

**CAMBER LAWN TENNIS CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,  
5pm, SUNDAY 1 MARCH 2026  
Venue: The Clubhouse**



**Draft Minutes of Camber Tennis Club Annual General Meeting, 1st March 2026, 5pm**  
**(Held in the Clubhouse)**

*Meeting started at 17:09*

**1. Attendees (44):**

**In Person:** Mel Carew, Chris Smith, Callum Higgins, Midge Beauchamp, Sandra Mackay, Judy Wright, Katie Gouyette, Jill Purkis, Fernando Chehtman, Randy Brazier, Adam Farley, Julia De Fabo, Reg Murphy, Ollie Morris, James Wright, Briony Cockerham, Franky Harding, Colin Mackay, Mark Challen, Kie-Ren Lau, Nick Bolt, Giacomo Hirschstein, Gianluca Santoro, Laurent Compagnon, Daniela Sbrisny, Helen Noakes, Marion Dewar, Becca Smith, Lena Grannell, Tessa Murphy, Nic Hellyer, James Stokes.

**Virtual:** Ioana Nica, Steph Mackay, Jonathon Cheung, Hilary Gomes, Herve Goffings, Sudir Jude Fernandez, Giulia Puccini, George Sin, James Stokes, Jonny Wood, Stephen Sin, Elisa Carrus.

**2. Apologies for absence:**

Laura Middleton-Guerard, Sami Mahmood

**3. Election of AGM Chair**

Unanimously agreed Mel would chair the meeting with no objection.

**4. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 5 March 2024**

Minutes from the 2025 AGM approved unanimously.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes**

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

**6. Committee Officer Reports - Questions from Members**

- a. No finance questions for Chris.
- b. Mel added to her report as chair giving thanks to Midge for cake and George for running the box.
- c. Nothing to add from Ollie on the membership side.
- d. Mel commented that Adam has done a good job as social sec. Nothing to

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add from him. Great job Adam! Claps from everyone.

- e. Mel grateful to the outgoing club secretary, particularly for his ability to master WhatsApp polls.

**7. Acceptance of Annual Accounts with Auditor's report**

Formally accepted unanimously with no objections.

**8. Determination of 2026/26 classes of membership and subscriptions**

Keeping the current membership prices and classes the same for the upcoming year approved unanimously.

**9. Committee Resolutions put to the AGM**

**Resolution 1: Replacement of courts 1 and 2 this year**

**Status: Approved.** The motion to replace the courts this year passed with a vast majority (unanimous in-room, majority online).

**Key Arguments for Replacement**

- Deterioration: While not currently "dangerous," the surface is wearing away, specifically on Court 1 and the back of Court 2.
- Functional Issues: Nick B. noted a gap forming underneath the surface.
- Aesthetics & Reputation: Randy highlighted that the current state looks poor for guests and opposing teams.
- Financial Logic: Colin confirmed funds are available. Chris noted that replacing both courts simultaneously is significantly cheaper than doing them separately.
- Urgency: Ioana and James Wright emphasized that the difference in playability is noticeable now, and delaying offers no clear benefit.

**Concerns & Mitigations**

- Maintenance vs. Replacement: George noted that pressure washing has helped, and some felt the courts have been less slippery recently.
- Safety & Liability: James Stokes raised liability concerns. The consensus is that while the courts are deteriorating, they are not currently hazardous.
- Slipperiness: Issues with algae and lack of sunshine were noted. Algae killer was suggested as an interim measure during the transition.

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- Court 2 Protection: Discussion held on implementing better protection for Court 2 to prevent the specific wear seen on the back of the court from recurring.

**Resolution**

The committee will move forward with the replacement of both courts this year to maximize cost-efficiency and restore the facility's standard.

**Resolution 2: What surface should we replace the courts with?**

**Status:** Decision reached to remain with porous acrylic courts as the replacement surface. The room was unanimously in favor of hard courts (with one abstention), while online the majority were for porous acrylic with only two online participants voting for artificial clay.

**Comparison of Options**

- Alternatives Explored: Chris noted that various surfaces like tarmac, non-porous acrylic, and artificial grass were considered, but the primary debate centered on porous acrylic vs. artificial clay.
- Artificial Clay: Recognized as the national "direction of travel." Pros include being softer on joints and allowing for sliding. Cons include maintenance issues (leaf blowing doesn't work on sand), changes to play style, and potential issues seen at other local clubs.
- Porous Acrylic: Favored for their "premium feel," excellent drainage, and familiarity. They are credited with providing a "home advantage" and contributing to the club's long waiting list.

**Key Member Perspectives**

- Performance & Playability: Nick B, James W, and Daniela preferred the feel and consistency of hard courts. Conversely, Ioana supported clay for its joint-friendly nature.
- Maintenance Concerns: Colin and Nick B highlighted that artificial clay requires sweeping and makes leaf removal (via airblower) difficult, which is a significant factor given the local environment.
- Strategic Advantages: Ollie noted that the current surface is popular with visiting clubs and offers a home advantage. George observed that Courts 1 and 2 (the current surface) remain the most popular.
- Weather Considerations: Daniela noted that white lines on hard courts stay frozen longer; Chris confirmed underfloor heating is

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not an option but will investigate line-specific solutions.

**Additional Proposals**

- Acoustic Fencing: Chris and Nick B suggested looking into acoustic fencing for Court 3 to mitigate noise issues.
- Surface Consistency: While some preferred a mixture of surfaces, others (like Ioana) expressed a preference for all three courts eventually being the same.

**Final Resolution**

The club will proceed with porous acrylic for the replacement project, reflecting the majority preference of the AGM.

**10. Members' Resolutions put to the AGM**

**a. Improvements to the court padlocks for easier court access (George Sin)**

- i. Suggestion that the court 1 padlock is problematic and should be replaced and that court 2 and 3 padlocks may need some oil.
- ii. Mel mentioned that the court 2 and 3 padlocks have recently had WD40 applied and should now be smooth as a baby's bottom.
- iii. Anyone can buy a replacement padlock for court 1.

**11. Election of Committee Members/Officers**

With the exception of the club secretary and social secretary the existing committee have all expressed an interest in carrying on in their roles. They were re-elected unanimously.

Franky Harding stood for the role of club secretary proposed by Mel and seconded by Callum. Despite an objection from Ollie she was elected unanimously.

The role of social secretary remains vacant. We did try to get Adam to continue but he wouldn't. Anyone interested in taking on this role please let the committee know.

**12. Election of Auditor**

Proposal that Ellen will be auditor again. Unanimous that Ellen will stay auditor.

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**13. Election of President and Vice-Presidents**

President will be Sandra and VP Midge again. Both voted in unanimously for their ability to dish out trophies effectively at the annual dinner.

**14. Any Other Business**

- a. Need to fix the steps up to the cricket club identified by Colin.
  - i. Agreed that we will discuss this at the next committee meeting.
- b. Question from Katie G on whether we could get a coffee machine.
  - i. The committee will explore this.
- c. Question on how easy it is to book the Dulwich Park courts while the club ones will be out of action.
  - i. Can be done via clubspark. James W commented that this is straightforward.

Meeting finished at 18:22. Only an hour and 15 minutes! A round of applause for the committee. Cake for everyone after the meeting.