

## Chair's Report for AGM Nov 2024

I expect every Chair's Report could start 'We've had a busy year' but this year seems to have been extra busy.

I decided this year that I'd like to write to every new member personally to welcome them to the club (as they can join directly from the website without anyone knowing who they are) and offer to accompany them to a club event like drills or a playing session like club morning. We also encourage them to do a playing-in session with Jono so that he too, can orient them towards the sort of tennis that would suit them best and at the appropriate level. I thought we'd get one or two new members per month but it's been between 5 and 10. A real success.

The clubhouse development has of course taken up a lot of time and at times can feel frustratingly slow but we decide things by committee, the Estate only meets to discuss tenants infrequently and the CDC planning department is very busy. I have had enormous help from George Brooks, Cleave Melville, Martin Leay and Ian Bockstok (all of whom, as does most of the committee, have day jobs) and I reckon if we costed their professional time, given for free, we'd be around £20,000 by now. Very detailed costings for the whole build have been done and professional plans drawn up and submitted so that we can press the go button if we a) get planning approval and b) raise the funds. The latest update is that the planning committee have looked at the plans and requested more details (which we can furnish) and the Patron Scheme is ready to go – and probably launched by the time you read this.

We've said goodbye to Julie Taylor this summer who has put in the most incredible amount of work as Ladies' Captain and I'm sure every match player will agree that she did an amazing job. Liz Lloyd has stepped up and taken her place for which we are extremely grateful but that means she is now doing two jobs as she is Junior Secretary as well. Kirstin Bulger is also stepping down as Tournaments' Organiser with the perfectly acceptable excuse that she's moving out of the area! Many thanks to her too. Kerry Briggs, our wonderful secretary is also going as she has done a great stint. You don't get her Minutes but believe me they are amazing and a brilliant record for the club. And of course I am retiring too. This is my 4<sup>th</sup> AGM and I want to spend a bit more time doing other things. I also think that with the club continuing to increase in size, the clubhouse development and maybe the advent of Padel, which I think we should seriously consider, the club needs someone with a more business head.

I have loved it though.

Zena Marchington  
Chair, CTC