

Padel committee meeting 7 October 2026

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

Apologies: J Samra (JS)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Previous minutes

- Reviewed and approved as drafted

Safeguarding and health & safety

- No safeguarding matters
- One H&S incident; bad fall but member now okay

Board matters

- MB updated on board related matters specific to padel
- Ongoing metrics/ Program issues / Finals day reactions

Padel governance

- Whatsapp group update and discussion on best usage and format

Padel metrics

- September headline data reviewed and August key statistics discussed

Pay and Play

- Decline in registrations and bookings; need for better engagement

Marketing

Little activity; no new corporate bookings

Internal leagues

- Large backlog of matches but runs to 23 November; MH to prompt action

Padel programme

- Agreed revisions to classes and pricing and issues on running the programme

Padel pod and grounds

- Problems with lights, hopefully resolved. Barrier for car headlights discussed.

Club championship

- Successful finals day; detailed debrief at next meeting

AOB

- Padel package add-on to normal subscription

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Agenda and metrics circulated in advance of meeting.

Last minutes – approved as seen.

Safeguarding and health and safety

No safeguarding matters reported.

One incident of member falling (Gemma Hollinshead); effectively trod on ball but was faint etc from the fall but now fine per MH. NP to confirm logged in Accident book.

Padel board matters

MB listed the following issues from the September main board:

Padel metrics on track to achieve good first year broadly in line with expectations

Issues with running the program were noted; needed better co-ordination

First finals day had been a success and good takings £2k re food and drink.

RC commented on the extra work done by LL and DS on making the day extra special and MH thanked DS again for the corporate sponsorship.

Governance

The Whatsapp group was discussed as now running for one month and the following noted:

80 members approx. and no significant traffic apart from new members (Coombes) using it as a platform to find players as any member can post

NP stated the other club groups were restricted to admin postings but it was felt appropriate for padel to allow all to post to facilitate arranging games unless it got out of hand in which case the situation would need to be reviewed. LL commented that other padel venues had multiple groups based on classes and standards but it was felt this would only be necessary if the main group got overloaded with messages.

It was not clear what material should be put on the group and who should be able to post per MH. After consideration it was felt that tournaments, events, classes should be advertised and any of the padel coaches or committee could use it as a tool for promotion.

As noted given the lack of use in the first month there had not been any matters arising that would need monitoring or moderating but this would need to be kept under review.

Padel metrics

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

All statistics were down from the previous two record months perhaps inevitably as weather has become more mixed and local competition has increased with the Bradshaws opening albeit right at the end of September.

Utilisation **43%** (Aug 47%) (cumulative **38%**)

Played in month **280** (Aug 358); Guests **170** (244); **9** net new Pay & Play (PP) now totalling **291**

Income in month **£7.8k** (Aug £9.4k) and cumulative **£91k**

Average income per session £19

RC questioned the monthly and cumulative cost of padel admin (£2.7k to date). Some is the monthly cost of MH admin and previously DL admin; MB would contact Graham Loader and Pam Hart to get a breakdown for everyone's information.

Pay and Play

Lowest monthly rate of PP registration by far with only 9 sign-ups. Cumulative figure now 291.

In early October bookings the rate of PP usage has noticeable declined. In this Bradshaws may be a factor as their pricing is lower and they offer a subscription package to facilitate early bookings.

As previously stated we need to engage with PP more and to that end MH and MB will set up a PP only tournament on 24 October to hopefully encourage them to use the club more.

PP survey – no feedback to date.

Padel marketing

Marketing was still not particularly active and there had been no new corporate leads.

Padel internal leagues

Few matches had been played so far due to clashing with club championships and the long lead time to play as league finishes 23 November.

MH will issue a general prompt to all participants to remind them of the situation. Deadline could be extended into early December potentially and it would serve the purpose of keeping court usage by members filled up to some extent.

Padel programme

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

MH had tried as requested to meet with Darren Lewis (DL) and Megan Davies (MD) but this had met with little success. DL is hardly at the club and only engages through the Coaches app when there is a problem and MD feels she cannot commit at present for various reasons.

MB had spoken with MD on a few occasions and her issues concerned clarification on pay rates once her Level 2 qualification was completed together with an unease about the way the program was currently set up and run.

MB had already emailed the Executive committee on the rate which would be discussed at their next meeting and this committee was unanimous that there should be parity on Padel rates relating to qualification as well as wider coaching experience.

RC was of the opinion that the program had been somewhat shambolic in recent months with regular unavailability of coaches and lack of cover and late cancellations of sessions.

MH commented that over the first year that classes had been pretty full with over 80% capacity and it was a good income stream for the club albeit weekend classes at lower rates with a coach were sometimes losing money. The program was important for both members who perhaps did not play in regular fours and as an offering for PPs to attend classes and meet new players.

It was agreed that better co-ordination was needed and perhaps the padel admin cost once ascertained could be redeployed in this area.

The program items from the previous meeting were run through and the following agreed:

Relabel Activate as Improvers and have consistent narrative on Mycourts

Beginners sessions to be run adhoc by MH and could use 3 courts as typically morning/midday

Sat Social to be charged at £6 not £3 as would now be limited to 12 players not 15 so no standing out and charging to be consistent with weekday sessions if queried.

Sunday sessions not to be run automatically as struggling for numbers and often currently cannot be covered anyway. MH could put them on when he is here but likely to be away for a few weeks in November playing tennis.

Coach led sessions would always be £6 and member led sessions £3 where applicable.

It was felt that Saturday and Sundays sessions need to be rethought and to bring in Americano tournaments on either of those days as that might prove more popular.

This was debated after the last meeting and MH is running the first Americano on Sat 10th Oct with 12 players (inc 2 PPs). Next scheduled ones would be Americano PP only and Americano Beginners to try to improve weekend usage.

The question of tournaments prizes was considered and it was felt appropriate to use club champs surplus money to launch the initial events with a pot of £60 to cover 3 pairs and for the money to be put on the club card.

We will revisit the program once we have resolution on the MD position and the co-ordination role to try to agree a mutually beneficial way of integrating MD into the padel team.

Padel courts and grounds

Repeated issue with lights on court 2 tripping and not coming back on leading to disruptive play and the need to send refunds. Occasionally a factor on court 1 as well.

Per NP the electrician Chris had visited today and the problem had been resolved by moving the breakers around and the fault was unrelated to the pathlights as previously surmised. Situation

needs to be monitored and DS noted that the original drawings may need to be consulted if this does reoccur in any way.

With nights drawing in the prime time slots are increasingly being played in dark which also means the problem with car headlights coming down to the courts or whilst parked will become a factor for players as was noted last year.

DS stated that it would be possible to utilise the left over boarding from the tennis lighting to erect a screen to dispel the lights. Groundstaff would need to put deep posts into the ground with regard for car space and benches would need to be relocated. This would provide a relatively quick winter solution. A more aesthetical longer term fix could be some form of fringed fence and DS could get some costings on this when it was deemed appropriate.

Vending machine issues appear to be resolved and regular restocking taking place.

Club championships

No detailed debrief of club championships due to time; action at next meeting.

Any other business

DS raised the possibility of adding a Padel package on top of the existing membership. He was aware that this had been set up successfully at Stourbridge where there are only 2 courts albeit they have different members categories unlike WLTSC.

The model would be based on a one-off add-on to cover unlimited padel for a year. It would not give any extra advance booking privileges or free access to classes and tournaments. DS gave the illustration of 300 members paying £250 would yield £75k upfront which is a significant part of the annual income secured.

The scheme would depend on the pricing point and take-up as there would be winners and losers and it assumes that if restricted to a certain number that it might be taken up by members who hardly used it but the club would have banked income going into an unfavourable time of the year for outdoor padel.

Obviously it contains administrative and cultural factors that might be hard to manage and the functionality of Mycourts might be a hurdle as well but it was felt worth exploring.

DS would send MB an outline so the matter could be discussed further by this committee and the Board.

Meeting ended 18.30.

Next meetings

Provisionally set for Wednesday at 5pm on:

4 November (Board 16 November)

9 December (Board 21 December)

6 January (Board TBA)

