Padel committee meeting 4 November 2026

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Previous minutes

- Reviewed and approved as drafted

Safeguarding and health & safety

- No safeguarding matters
- Some slips and trips but nothing major noted

Board matters

- Change in policy on singles play and penalties
- Response to Sponsors/volunteers dinner
- Proposal for bolt-on padel package rejected

Padel governance

- Whatsapp group- no issues; Composition of 2027 committee

Padel metrics

- October headline data reviewed and September key statistics discussed

Pay and Play

- Still ongoing sign-ups; Hard to engage. No appetite for tournaments

Marketing

- No update at this meeting

Internal leagues

- Backlog of matches so extension to 11 December agreed
- Next league to start early February 2027 in similar format

Padel programme

- Discussion on the Megan Davies situation

Padel pod and grounds

- Lighting issues appear resolved; materials for car lights barrier obtained

Club championship

- Successful finals day; detailed debrief at next meeting

AOB

- No matters arising

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

Agenda and metrics circulated in advance of meeting.

Last minutes – approved as seen.

Safeguarding and health and safety

No safeguarding matters reported.

A few cases of slips and trips but nothing major was noted.

Padel board matters

MB listed the following issues from the October main board:

Padel metrics for first year were good and broadly as expected.

First finals day had gone well.

SC had decided to revise policy so that singles play was possible at padel at off peak times paying the full court rate and no penalties if four names were not put on the booking.

Committee agreed with this change.

Sponsors/Volunteers dinner to be held on 16 November. Committee leads to obtain numbers.

Padel to be included in the AGM booklet; MB will draft narrative for review.

Padel extra subscription package was rejected.

Governance

The Whatsapp group was still about 80 in number and operating as last month. No issues.

Padel committee needs to be formally proposed for the AGM in January. Current members to advise their position by next meeting and also consider if others should be added.

Padel metrics

All statistics were down from the previous month albeit still a better level than October 25 but we are more established now. Weather/half term/Bradshaws inevitably are playing some part.

Utilisation **38**% (Sept 43%) (cumulative **38**%)

Played in month **279** (Sept 280); Guests **164** (170); **12** net new Pay & Play (PP) now totalling **303**

Income in month **£7.4k** (Sept £7.8k); Sept 5 weeks. Cumulative **£7.4k**

MB had obtained a breakdown of padel admin which was 2025 held over costs 1.4k, Darren 0.9k and Marc 0.6k. Only repeat costs going forward would be Marc as Darren now does no admin.

Pay and Play

There continues to be ongoing PP registration with 12 October sign-ups. Cumulative figure 303.

Ongoing attempts to reach out to PPs has met with no success so far.

Over 250 emailed to register for a PP Americano in October with not a single response!

Padel marketing

No discussion at this meeting.

Padel internal leagues

Relatively few matches had been played so far despite the deadline of 23 November.

Agreed that an extension would be appropriate and settled on Friday 11 December.

MB will get MH to issue an update and announce extension date.

First league for 2027 to be set up for early February to give a suitable break.

Similar prizes to be in place and taken from champs surplus.

Need to watch admin as apparently Tom Savage is included twice.

Padel programme

There were still issues with the co-ordination and running of the program.

All the pricing and changes agreed at previous meeting had been updated by MH on Mycourts.

Megan Davies (MD) had now formally obtained her Level 2 coaching accreditation.

MB stated that there was still no resolution to MD's coaching rate and potential role.

November is already presenting difficulties as Darren is away for a period again at short notice and MH had given fair warning of his absence this month representing GB at tennis.

We have therefore been left with no choice but to cancel some classes and arrange member-led cover by JS and MB for some sessions which is not ideal.

It was therefore regarded as imperative that the MD position was clarified and MB was tasked with going back to Execs to make further representations as follows:

Parity of rate is required as MD now has Level 2 padel and has displayed skills at tennis coaching which would transfer to padel and be commensurate with that rate

MD is a constant and much greater presence at the club which should overcome many of the current issues on staffing of the program and its co-ordination and administration

Padel coaching rates are typically higher than tennis rates as they also are for sessions and courts so it is a dynamic of market forces to have a different rate

MB will copy the committee in on the email and report back.

Padel courts and grounds

No issues reported on lights since last meeting.

Already receiving negative feedback on the issue of car headlights with nights drawing in and prime time slots being played in dark.

As previously agreed DS had supplied the left over boarding from the indoor tennis lighting to the groundstaff to erect a screen to dispel the lights. Deep posts into the ground would be needed also with regard for car space and benches would need to be relocated. Screen would go completely across so ending the access to grass courts via the steps. This would provide a relatively quick winter solution.

A more aesthetical longer term fix could be some form of fringed fence.DS felt this might be more in the region of a £3k cost.

Club championships

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

Any other business

Nothing raised.

Meeting ended 18.30.

Next meetings

Provisionally set for Wednesday at 5pm on:

9 December (Board 21 December)

6 January (Board TBA)