

Chairman's Report 2019

Once again a very eventful year for the club with the most notable event happening to be where we are sitting now, our much needed refurbishment of the clubhouse. Hopefully everyone is happy with the work that has been done in completely modernising our own tennis home. If all members can also now ensure they leave things nice and tidy when they leave, it will be much appreciated by all. Special thanks for firstly helping get this project off the ground, and then completed, go to our two project managers both named Stephen, Biggs and Bailey-Kennedy who have put in an extraordinary amount of time both in planning and then liaising with the contractors to get things completed on schedule. Also, our lady team of painters who decorated the clubhouse and our gang of burly men who took down the outside canopy area. Also, more recently, our flat pack experts on Ikea and everyone else who did their bit to have our clubhouse ready for the summer, our grateful thanks. We still now have phase 2 of the project to complete, that being the access for all and a new patio area which should be completed early summer.

Membership again remains very healthy and particularly over the summer our Wednesday evening and Sunday mornings sessions prove very popular. Our club sessions are an item we wish to discuss further this evening as the committee would like to ensure they run more smoothly to reduce members waiting to go on court once sets are finished. We have some ideas but would appreciate any others so hence we have a short session on this year's AGM Agenda. We have decided to discontinue the Friday evening summer social this year, and instead encourage members to arrange their own sets should they wish. The first Sunday of every month ROSE Bowl competition still proves very popular and our thanks to Rose Lindsay for organising these.

The mainstay of any club is how appealing our social sessions are. Over the summer season last year both sessions have been very well attended and as usual interest does wane a bit over the darker nights and winter. Sunday sessions remain popular throughout the year and generally in the winter it is a hardy few who brave the darker nights. We are aware these sessions do have to be better organised though. One option the committee favours is that regular club sessions attendees take turns on a rota basis to host the sessions. That would require being there for the start of the session and organising the pairings to ensure a smooth turnaround between sets. Also, in the winter on Wednesday evenings, being responsible for turning on the floodlights. We can discuss this later in the evening whether or not those present here feel this is the best solution.

Moving onto the subject of our courts I am sure you will agree our courts have been playing exceptionally well this year. Once again thanks to Stu again for all the hard work he does to them on an almost daily basis. Also he has organised a good maintenance company who also do exceptional work, whilst limiting the amount of time the courts have to be out of use.

Club junior coaching has changed this year with the club, similar to other clubs, handing over all the coaching responsibilities to our club coach Mel Burn. We are very grateful to Mel for all the hard work she does on this front what with coaching and developing our youngsters as well as running camps at Easter and Summer time. Then for the adults as well as individual lessons Mel runs a very successful rusty rackets classes twice a week. Watch out this year for more news from Mel as to other ideas she has planned. However if you are a family please support her Quorn tennis event she is running on the morning of our Open day on the 27 April.

For a club of our size we have this past year, once again increased the teams in the local match play league. We fielded one extra 2 pair men's team in the Bucks shield in the summer. On occasions this year we have put out on any one day all three men's teams and our two ladies teams which now shows the strength in depth for match play at the club. As to how our teams fared all will be revealed in the Captains Report later on. Also our junior teams competed very well last year as well.

I have already thanked the great work Stephen and Stuart have done on our committee, and I cannot forget our other two members. We are very lucky to have Roz as treasurer. To be fair her talents are wasted with us as I could see her as an excellent Chancellor of the Exchequer, such is her diligence in looking after the club funds. Ant does a great job as membership secretary, always very welcome to meet new members to our club and

encourage them to join. In addition a special thanks to our other regular helpers... Sue Lambert for keeping the essential items in the clubhouse stocked up, Mike Piercy for all his hard work as fixtures secretary and website administrator, Mike Banbury our odd job and groundsman, Stuart for his informative newsletters. The various team captains and practice organisers as well.

As you are aware last year at the AGM we made a decision to reduce the size of our committee. Over the past year this has had its plus points and its (shall we say) room for improvement at times.

Generally it has worked well where all the major issues in running the club can be attended to quite quickly. On other matters it hasn't. As I have said earlier we have a lot of our members who help in doing their bit to keep our club running smoothly but it cannot just be down to a small committee to then organise and do everything else. We are all members of this club and whilst we are all busy people if most of us can just take on a small job then it would not only spread the workload around, it would also make us all feel a greater sense of belonging to remember what is our club. Every adult member owns their share of the club. I did mention in the club newsletter sent on Sunday, what current jobs need doing and what every member needs to be responsible for. Please can I ask you if you haven't already, see if they are any of the volunteer tasks we have asked you can help out with.

Finally after 6 years as Chairman it is time for me to step down from the role. I have felt privileged that you elected me every year to serve the club in this role for that long period of time. I feel personally it has been a successful period for our club and that has mainly been down to all the wonderful people we have in the club who have helped and supported me on the committee and outside of the committee. Everybody though has their sell by date and it is now time to step down. I wish my successor and the committee every success in the future management of the club. For my part I am looking forward to eventually getting back to playing tennis again after quite a lengthy period of absence and still doing my little bit of volunteering behind the scenes to keep our club prospering. Please also remember if you are free to come down and support our open day on Saturday 27 April between 1 and 5 pm. Barrie from Sportscene hoping also to be in attendance.

Lindsay Smith, Chairman

16/4/19