Tettenhall Tennis Club

**Annual General Meeting 2017**

**Chair’s Report**

As another year is completed I am happy to provide a report for this year’s AGM.

Events:

Once again we managed to cover a range of events, designed to bring the members together and encourage the friendly club atmosphere of which we are deservedly proud and to provide a platform to promote the club and also increase our membership.

Our club nights, launched nearly 5 years ago are now a regular monthly feature (weather permitting), with the occasional ‘club afternoon’ instead. This means that members who can’t make evening have the opportunity to still benefit if they are only free in the daytime.

Several new Junior initiatives took place this year over the Spring and Summer; most notable being the Road to Wimbledon, The Quorn Red Bull Tournament and the ‘Play Tennis’ weekend – designed for all ages, open to non-members.

In early **July** we attended the Round Table **Fair on Tettenhall Green** with the aim to both raise our profile in the local community and recruit new members. We succeeded in doing both, and as such it is something we will continue to do.

The now regular **‘Adult and Child Tournament’** took place once again on June 5th with large numbers attending and ably co-ordinated by Lyndsey and Simon, with sustenance provided once more by ‘La Grande Viande’ and Tom Robinson with his mobile horse-box conversion

We joined forces with WCC on June 12th to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday in a (wet) afternoon of games, activities, stalls, and BBQs.

We had tennis ‘Summer Camps’ throughout **July and August**, essentially for Juniors, organised by Simon Fellows. Many thanks to him for this. The August Bank Holiday weekend saw the first TTC Sports’ Day – a fun and relaxed event for all ages.

**September** saw the **Open Championships**, once more in a mixed format, made necessary by the low entries for some of the groups. However, Final’s Day on the 25th September was another enjoyable occasion; the standard of tennis was as good as ever.

The **Junior Championships** took place throughout October**,** highlighting the young talent we have in the club, and as such we must work hard to maintain their motivation and ability. Other tournaments were arranged throughout the year.

**November** saw the successful **Over 30s Championships**, with a good number of entries, as well as the now established TTC Annual Tour to Devon for an enjoyable, energetic, but also relaxing long weekend.

Our **Presentation Evening** took place on 3rd Dec and we were back at the WCC for the occasion and once again the evening was a relaxed, enjoyable and entertaining.

**Matches and Leagues (Men’s, Ladies, Juniors, Mixed)**

Team Reports are attached. Once again we entered the Telford Indoor League – thanks to Kate Sheldon for co-ordinating this.

**Other points to note:**

1. We’ve established a fairly regular use of the table tennis facilities available at WCC. We plan to increase this to a fixed monthly slot for the foreseeable future
2. We have a current, professional and active Twitter account, with regular updates and contributions. This will shortly be followed by a new and more contemporary webpage. Our Facebook page is also more active, and we’re trailing communication by text message as a way of getting information to all members.
3. **Simon** continues to be an invaluable asset to the Club. He has increased our Junior membership enormously and also encouraged more adult members to join. In addition he has organised many club based activities and has plans for more and his connections enabled us to have our excellent Twitter account. Please continue to give him your support.
4. We continue to have a monthly calendar that is distributed electronically.
5. We still have a substantial outdoor publicity banner which we can use on appropriate occasions, as well as publicity leaflets which can all help to promote the club and business card style/size hand-outs also with key information. These are located in the court cupboards for members to distribute as necessary.
6. Focus this year will be on activities that are directly beneficial to the club and its members. We will filter out LTA initiatives which detract from this – and there are many – and use our volunteer resources to the best advantage.
7. In an effort to improve the various championships, the format will change this year – particularly the Open Championships. All matches will be played over a very short period, with a Finals day at the end. Watch this space for more information.

**Membership**: this has stalled a little among the adults, although we have more actively playing members than ever. Juniors are slowly increasing, which is very welcomed and largely due to the unstinting efforts of Simon. We are financially sustainable, but maintaining a steady, particularly playing membership necessitates continued hard work. Again, a plea to all members: any part you can play, large or small to tell others what an excellent organisation we have and that they should give TTC a go, will ensure that the outlook will remain positive.

**And finally…**

Thanks to **Lyndsey** for her organisational skills and the time she has contributed to the running of the Junior Teams, as well as many of the events above. **Mike** uncomplainingly takes on the minor maintenance, supported by the **Sheldon** clan, **Elaine** has ensured the Wimbledon ticket distribution has been done fairly and has been the driving force behind our table tennis evenings. **Kate** our new Membership Secretary has picked up the mantle from Jos and **Dave**, our new Treasurer who keep us on the financial straight and narrow and makes sure all is transparent and above board. **Greg,** as Men’s Captain ably led his team to many victories and a promotion, and is also our help with some social media challenges. **Andrea’s** energy and knowledge of hospitality has provided many useful insights and her links with the Juniors are invaluable. I would also like to record an additional thank you to **Barrie** from WCC, who goes well beyond the call of (his) duty to support and assist us where he can.

*Dominique Nield, Chair, Tettenhall Tennis Club*

**Coach’s Report – Simon Fellows**

I remember the first junior mix in I did in 2012 where one player turned up, followed by an adult session a few days later with the same turnout. The player, no longer a member (!!) was also not happy at paying the huge fee of £2 and I did wonder what I had let myself in for.

Thanks to a hugely supportive committee, a welcoming atmosphere from members and a dedication to attract young players we now have a healthier picture. Each week we see over 100 children at schools and 50 at various club sessions.

We have more juniors playing team matches and a junior mix in that members would enjoy seeing with our courts packed all year round. Adult sessions especially Monday nights are busy with a super atmosphere. Our link with Tettenhall College has grown and we see a lot of their pupils at our club

We have a structure of squads in place but still a lot of work to do. The competition and facilities of other local clubs is always a temptation for our players, especially in the winter. However, our supportive atmosphere and high standards of behaviour and sportsmanship should not be undervalued.

I am determined to keep improving the coaching programme and over time be able to compete with the bigger clubs at junior and adult level. Equally we want as many new juniors and seniors as possible to join our club and enjoy the various events we run!

Many thanks for all your support- here's to another great year.

**Men’s Team Report – Greg Phillips, Men’s Team Captain.**

The Men's team had a fantastic 2016 season, achieving promotion to Division 3 for the first time. The majority of games were played by Matt, Luke and myself, supported by Jake, Glyn, Simon and others when available. There were some great performances, especially 4-0 wins against Quarry Bank twice, Woodfield and Wednesbury. This season will be very tough given our small squad and the increase in standard of the teams we'll be playing against but hopefully we can do the club proud and still be in Division 3 come September.

We've also been playing in the Mixed Doubles Winter League at Telford Tennis Centre over the last few months, with mixed results but a lot of good performances along the way. The core players have been Kate, Coral, Matt, Luke and myself. Coral deserves a special mention for how much she's improved over the last twelve months, and although she's newer to these matches and this standard of tennis, has consistently held her own against some very good players. Hopefully we can continue to improve in this league as well.

**Ladies match report for 2016 season by Kate Sheldon**

I was ladies captain last year, taking over from Lyndsey Wicks who has been captain for many years. I would like to thank Lyndsey on the clubs behalf for attending the fixtures, organising the dates for home and away games, rallying teams, arranging refreshments as well as supporting us at our home games and playing!

This year we played ten games of which two were draws, 5 losses and 3 wins. We had some tight matches and it was especially satisfying to get a draw at home versus David Lloyd and an excellent win away at Halesowen who had beaten us 4-0 at home.

We had eleven ladies playing for us this season so a special thanks to all who took part including Coral Thacker, Ann de Prez, Jas Perks, Lyndsey Wicks, Lesley Lee, Dom Nield, Carmen Puchal, , Helen Purshouse, Elaine Wheeler and Francesca Norton.

For this season our main aim is to enjoy the matches, strive for more consistency and have more self-belief. While it is always good to win I believe playing in matches can be just as satisfying if we feel we have all played well and done our team proud.

If you feel you would like to play this season please contact Kate who can register you for the Staffordshire league. I am aiming to ensure that our games this year will all be played before the Tettenhall tennis club senior tournament, commencing in July this year.

**Junior Report 2017 – Lyndsey Wicks**

Another eventful year! Starting early with a Team Challenge match at WLTSC for Angus Hamilton, Ben Ward, Will Fletcher Taylor and Ben Wright on March 12th. Our first main event was the LTA “Road To Wimbledon” held on April 10th for 14U boys which was won by Harry Froggatt who beat Ben Wright in the final and went on the represent us at the various levels, but just fell short of the final at Wimbledon! The Quorn Red Ball on May 15th was won by Guy and Amy Kendall who went on to play in the next round.

Sunday June 5th saw our Adult and Child Day with all the generations and abilities playing together. This has become our major event and 80+ people were involved in some way or other – a record for us! – and the Juniors really enjoyed playing with their partners/guests. In July, we had an Extraordinary Afternoon of Tennis with the Senior members, the Junior competition being won by Ben Dixon and Dami Onufowokan (under 12s) and Ben Ward and Tom Dow (over 12s).

Throughout the whole Summer season (April – September) the Juniors have participated in the Aegon League with other Staffordshire Clubs – U16 Boys, U16 Girls, U14 Boys, U12 Boys, U10 Mixed and U8 Mixed – TTC won the entire U8 event (Dami Onufowokan and Theo Salter) and the U16 Boys were second in their league (Luke Mockler, Harry Froggatt, Ben Wright and Dan Skidmore) – TTC performed very well this year as we come up against the large clubs in this League. This involves a lot of help from the parents with driving to and from the venues, etc. and many thanks are due to them. It’s nice to hear that our Juniors always behave impeccably and play in an excellent spirit. Credit is due to Simon here and I thank him for all his hard work and enthusiasm. We would be a much poorer club without him!

This year Simon has set up a new link with Telford Tennis Club which has been very successful, especially as TTC won both the home and away matches!

The Junior Championships were the final big event of the year for the Juniors and the various winners were presented their prizes at the Prize Presentation Evening.

U12 Winner Tom Dow Runner/Up Nathan Adams

U18 Winner Luke Mockler Runner/Up Harry Froggatt

Girls ChampionCoral Thacker

14B Winner Rachel Evans Runners/Up Harriet Evans and James Matthews

Green Winner Darcy Spear Runner/Up Ben Dixon

Red WinnerCharlie Jones Runner/Up Toby Onufowokan

Orange WinnerDami Onufowokan Runner/Up Ben Dixon

Most improved Nathan Adams

Most improved Ben Ward

Best attitude Dami Onufowokan

Anyone visiting the club on a Wednesday evening at 5.30 pm can see that our Juniors are in good hands and the future looks very bright indeed.