

Chair's Report Nov 2034

Last year I ended my report 'I am looking forward to a year of peaceful maintenance!' Well, it nearly happened but then George shinned up the clubhouse to change the batteries in the clock and had a look at the roof. So, we formed a sub-committee to research the options, ranging from quick roof repair to brand new clubhouse. We've made great progress but don't have a clear way forward yet. Many thanks to Tim, Jerry, Martin, Josh and Rob for moving this along with valuable ideas and research. We'll be happy to talk about this at the AGM.

One of the outstanding successes of this year has been the introduction of LTA Junior tournaments, hosted by ourselves but run by an LTA referee called Jessica Forty. Liz, our Junior Chair has single-handedly brought this into being and they have been a huge success.

Our club tournaments, run by Kirstin have also been a great success, marrying together competitive tennis and social occasions. Kirstin runs one of these tournaments shortly after she has organised the Fairford Air Tattoo!

Membership is great, very slightly down on last year but nothing to worry about. Membership and court bookings and a whole load of other things have been in Jeremy's hands for several years and he is finally standing down at the AGM. We thank him profusely for all he's done.

Our finances are robust – under the capable and watchful eye of Jonathan, who manages to explain matters financial to me in English.

Shane is standing down too, after being men's captain for 8 years. Big shoes and a wealth of experience but his replacement will have the very experienced and capable Julie to mentor him.

Obviously no names yet for these replacements as they will have to be proposed and seconded and then voted in at the AGM.

One replacement who has already taken up post is Nicky Whittet who took over from Ray half way through the year. Ray, also, has given us many years of wonderful service and help and run the very popular Roll-up tournament.

Teams in general have proved very popular again (Men's and Ladies' captains' reports contain more) and we have managed to enter new Men's and Mixed teams in the Over 60s winter leagues.

We changed the scheduling of matches this summer to have two and very occasionally 3 teams playing home matches on a Friday night. This was to create a good club feeling and encourage social participation on Friday evenings but also to ring-fence Thursday evening social tennis for non-team players. Anecdotally, I've heard this has been well received.

Clubhouse roof apart, the courts and grounds have never looked prettier or been better looked after – excepting a small Leylandii bush! Thanks George.

Our website, run by Mark, has been quietly undergoing a bit of a revamp. We've added a Tournaments tab, got rid of the Covid messages (hurrah!) and included a wealth of info – all easy to navigate to and hopefully all clear and kept up to date.

As always, behind the scenes, a lot of work carries on quietly and unlauded – financial reports, website updates, flower watering, team selection, ball ordering and not least, wonderfully diligent admin – immaculate meeting minutes, policies updated, liaison with LTA, venue registration and on and on – so big thanks to Kerry, who quietly and capably enables us to run smoothly.

We'd like to do more social things next year as we are having a lot of fun playing tennis together, so we'll be looking for a Social Secretary (or maybe team of two) for next year. More on this to follow.

Here's to another year of peaceful maintenance and lots of fab tennis.

Zena