

Chairs report 2018

The past 12 months have just whizzed by and it is hard to believe here we are again preparing for another AGM!

The club continues to develop thanks to all the hard work of a fantastic committee and to the many volunteers throughout the club that step up and offer to help. You only have to look at how well everybody has adapted to sweeping the artificial clay courts and how positively people have responded to the clubhouse cleaning rota and turning up for track repairs to sense the community spirit about the club.

This was one of the key aspects that contributed to our club being recognised by the LTA as Gloucestershire Club of the Year in 2017. That was a great start to 2018!

I want to say a big thank you to every committee member, they volunteer hours of their spare time so we can all play tennis at a great club. I get to have a good peek behind the scenes and I see the stack of work that goes on to make sure the club runs smoothly from Jonathan creating wizardry spreadsheets to Mike answering the influx of individual queries around membership renewal.

A particular thank you goes to the 3 members leaving the committee this year, Mike, Zena and Britta.

Mike has managed our membership for 5 years, including the transition 2 years ago to Clubspark. He has greatly enhanced the membership process, continually making improvements, and for those of us who have struggled with the technology, he has supported us with patience and always a smile (well at least to our faces!). He leaves the system in great shape.

Zena has run our tournaments for 3 years and has done a sterling job and absolutely loved it! She has challenged herself to find new ways of running them and they just get better and better. She has been brilliant at encouraging new people to have a go and has always created a great atmosphere on the day.

Britta kindly stepped in to the role of secretary, which is a role that is largely hidden so people don't realise the hours that go into it. It's the backbone of our club and ensures that we comply with all the LTA regulations as well as managing the complex processes such as the Wimbledon Ballot. Britta handled these for the first time so efficiently and has been on top of the role all year.

This year we also welcomed Ray Huxtable onto the committee and it has helped us get closer to the seniors and the roll up groups and ensure we listen to their views.

The club continues to develop and as I write this a team of hard working men are installing LED lights on the back courts, which will greatly improve the capacity of the club especially from October to May.

We have enjoyed our first year playing on the new artificial clay courts and George continues to do an amazing job ensuring the maintenance is up to scratch. The courts have created interest from neighbouring clubs as well as giving us the competitive edge for home matches. Thank you George for doing so much to keep our club looking so special.

All the recent investment has been possible due to years of careful management of the finances and some support from the LTA. As we invest we have to ensure we have enough funds to maintain our existing facilities and our cash flow forecasting continues to allow for a healthy amount to be set aside into this 'sinking fund'.

Adam and his team continue to deliver great coaching programmes for all ages. I was especially pleased to see Adam and Jonno run 2 beginners courses. The feedback has been excellent. It's a great way for people to try both the game and us!

Of course, a major highlight was the visit from Judy Murray back in April. This was made possible by the enormous generosity of Martin Leay. It was a day I think many of us will remember forever. I certainly won't forget rifling around in her bags and pulling out rubber chickens!! Not only was it a great day for the club but overall we raised £2372 for UNICEF.

I also want to thank all those non-committee members who support the club in varying ways. All the team captains who tirelessly chase for dates and availability and have to second guess the weather! Also thank you to Adrian Potter who ran another successful over 45's tournament in the Summer and to Stephen Lambie and Paul Harris who ran our first (and hopefully not last!) fun golf day, which kickstarted our Flush Fund.

So thank you for making 2018 another great year and I look forward to what 2019 brings!

Rachel