bluetooth) to be used to announce finalists before playing.

LL to do finalists names to put on scoreboards (wheelie boards from indoor tennis).

Numbers

Hard to predict as first event and dependent on weather, support network of finalists and the level of marketing. Current forecast for some rain.

Seating and viewing

Groundstaff setting up during the week. Marquee already on grass court. NP will monitor and be on site from 8.30am on Saturday.

Court supervisors

MH had put on Tennis Umpires group chat for assistance but only John Williams can do it at present. Perhaps just use supervisors for main finals as committee could rotate and cover this as only needs a light touch and keeping game score. No umpires chairs required.

Other matters

As stated numbers are uncertain but school have been informed as to parking and NP would contact neighbours as courtesy that noise might be greater than normal 10-6ish on Saturday.

Any other business

SC addressed the meeting prior to questions and covered the following areas:

The challenge of other local venues opening was still a potential concern. However in August the Pay & Play bookings had reached new peak levels so The Mount's start up had not damaged the financials. There were factors at the Mount of its setting and sun direction and recent flooding that may have played a part. Furthermore Bradshaws will be another challenge on the horizon potentially in terms of pricing.

SC displayed various graphs emphasising again the criticality of PP participation to our financial model. The PP community is still a largely unknown group and reregistrations will be coming up mid November so he felt we need to improve communication and publicise the classes better and try to run a PP padel tournament/event. MB/MH undertook to investigate the means of doing this as would need to be outside the Mycourts platform for booking and paying. There would be weekend court availability to host such an event.

The other area would be the improved utilisation of offpeak court times. This could be addressed by more corporate or member events. Padel birthday parties had already been held and members playing followed by Sunday lunch had proved this could work. A corporate flyer had been developed and circulated. LL raised possibility of members working from the club on certain days might use the courts if a package could be developed. NP had been approached by Bereaved Compton Hospice kids team about offering courts which would be part funded.

JS enquired as to whether it was feasible to repay some members debentures earlier subject to agreement to save interest as this would be a large part of the final debt repayment. SC countered that this was not the operating model but it could be considered.

JS also raised the question of tackling the court booking abuses with an immediate financial penalty which would be greater if the perpetrator was a member of staff or coaching. SC stated that the new Disciplinary code for the club was being finalised with the club's advisors so that a formal process would be in place. The identifying, proving and policing of these abuses was fraught with difficulty given the poor quality of CCTV in any case. SC referred to a recent visit to Edgbaston Priory club who have the same issues with their padel courts and are wrestling with just how far to go in terms of surveillance relative to the number of incidents of fraudulent bookings by members. This matter will be ongoing.

Meeting ended.

Next meetings

Provisionally set for Wednesday at 5pm on:

7 October (Board 19 October)

4 November (Board 16 November)

9 December (Board 21 December)