

NEWTON ABBOT TENNIS CLUB COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – 16 September 2026

Present: Andy Lloyd (Interim Chair), Doug Chalmers (Treasurer), Pauline Allsop (Membership Secretary), Brian Mackness, Mark Laughton, Ian Nightingale, Claire Andrew, Jane Comyns, Madeline Ramsey

Minutes of the last meeting: Andy Lloyd asked that the minutes be amended to show that, following Brian Mackness' statement that he is resigning as Chairman, he is willing to step in as an Interim Chairman until the AGM, which has been arranged for 24 November 2026 @ 7.30pm.

Matters Arising: Brian Mackness said that he will follow up the meeting with Martin Wridgley MP. He also stated that he has spoken to Louise Cook, NA Mayor regarding the future strategy of the club.

Update on Padel courts: Ian Nightingale said that he had a very good meeting with a representative from Padel United and they were very pleased with the condition of the courts overall. There is still a lot of research to do into this option. Ian stated that, although he is willing to project manage this, he needs help from others in the process.

Action: Doug will look at figures for various options going forward. Doug will approach a Padel building company to discuss costs. Andy will arrange a meeting with the Rec Trust, together with Brian and Doug to give a general update on plans.

Safeguarding update: It was noted that there were various events for children which were very well attended. The Committee would like to thank all members for the co-operation during this time around court usage.

There was a discussion regarding Safebreaks; a further grant had been received from SSFS. This would cover the shortfall and provide further funding until around the end of March 2027, depending on weather etc.

Leagues update: Work is underway for the Winter Leagues. Brian has agreed to produce a hard copy fixture list for these. The Committee would like to thank all team captains and league representatives for all their hard work.

Preparation for the AGM: It was agreed to incorporate this with the Finance Report.

Major fund raising: This was held over to the next meeting.

Finance Report: Doug stated that, at present, we are on budget but we need to take into account the increasing costs of utility bills etc. Doug is looking into alternative providers. We also need to look at costs for court 2 repairs which were not budgeted for this year but will need to be budgeted for next year.

The Tennis AGM will be held on Tuesday 24 November 2026 at 7.30pm in the Function Room.

Membership:

Membership numbers are remaining steady at the moment.

The need for a booking fee was discussed. It was agreed that this would be included in the Agenda for the AGM in conjunction with the annual membership increase.

The Committee has agreed to go ahead with the phasing out of Tennis Off-Peak membership from 1 December 2026. The Tennis Off-Peak option has not been available to new members this year and it is with regret that it has been necessary to take this decision. From 1 December 2026 Off-Peak members who pay monthly will be moved to full Adult membership on their monthly payment date, members who pay annually will be moved to the full adult membership on their renewal.

Action: Pauline will email Off-Peak members individually.

Reports from task leaders.

This was held over until next meeting.

Any Other Business

Clare Andrew raised the issue of turning the lights on and off in the Pavilion. The number courts available at Club Night was raised. Andy said for various historical reasons, it was decided to include this automatically with the court booking. In terms of court availability, with the exception of coaching use, all are available for club night.

There was a discussion regarding the Honours Board. Brian said that, at present, there are two Honours Boards, one in the Pavilion and one in the Bar and suggested that we focus on the one in the Pavilion. **Action: Ongoing**

Brian asked if we have enough cups for all leagues. Madeline said that she needs a Ladies' Doubles cup. Brian has kindly agreed to donate one. **Action: Madeline to liaise with Brian**

Madeline has also donated a cup.

The Committee thanks Brian and Madeline for their kind offers.

Doug said that he has the replacement bulb for the light. **Action: This is in hand.**

Doug said that the issue of PAC testing is in hand.

Doug said that he has the replacement bulb for one of the lights.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 26 October (pre AGM Meeting) @ 7.00pm. Room tbc.