Tettenhall Tennis Club

Annual General Meeting 2023

**Chair’s Report**

As another year is completed I am happy to provide a report for this year’s AGM. 2022/3 finally saw the return to a normal tennis year after 2 years of COVID restrictions.

Our **Open Finals** day took place on **16th** and **17th July**, split for the first time over 2 days due to the forecast of an unprecedented heatwave. While the players and spectators missed the real high temperatures of subsequent days it still proved to be pretty gruelling for those on court. Despite this we still experienced a great standard of tennis and well done to all participants.

Most of the **Over 30s** tournament matches took place in **Sept/October**, with the finals on **9th October**. 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.

A regular club highlight – **The Adult and Child Tournament** – took place on **19th June**, 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.

**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.

A new initiative, again instigated by Simon, was the ‘**Social Mixed Doubles Tournament’** with several sessions planned throughout the year, and which included a lunch provided by W’ton Cricket Club (WCC). This has proved popular and will continue as long as members are keen.

Our Presentation Evening took place on **April 9th** at WCC and provided the club with a pleasant off-court get-together as well as the chance to acknowledge the tennis triumphs of our members. This requires a significant amount of organisation and as ever, we acknowledge the hard work of those who made it happen.

Other social events include Christmas get-togethers, group outings to national tennis events, as well as the now annual ‘Devon Weekend’. Thanks to the organisers which ensure the social side of TTC keeps going.

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.

We have changed our club kit provider to Ron Flowers, in Wolverhampton. We’re pleased to be able to use a local, independent supplier, and they were very keen to work with us, and provided us with much needed assistance in setting up the webpage link for online ordering.

RightTrack once again came to the club to complete some repair, renovation and general tidying up work for us. They are a social enterprise organisation that encourages disadvantaged adults to experience the world of work. TTC is always happy to support such initiatives and thanks to Elaine for putting us in touch with them.

**Membership**: we are managing to keep relatively stable numbers, although we have experienced a small drop this year. This was largely due to the increase last year and the previous year when tennis became one of the permitted sports during COVID. Some additional support from Stuart Tudor was welcomed – many thanks for his contribution. Further help with membership is however, much needed. 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 Juniors, and the thankless task of the annual LTA registration. **Guy** for his astute handling of the club finances and ensuring that we capitalise on any financial opportunity, as well as keeping track of our more routine funds. We say farewell to **Greg** this yearas Men’s Captain, many thanks for all the hard work with the team. The new Mens’s captain is **Liam** who will be a fine replacement. **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’, organising tennis outings, and other initiatives and **Jodie** who has now stepped in to take responsibility for the club calendar on the website. We also recognise the contributions made by others - Coral, Liam, Pat W, Chris H and several of the juniors who support Simon.

*Dominique Nield*

*Chair, Tettenhall Tennis Club, March 2023*

 **Coach’s Report – Simon Fellows**

The past year has probably been the most active on court time in my 10 years at the club.

Our junior and adult squads are thriving and as ever are a pleasure to work with. We have groups either at the club or at schools 7 days a week and demand for individual lessons keeps rising.

We have a large number of children in our mini tennis squads as we aim to bring through the next generation of players. Our relationship with Tettenhall College remains strong and we work with their pupils from ages 4-18.

Our juniors have been involved in league and friendly matches with clubs from all over the county. We have a structure of matches throughout the spring and summer enabling our youngsters to compete regularly.

Congratulations to our Adult teams who both gained promotion this season, a super achievement!

Finally I must thank Coral and Liam for all their help. Our programme simply couldn't run without their commitment and it is very much appreciated.

Here's to a happy and successful new season on court.

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

Tettenhall Men’s team had a very successful 2022 season, managing to gain promotion from Division 3 of the Staffordshire league and reach Division 2 for the first time. We had some fantastic results along the way which included 4-0 wins at home to Cheslyn Hay and Walsall. 3-1 wins at home to David Lloyd Dudley and away to Hanbury were also extremely pleasing.

Although we suffered some disappointing losses to Streetly, David Lloyd Dudley and Wolverhampton, the team always used the matches as a learning experience and did their best to bounce back with improved performances.

There were some brilliant performances and contributions throughout the season that need to be mentioned. Firstly, Liam Shaw for taking on the captaincy of the team during the second half of the season and playing some great tennis. Darius Duncan for playing amazingly well all year and being our player of the season. Joe Lee for his huge improvement in such a short space of time and contributing a great deal towards our promotion, and Stuart Tudor for being an all-round superstar and making himself available for matches at very short notice. We will all miss him greatly following his move to Ireland.

Looking forward to the 2023 season, our first aim will be to stay up and cement our place in Division 2, but we will be ambitious and see where it takes us!

Finally, this will be my last season as Men’s captain as I am unable to dedicate the amount of time to it that it deserves. I would like to see somebody else have the chance to make it their own and take the team forward. I’d like to thank the club, Simon and all the players for their fantastic support and commitment over the years.

**Ladies Team Captain Report – Coral Thacker**

2022 found itself to be a great season for the Ladies Team. We had a successful campaign through being promoted to Division 2, only losing (technically) one match. Being promoted into Division 2 will no doubt provide invaluable experience for all members of the team.

2022 also saw the consistent start of Amy Kendall and Hannah Barker in the starting four. They are an excellent pair on and off the court, starting to develop their competitive edge. They have both come on Leaps and bounds over the last season, with Amy even playing on her birthday!

We look forward to the upcoming 2023 season, with a strong team to lead us to hopeful promotion again. The future looks very bright with our upcoming players breaking through into the starting four and we strive to continue having more young players break through.

I would like to thank all of the ladies who volunteer and participate within the team. We couldn’t have got to where we are without you. A big thank you to Anne De Prez, Hannah, Amy, Les, Charlotte Stanton, Charlotte Wiley, Sandra, Mary Jane, Jodie, Andrea and Ann.

Lastly, I would like to thank the club for being flexible around matches, Sally for providing refreshments, and all the members, parents and friends who come to support us when we play.