

## Chairman's Report 2018

Membership remained very strong again last year which does put pressure on our Courts particularly at the busy Sunday Morning club sessions. The Sunday shield monthly competition which was affectionately known as the Tupper Trophy once again proved our most popular regular tennis event with the members. Ruth sadly has decided she no longer has the time to run this trophy. She has also been one of our longest standing committee members in her role as Ladies Captain and has this year decided to resign from this role and the committee. I would like to place on record both my thanks and that of all the committee for the hard work that Ruth has done for the club over the years. She excelled in welcoming new members to the club and helped them find the level of tennis they were comfortable with. My thanks now go to Mel for stepping in as Ladies Captain and also to Sarah James who is now organising Ladies practice on a Monday evening. Back to the Sunday shield though and I am very pleased to say that this first Sunday in the month fun tournament will now be run by Rose Lindsay. Maybe we might now call it the Rose bowl. Our Wednesday night sessions are also popular but have become quite male dominated of late so we would certainly appreciate a few more ladies turn up to even things up a bit. From the next bank holiday we will resume our summer Friday sessions again from 7 pm to 9:30pm. This has been a bit of a slow burner to date but hoping more members will come along this year. Feel free to bring a little social beverage along to this evening as well if you wish. At these club sessions the committee and myself are always interested to hear from members any ideas that could speed up the changeovers during the session. Both the Kennedy and Jamieson cups were once again very popular this year and Mel always manages to come up with innovative ideas to maximise play time for everyone taking part. Mel has run a fantastic number of tournaments for the club this year From Quorn trophies, Mr and Mrs - which she and Andy won - to the difficult job of the annual club tournaments and organising finals day. She keeps me calm, as every year it seems there is always some members still to play a quarter final on the Wednesday before finals day.

More later from the club captains as to how the team performs but it is very heartening to notice an increase in both Ladies and men's teams the clubs entered this year. Also the junior teams did really well with 3 of them winning their leagues and we had a girls team entered for the first time in ages

Socially we ran a very successful and enjoyable summer dance in Longwick village hall and park and raised a fantastic sum of money for club funds. Thanks to Sally Stephen Sarah and their army of helpers for organising this. Please keep Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June free in your diary for our summer party at the club this year

Changes this past year - we managed at last to get a local company who were experienced and willing to take on the maintenance of our courts. What with them and the mountain of work Stuart puts into them they are now playing very well. Thank you for your patience over the last month we now have all our courts maintained again for this year. The wet weather did not help us but last weeks sunshine was just what we needed in time for our open day. Can I please ask that members when they finish playing, sweep the courts and clean the lines. In damp conditions you only need to clean the lines. As Stuart says it is an ideal warm down

Also this past year we made changes to our website and have brought it up to date. Our webmaster Mike Piercy has done a great job agreeing the redesign with the hosting company. So remember if you want to know what is happening at the club our 2 points of information are the website and Stuart's newsletters. If you are a member and not receiving this email newsletter in your inbox can you please let a committee member know

Financially as Roz our excellent treasurer will be explaining later it has been quite a challenging year for us. As a result we have increased the membership fees across all the categories by £10 this year, To quote a fellow countryman of mine we have to remain prudent as reserves do have to be built up for the future for eventual court replacement and for our club house as we can see is in need of some TLC

My thanks again to all our hard working committee and other volunteers who do work for the club Time is precious to us all and I am very grateful for all our members who give up some of their time to keep this fantastic friendly club running smoothly, Running a modern day tennis club is now becoming very legislative and process driven which means we are always looking for more members to do just a little bit to help out. Hopefully the changes we are proposing this evening to the management of the club will allow members to think they can spare the occasional hour or two to help out without needing to join a committee

What though am I most proud of this year. We had a situation last November during a men's practice session and while a committee meeting was taken place. One of our members had a life threatening situation. No one at the club panicked and everyone present played their part in keeping the member alive during the long wait for the emergency services to arrive. Fortunately, a good recovery has now been made

Finally my apologies for not being able to be with you this evening. Believe me I am gutted to be missing out on the wine. It is though a tennis related injury that has caused my absence. So if any of your friends tell you that tennis is just a genteel game please send them to see me for some enlightenment

Lindsay Smith Chairman 24 /04/ 2018