

Chair's Report

As I sat down to write this, I glanced back at last year's report and noted that I had ended it saying, 'Here's to a fun and successful 2020!'

Little did I know that 2020 would throw such momentous challenges at the club!

However, what has really stood out for me this year is the strength of our community and how resilient we have been. We have faced Covid 19 with such a positive willingness to comply with guidelines and thereby keeping us all as safe as possible whilst playing tennis as much as we are able. And when we weren't able to play tennis we had virtual quizzes, 'tips' from Adam and a Zoom session with Judy Murray.

For many of us, tennis has been a vital outlet for coping with the stress and anxieties linked to the pandemic, so I want to thank everyone for making this possible.

One positive outcome of this challenging year has been a thriving membership. As I write this, our total membership looks like its heading towards 400 which is fantastic news. You will see from the Membership report that one trigger for this is the new Young Adult membership category. It is simply wonderful seeing a growing base of young adults at the club and I have seen how so many members, including Jono, make them feel welcome.

Sadly, as there has been no Summer league or tournaments, there is little to report on the competitive front other than the Mixed Winter results from last year, which are summarised in the Captains' reports. By the AGM we will have some Winter league matches under our belt so here's hoping we manage to have a safe and successful season.

In July we said goodbye to Adam, our Head coach. After 10 years running the Programme brilliantly and keeping us all entertained (whilst improving our game!) he left to be near Louise's family in Kent. Sadly, we were limited in our ability to give him a proper send off but managed a wet and soggy gathering and handover of some gifts.

Jono Mellows has now taken over as Head coach and is already doing a fabulous job whilst managing the restricted play guidelines during Covid. He is being supported by Zach and, together, they are keeping a broad range of members and non-members happy with private lessons, drills and the regular coaching programme.

We have all been affected by Cirencester College rerouting the access lane to the club. It has been over 12 months of 'wrestling' with the College to seek their cooperation and get them to understand the practical and safety issues of the current design, which we had previously objected to. Our main lobbying has been to the Bathurst Estate, as they are our landlords, and I am writing this after a meeting yesterday where we discussed the safety issues where the Stroud slip road meets our access road. As the Estate carry out the work for the car park adjacent to the Kennels, they are improving this congested junction and are hoping to convince the college to widen that narrow first stretch of the access road which would prevent vehicles reversing. We shall continue in our efforts to address this and keep you updated.



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On a more positive note we were delighted to be able to replace the old halide lights on the front courts with LED lights to match the back courts.

Finally, we have a few important thank you's to some departing committee members.

Firstly a big thank you to Elaine Holwell, our Club secretary who has kept us all in check, making sure we are fully compliant with LTA rules and regulations, updating policies, dealing with enquiries, organising the committee meetings and occasionally emptying the letterbox! She has also supported the Covid response group and is always on hand with her balanced and sensible approach.

I want to thank Ro Lyon for her hard work as Women's captain. Ro has carried out the role with her usual efficiency and planning, and her pragmatic approach which is always an asset on the committee. It's a tricky role at times and she has handled it with real integrity and professionalism. She has supported the Covid response work and always been a voice of reason on all matters.

We are also saying farewell to Lindsay Raphael and Ety Wateridge, our double act that has been overseeing our Junior membership. What a fantastic job they have done and always with massive smiles and enthusiasm. It was disappointing they weren't able to run their junior tournaments this year as they managed to run hugely successful events in previous years. They have also been a great support to Adam and Jono and we will miss their energy and ideas on the committee.

I also want to say thank you to Di Horsell who, after running our tournaments for the past 2 years (with the support of Shane), is stepping down from the role. Many of us will have enjoyed some of the tournaments Di organised so efficiently in 2019 and it's such a shame that we couldn't have benefited from her skills in 2020.

As I step down from the role of Chair, I want to once again thank all the committee members. During the past few months, so many of you have taken the time and trouble to personally thank me and the committee for the work we do and the handling of the Covid situation. I am very aware that many of you won't see or interact with many of the committee members who, behind the scenes, do such vital work to keep the club running smoothly.

And my final thank you is, to you the members, especially in the way everyone has handled 2020 and the challenges it has brought. So my final 'Here's to a fun and successful 2020' was well and truly tested BUT we have done OK and I thank every single one of you for your support.

Dare I say it?

Here's to a fun and successful 2021!

Rachel Snowball - Chair



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Treasurer's Report – DRAFT

For the financial year ending 30 September 2020

TBA - Accounts currently being audited.

Jonathan Vickers – Treasurer



Membership Report

The following table details the change in individual members by category, in what was a good year overall for the club:

Membership Category	2020	% change	2019	% change	2018
Women	120	+6%	111	+2%	109
Men	144	+16%	124	-3%	128
Students	19	+171%	7	-42%	12
Juniors	66	-4%	69	+1%	68
Children	47	+4%	45	+10%	41
Total	396	+11%	356	-1%	358

Observations:

1. Total memberships have risen by 11% despite the pandemic which is excellent news.
2. The late payment penalty was a great success as almost 96% of members paid on time, which made the membership secretary's life much easier.
3. The new Young Adult Category (18-30) has been a great success, with currently 17 paid up members.
4. 14 new members took advantage of the option to pay a reduced pro-rata rate in their first year.

Jeremy Smith – Membership Secretary



Juniors Report

As ever our coaches have been a joy to work alongside and this year has seen a sad farewell to Adam and ADS Tennis and a huge welcome to Phoenix Tennis and our newly promoted Head Coach Jono. Adam and Jono managed to get our juniors back on court in June with Jono's team, Zac, Oscar, Meera and Alex, successfully running 4 weeks of summer camps, quite a feat with all the regulations that had to be adhered to, so thank you and well done!

Unfortunately all the plans made for the Road to Wimbledon, the MIRA tournament, Cirencester Junior Championships and potential new competitions to allow for greater chance of match play for juniors sadly all had to be abandoned but obviously really hoping all of these will be reinstated next summer.

To date the current junior membership is 113; 66 juniors and 47 child memberships.

Lindsay Raphael & Ety Wateridge- Junior Chairs



Facilities Report

The club is in good shape.

The new LED lights on the front courts are a vast improvement compared to what we had before, the new loo has been a brilliant success and thanks to the support of the Estate we have a much improved access track. Sadly, I have no words to describe my thoughts on what the college have done to their part of the road.

Thankfully, the club is adaptable enough to easily manage the Covid restrictions and it is great to see everyone's cooperation.

Many thanks to the small group of volunteers who help run things; however, I'm looking for someone practical to help on a more regular basis?

George Brooks - Squeaky Clean Facilities

Head Coach Report - Phoenix Tennis - Aug-Nov 2020

September programme

For the first time mini red and orange numbers have increased. There are a couple of really strong mini green groups coming through which we hope will be able to play in more matches over the next year. Unfortunately, some of our long-standing juniors have left for University so we wish them all the best but have already seen them back over the summer for social tennis and also for coaching holiday camps.

Holiday Camps

With a lot of uncertainty, it was remarkable that summer camps were able to go ahead; with a two-week turnaround, we managed to see 130 mini red children and 76 juniors. I cannot thank the club enough for its flexibility during this period, both members and committee were very helpful in advertising and supporting the camps. With only qualified coaches running the sessions this year, we were able to keep group sizes below 6 which meant the quality of the camp was a pleasure to be a part of.

Drills

Drills have remained ever since the re-opening of the club; only wind and rain has prevented them. Due to LTA guidelines and current circumstances, we are maintaining the online booking for the time being to limit the spaces. Hopefully, a new coach will be appointed soon to add an extra court to meet demands.

Online booking

After being online tech support for the first week of my role, online booking appears to be working very well for both camps and the tennis programme. Drills will be monitored, however, under the current circumstances it is the fastest way of maintaining group sizes. There are still a few issues with the system, but Clubspark are very receptive and are making improvements to the system weekly. A big thank you to Jeremy for helping me with some of the questions and issues people have been having with their accounts which are needed to book.



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Coaching team

As everyone is aware, there was a big change over the summer with Adam Swan sadly relocating back; he will be missed. Oscar and Zach have been brilliant over the past couple of months dealing with the increased demand for tennis coaching after lockdown. With Oscar's departure back to University, this has highlighted the need for a full time third coach to not only run more sessions but also to cover injuries or illnesses. Finding the right person has proven more difficult than originally thought; however, I remain confident we can get someone in place soon.

Penny Allberry award

This year's award goes to Jago Dix, who, since joining the club, has been attending both group sessions and camps. His enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge has been really impressive over the past 12 months. Secondly, the award goes to Ella Woodcock who, since lockdown, has really begun to play more tennis outside of coaching sessions, even giving her family some of the tips she has learnt over the past few years. Congratulation to both.

Final Thoughts

After a testing year, I am pleased with the start Phoenix Tennis has made. Over the next year, I would really like to continue the progress already made in growing mini tennis at the club, hiring a new face to the team and also trying to add more beginner sessions and adult courses to those who maybe haven't had access to the coaching before.

John Mellowes – Head Coach

Seniors Report

Winter League

Unfortunately, due firstly to some bad weather, then the dreaded virus, none of the leagues were completed last winter. We once again entered 2 Ladies, 1 Men's and 1 mixed team, with varying successful results

Ladies A finished 2nd and required only 3 sets from their remaining match to have topped the table. Ladies B finished 4th. Men's were the only team to complete their fixtures and finished 5th. Mixed were only able to complete 7 matches and finished 5th.

My thanks, once again, to Mary, Rosemary and Graham for taking responsibility for the arrangements from agreeing fixtures to ensuring everyone arrives on time and at the correct venue to play. Also, thanks to the 31 players who participated over the 4 teams.

Regretfully, this winter we have not had the necessary response from members and have only entered 1 Ladies and 1 Men's teams-this is to be understood as the ethos of our seniors competitions is one of social enjoyment and the restrictions put upon us by the LTA and government prevent this

Weekly roll ups

A long curtailment of the playing season due to coronavirus was met with our customary patience as many members endured up to 20 weeks of inactivity.

Considering the majority fall into what is commonly referred to as the vulnerable age group, it was good to see almost everyone return in August and attendances both on Mondays and Thursdays have remained good enough to justify 4 courts.

Our annual tournament in July was obviously cancelled which left both Rosemary and Malcolm the longest serving "champions".

I always seem to end on a sad note and it's the same this year as two stalwart members have had to hang their rackets up!

Firstly, Rosemary Foy who has been sorely missed following her diagnosis of MND-I know both her playing ability and assistance to Mary in running the Ladies A team will be hard to replace.

Secondly Roger Sweeting, a member for many years who was the IT brains for us with his communications skills, being diagnosed with bone marrow cancer-he will be missed, certainly by myself as I attempt to fill his role!

Let's look forward to 2021 and hope it brings some serious optimism for the future.

Ray Huxtable – Seniors Captain



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Women's Captain Report

A short report from me this year as the summer season was a non-event of course. Thank you to those who were all set to captain teams and I hope that you will come forward again next year, if you can, to support my successor. I hope too that GLTA will be able to use all the fixtures that took so long to arrange and were then never played!

Thank you Clare and Chris for joining the selection panel and helping Shane and me (and the coaches) with the – always difficult – task of sorting out the teams. This winter's teams are now playing matches again.

Last year I was the club contact for the Sunday winter league, which we nearly managed to complete before the pandemic struck. We had a successful and enjoyable season, with the A team, B team and D team all winning their respective divisions. Well done to them.

As this is my last AGM report, I would also like to say a big thank you to all the committee members who work so hard on behalf of us all and particularly to Rachel and Elaine for the COVID work we have had to do together. It has been a pleasure to serve on the committee under Rachel's excellent leadership.

Ro Lyon – Women s Captain



Men's Captain Report

The year started in normal circumstances with the Gloucestershire Winter League. The A team finished 3rd in the Premier League (our best performance) behind very strong East Glos and David Lloyd teams. Top performers (Shane 12th, Rachel 14th, Ange 15th, Adam 17th)

The B team who were promoted the previous year to the Premier league went back to Division 1. Top performers Andy 35th.

The C team finished joint 3rd in Division 2; top performers Jeremy 12th, Sam 15th and Di 20th

The D team who were promoted the previous year went back down, top performers Liz 24th and Rob 29th.

Then the world changed, Ro and I had just finished arranging 132 summer fixtures and the Summer leagues were cancelled.

As ever a big thank you to all the players who turned out, especially those who volunteer for the Away vs Lydney and Away vs Bredon fixtures on a cold January night.

A thank you to all the team captains that arrange teams for all of these fixtures. The captains all have busy lives too and give up their time so that other people can just turn up and play and enjoy their tennis stress free.

A particular thank you to Clare and Chris for joining the selection panel and helping Ro and me (and the coaches) with the thankless task of sorting players into teams.

Biggest thank you to Ro for doing such a great job as Women's Captain. And a final thank you to Rachel, Ro and Elaine for all the hours they put in on the COVID work in keeping everyone safe and communicating so effectively to our membership.

Shane Horsell – Men's Captain