

TETTENHALL TENNIS CLUB

Annual General Meeting 2022

Chair's Report

As another year is completed I am happy to provide a report for this year's AGM. 2021 saw the gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and together with the vaccine roll-out, TTC was able to offer a more normal year than the previous one.

Our **Open Finals** day took place on **17th July**, slightly more low-key than usual, but a significant improvement on the 2020 Finals Day. And, once again, we saw a great standard of tennis. Simon, Coral and Liam also supported Dementia-UK by taking part in a tennis-a-thon during the finals! Well done to all 3.

Another club highlight – **The Adult and Child Tournament** – took place on **19th September**, and we were able to provide more substantial hospitality and our soup and samosas in the Cricket Club were welcomed by both players and spectators. We also raised valuable funds for the club.

Most of the **Over 30s** tournament matches took place in **Sept/October**, but despite the cooler weather members were just happy to be out playing tennis.

Juniors also had the chance to play a limited amount of competitive tennis, and thanks to Lyndsey and Simon for organising both friendlies against other clubs and intra-club competitions.

We took the risk this year and fielded 2 Ladies Teams in the Staff League. This was ambitious, and did present the club with some challenges. It did, however, provide the perfect opportunity for some of our Junior players to experience senior level matches. Because of COVID restrictions last year it was agreed with the League that there would be no promotions or relegations. Both the Ladies A and Men's team had some enjoyable and competitive matches (See Captains' reports below)

Club Afternoons and squad sessions continued and provided a very welcome opportunity for members to meet up, socialise and, of course, keep active. Many thanks to Simon for keeping this going and maximising the chances we had to play.

Our **social media** presence continues to punch well above our weight and our Twitter account has attracted regular 'likes' and retweets from the LTA and other wide reaching organisations. And thanks to **Coral and Liam**, we have a very lively and active Instagram account which keeps us well and truly in touch with the younger demographic. Many thanks to them. Our **text message** communication is also seen very positively and as a way of getting information to all members.

This summer saw the passing of one of our long standing members – Di Tranter – after a short illness. Tennis was one of her great passions and she supported the club both as a committee member for many years and also a regular player and contributor to all events. We would also like to thank Brian for providing a high quality bench in her memory.

We would also like to extend our sympathies to Lyndsey Wicks – a key member of TTC – who lost her husband, Bob, in late August. He was a staunch supporter of Lyndsey and TTC and a common sight at most of our social events.

Membership: this year saw a rise in membership, particularly the 3 month trial option; we need to work at converting these to full membership. Additional support in the form of a volunteer Membership Secretary focussing on new members would help. 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.

Simon continues to be an invaluable asset to the Club. He works tirelessly with Juniors and Seniors and also plays a big part in getting us new members more adult members to join. In addition he has increased the tennis based activities for the club and has plans for more. Please continue to give him your support.

Once more we will be focussing 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.

CASC registration with the HMRC means we are eligible for tax rebates for certain areas of income. We will try and capitalise on this at every opportunity, using Gift Aid whenever possible.

We continue to have access to the small CC room via Simon. This is necessary to ensure our LTA Safeguarding compliance, and is a great benefit to the club. We are grateful to WCC for this concession.

We are still registered for the '**Easyfundraising**' initiative whereby a huge range of organisations and business will pay a percentage of any purchases made on-line to TTC. Members need to register as individuals with Easyfundraising and use the link when making any on-line purchases.

And finally...

Thanks should go to all our committee members who voluntarily give up their time to support the club – much of it behind the scenes. **Lyndsey** for her organisational skills and support for the Ladies and Junior teams, and the thankless task of the annual LTA registration. **Guy** has been alert to the financial support available during COVID and has ensured we have capitalised on every opportunity as well as keeping track of our more routine funds. **Greg** ably captained the Men's Team also helps with our IT and webpages. **Andrea's** links with the Juniors and her commitment and contribution as club Welfare Officer are invaluable and not without its frustrations – thanks for her stamina and patience in the face of LTA challenges. And **Elaine** for her fundraising efforts with the 'Tuesday Group' and other initiatives and **Jodie** for stepping up and volunteering to manage the Wimbledon Ballot – this year may be her year. And **Kate** for her efforts with the 'Recyclaball' and other 'eco' initiatives. We also recognise the contributions made by others - Coral, Liam, Pat W, and several of the juniors who support Simon.

Dominique Nield

Chair, Tettenhall Tennis Club, March 2022

Coach's Report – Simon Fellows

Our coaching programme continues to grow!

As well as individual lessons there are squads either at the club or schools every day of the week.

We have seen an increase in mini tennis groups for our very young players, always a good sign. Participation levels across all ages have definitely increased especially in the immediate aftermath of lockdowns.

I wouldn't be able to work without the help of Coral and Liam. They are both qualified assistant coaches and are great with everyone on court. Many thanks to them and also the older juniors who help with squads.

We are very fortunate to work with some amazing people at our club! Members should be proud of the friendly atmosphere we have. Some players will always move to clubs with better facilities but I don't believe it is inevitable. We may not have indoor courts but we always strive to be the best we can be on court with high standards of behaviour in a friendly supportive environment.

Thanks to you all for your support!

Simon.

Men's Team Captain Report – Greg Phillips

The Men's team were fortunate to be able to play some competitive Tennis last summer, but due to the Covid situation, the league decided that the season would be reduced to seven matches with no promotions or relegations. In the end, we managed to play three home games and four away. Although we had a mixed bag of results, we were very grateful to be able to play some matches and keep our match practice going as much as possible during the pandemic. Looking ahead to the 2022 season, the team are delighted to be able to get back to playing a full season, we have twelve matches to look forward to, six at home and six away. We have been in Division 3 for the last few seasons, it's a good standard that provides us with some tough opposition, but we are looking forward to the challenge of trying to finish as high in the Division as we can. We are lucky to have a squad of around 15 players for this season, so I am hoping that we can find the balance between having a strong, regular team that is able to build some momentum and form from playing together, but also giving some of the younger and more inexperienced players the opportunity to play in competitive matches.

Ladies Team Captain Report – Coral Thacker

2021 found itself to be a great season for the Ladies Team. The ladies A team had a very successful campaign by winning the Division 3 South-Staffordshire inter-club league, without losing a match. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, no teams were promoted or relegated this season. The A team consisted of myself, Kate, Anne De Prez, Sandra and Dami. A big thanks to Carmen and Les who stepped up at the last minute! Not only were we successful, but the team always showed great positivity between ourselves and our opponents. This created a great atmosphere wherever we went.

2021 also saw the ladies team enter a second team into division 3. This provided an invaluable experience for many of our home grown, upcoming players. The B team consisted of Andrea, Rachel, Ann T, Amy, Darcey, Hannah, Jodie and Charlotte Stanton.

There were two very notable performances in the B team within the season. Charlotte Stanton played her very first doubles match for team Tettenhall and excelled on the court despite being nervous. Another notable performance was from Amy, Darcey and Hannah who not only performed well, but learnt how to deal with difficult opponents!

We look forward to the upcoming 2022 season with 17 potential ladies ready to play! The future looks very bright with our upcoming players breaking through into the first team and we strive to be promoted into division 2.

Lastly, I would like to say a big Thankyou to Lyndsey and Simon who helped me during my first season as Ladies captain. The coordination of the matches would not have been possible without them.

Many thanks for all the support.

Junior Match Report – Lyndsey Wicks

(to follow)