Tettenhall Tennis Club

Annual General Meeting 2024

**Chair’s Report**

As another year is completed I am happy to provide a report for this year’s AGM. This will be my last report as Chair, as I will be stepping down after 14 years in the role.

The highlight of this year is undoubtably **the new court surface**. We now have the best quality artificial grass courts, which with careful maintenance should last for more than 20 years. This was made possible by a grant from Enovert Community Trust, together with top-up funding from the club, accrued through careful management of our income by our Treasurer and some residual money from the COVID 19 support package.

On the back of the court resurfacing, we held a ‘**Spring Bulb Planting Week’** with several members giving up their time to create a lovely display of daffodils along the boundary bank. This should serve to mark the new tennis year for many seasons to come. We also held a new court ‘Opening Ceremony’ on **October 28th,** which was attended by one of the Enovert Trustees, and former Chair of Wolverhampton Cricket Club (WCC), Chris Bowyer. Simon organised some light-hearted tennis competitions, which was followed by food at WCC.

Our **Open Finals** day took place on **9th July**, with players competing in the knock-out rounds during the pre-ceding 3 weeks. Once again, the standard of tennis was exceptional and it was a pleasure to watch.

Entries for the **Over 30s** tournament during the Autumn took a dip this year, with not all categories competing. Maybe it is time to review the format and tweak it to increase the participation.

Juniors also had the chance to play a limited amount of competitive tennis, and thanks to Simon and the coaching team for organising friendlies against other local clubs.

A regular club highlight – **The Adult and Child Tournament** – took place on **11th 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, as were the additional refreshment donations made by members. Special note and thanks to Pat W for her now legendary scones. Much needed funds were also raised 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.

Special mention should be made of our **Ladies Team**. They secured promotion from Division 2 to Division 1 and did so by topping the league and not losing a single match. Special congratulations to Capt Coral, and regular players, Anne, Amy, Hannah and Charlotte.

Our Social and Presentation Evening took place on **February 24th** at WCC with a high quality buffet provided by local business ‘From our Kitchen’. As ever this was a pleasant off-court get-together and a chance to acknowledge the tennis triumphs of our members.

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 is alive and well - many thanks to **Coral and Liam** for this. Our **text message** communication is also seen very positively and as a way of getting information to all members.

We are continuing to use Ron Flowers, in Wolverhampton.as our club kit provider. We’re pleased to be able to use a local, independent supplier, and the link to the kit is available on our website.

**Membership**: we are managing to keep relatively stable numbers, with numbers similar to the previous year. The leavers were compensated by new joiners, but membership is very much a case of having to keep moving to simply stay in the same place. We welcomed MaryJane onto the committee recently as a much needed Membership Secretary and we ask that you all give her your support. Thanks to **MJ** for her contribution so far. 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. In addition he has increased the tennis based activities for the club and has plans for more if members wish. Please continue to give him your support. Thanks also Simon’s coaching support team – Liam and Coral, and also some of the older juniors.

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 WCC 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 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. **Greg** is always prompt in our club website updates as well as being on hand for other IT support. **Liam,** as Men’s Captain and **Coral** as Ladies Captain (see above) for all the organising and headaches that managing a team involves. **Andrea’s** 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. We also recognise the contributions made by others - Pat W, Chris H, Anne dP, and several of the juniors who support Simon.

*Dominique Nield*

*Chair, Tettenhall Tennis Club, March 2024*

**Head Coach’s Report - Simon Fellows**

A disrupted year due to the good (new courts being laid) and the bad (injured knee) but overall another great year on court.

Our new courts are playing beautifully and members seem to love them!

The coaching programme continues to expand and we aim to provide a service for players of all ages and abilities.

We are fortunate to have a large base of young players that I hope means the future of the club is strong.

Our schools programme now includes both Tettenhall College and St Dominic’s in Brewood.

Standards of play have never been higher. Our Ladies team achieved promotion with all but one member of the team having come through our programme. Our Men’s team consolidated themselves in a higher league after promotion in the previous season.

We have a junior county champion and players attending county coaching.

Our Club Championships see a very good level of play.

Many thanks to Liam, Coral, Joe, Charlotte and Amy for all their help.

We will continue to work hard to help make our club become as good as it can be for both team and social players.

**Report - Men’s Captain, Liam Shaw**

The men’s team had a good season finishing 4th just missing out on a promotion to division 1. We went unbeaten at home but unfortunately our away record wasn’t as good. I’d like to thank Darius Duncan, Ben Wright and Jake Mockler for their commitment playing 90% of our matches also Joe Lee and Simon Fellows for stepping in to help out when we needed them.

Our goal for this season is promotion with the help of our new courts!!

**Report – Ladies’ Captain, Coral Thacker**

The ladies team has an unbelievable season gaining back to back promotions and winning the season unbeaten. I’d like to thank all the ladies - Hannah Barker, Amy Kendall, Anne De Prez and Charlotte Stanton for the efforts during the season. We hope to gain promotion into the ladies’ premier division 2 this upcoming season and carry on our winning streak.