



SURBITON METHODIST CHURCH TENNIS CLUB.

Draft Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 22nd September 2025

Present: D Fullbrook (Chair), L Bridges, M Golding, K Ingham, T Ingham, V Seward, J Manhire, L Cook, L Cooke, J Botterill, A Hutchings, M Golding, P Robson.

Opening Prayers. David opened the meeting with prayers.

Apologies M Turner.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June were approved subject to corrections discussed.

Matters arising: The committee reviewed the actions from the last meeting with most of them having been completed. The matters arising log was updated accordingly. Vicki undertook to share the committee minutes with members on the website. It was agreed that we should refresh the parasols in the spring and John took an action to throw out any broken parasols.

Captain: Terry congratulated Kathryn for organising a memorable 100th anniversary celebration which was very well attended and “made the club bounce”. The night before Lou had organised an excellent juniors party which finished under the floodlights. Lou was thanked for her hard work on junior tennis. David was also thanked for revamping the coaching programme and also organising for Kingston College’s elite tennis squad to rent our courts. We have agreed that they can keep their ball hoppers in the outside toilet and it was suggested that they purchased a padlock for them.

Finance: John reported that at the end of August 2024 we had close to £32,500 in the bank. At end August this year we had around £16,000 (after payment for the fencing). He reported that £12,300 came in from GWDA dance school alone and we had less than usual from SRFC as we had to reduce their court use

substantially. We had also paid £35,100 for the court resurfacing and £7,250 for fencing. It was noted that audit activity for the 2023/24 has not yet been completed but they will be reviewed at the forthcoming church Finance Committee and Church Council meetings and no issues are anticipated.

Grounds: John raised the issue of tree roots on court two and noted that the surface has been patched before but the tree roots have returned. It was agreed that Vicki would ask Roy for any recommendations and David would share the names of contractors we have used before with John. Marina also recommended a tree surgeon and agreed to share details with John. It was agreed that once a course of action has been established that David would speak to the neighbours.

David reported that the contractors have now completed the new fence between courts 2 and 3. This should prevent any “run off” danger between the two courts. This is the last of the currently planned capital expenditure projects. The new patio tables are being erected and the old restored and repainted by Eric . We owe a debt to both Eric and John for the work on this. David also reported that Eric had offered to repair the nets and the Committee thanked him for this.

David reported that there are a few smaller jobs that need addressing, such as the dip in the path up to the club and these will be done when resource allows. Len suggested that two contractors– Conway and Dance and David agreed to approach them for quotes

David reported that the latest working party repaired a hole in the container roof and discovered that there was a significant amount of moss on the roof and that it probably need some “tlc”. It was suggested that we consider putting a roof on the container and David agreed to speak to Chris Wood about this. .

Security at the club was discussed in the light of two incidents in the previous week where the outside toilet door was left unlocked overnight which could have resulted in unauthorised access and loss of equipment. It was agreed that Vicki should send out an email about security and also booking floodlights. The option of installing CCTV was discussed and Andy said that it would cost about £400 for 4 cameras with Les doing the installation and it was agreed that Andy and Les should install the cameras and also refresh the existing CCTV notice.

Projects: David reported that he has managed to get some coaching going with Jake – it is early days and he will continue to monitor. He also noted that floodlight use is increasing slowly.

Junior club: Lou reported that Juniors has finished for the season and finished with a fantastic party for junior members. She thanked the team who have supported each week including Karen, Joan, Linda, Lucy and Kathryn. The change of time to 630 to 8pm has worked well. She will aim to lock the dates in for next year early. The new coaching teaming has been a great success but she will also look for any additional coaching support from the Kingston College students next season.

New Members: Vicki shared the updated member numbers provided by Karen:

Membership Type	Count	Comments
Adult Playing	80	
Student	1	
Family Lead	9	
Additional Family Adult	11	
Family Junior	12	
Family Student	2	
Social	13	
Other	1	Minister
Junior Tennis Club 2025	47	Plus 3 adhoc guests

These figures include 5 new adult playing memberships and 1 family membership (2 adults, 2 children) who have joined since the last committee meeting.

Following feedback from Karen it was agreed that we should include the code to the floodlight box on the website. Jen agreed to review the state of cleanliness of the outside toilets. Karen also raise a potential crack in the recently laid asphalt (court 4 – far side of righthand net post area) and David agree to review

Social: It was noted that the 100th anniversary party had been successful and that there is a Ladies meal coming up in October. It was agreed we should

approach the minister about hosting Christmas Carols at the club (post meeting note – this is now in the diary for 13th December).

Catering and Cleaning: Nothing to report.

Tournaments: Jen reported that there were still tournaments to complete: Men's singles, Handicap Doubles and Veteran's singles. She noted that there had been more people in tournaments this year and that the super 10s had been popular.

Subscriptions: The committee discussed whether to increase subscriptions and given continued inflationary pressure and the level of investment in the club it was agreed to raise the playing member fee by £5 to £190 representing a 2.7% increase. Other memberships will be increased in line. We agreed to continue with the guest fee at £6. The visitor policy was checked in the Bye-Laws which state: *"Visitors may be introduced by members. The members must sign documentation provided for that purpose. Visitors may be introduced on a maximum of five occasions in the club year. The charge for each playing visitor shall be agreed at the annual general meeting."* It was agreed that there was no need to change the visitor policy. David took an action to speak to a member that has regular guests.

Committee nominations: It was agreed that we should ask anyone interested in joining the committee to contact David or Vicki.

AOB: Marina noted that the time of the Sunday morning service was changing at Surbiton Hill Methodist Church on a trial basis but would still be finished by 1230 so did not impact play at the club.

There was a discussion about updating John's history of the club which was commended at the anniversary party. There was no appetite to do this but John mentioned that he had some old videos of the club and Marina took an action to investigate a video night at the church.

Len requested the committee avoid letting the club when there are club meetings, specifically Wednesday morning tennis. Jen noted that this had only occurred with the Ballet school holiday clubs and it was agreed that the ballet school should be an exception given how much investment they fund into club. It was agreed to make sure members have good warning of their lettings.

It as noted that the Linda had replaced the No Smoking signs.

It was agreed that we should advise members to keep the gates closed to deter foxes chewing the nets and Linda agreed to put up a notice.

We understand that SRFC are interested in court lettings and we agreed to let them courts 5 and 6 from 10-1 on a Saturday morning and to apply an inflationary increase.

It was agreed that we should install a first aid kit on the wall of the club house so there is access to first aid if the club house is locked. David agreed to ask Chris to fit a second box next to the defibrillator.

Operation of timers for the club heating were discussed and Len suggested an option to be investigated by John and Terry

It was agreed that we should explore installing the WIFI at the club and David took an action to follow up on the two quotes he had obtained.

Marina noted that there would be article on the 100th anniversary of the club in the November edition of the The Good Life and that we might be called upon to provide a message.

Date of Next Meeting: To be arranged (likely January 2026).

Closing Prayers. The meeting closed with a prayer.