



CHIPPENHAM TENNIS CLUB: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017/18

This has been another very busy year for your committee and I am extremely grateful for all the support which the tennis club has received – both from our dedicated committee members and from the many volunteers. Each year, following the AGM, the committee agree an action plan to guide us through the year ahead. For 2017-18 we set an ambitious set of objectives which are described below together with actions taken, results so far and further action planned.

Objective 1 - To retain and if possible expand our adult membership

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Our newly resurfaced courts were opened by Michelle Donelan MP and reps from the LTA and C&DTL on 28th Oct last year and have received great feedback. Now we are looking to invest further in the club facilities with clubroom trifold patio doors on the tennis court side – see later. Having attractive facilities is key to retaining and attracting new members.
- We keep the new website up to date with our latest news and details of all upcoming events, as well as basic information about the club and how to join. The website now has an automatic feed from our facebook account. The website continues to receive good feedback and we know that many new members find us via this route.
- We have promoted the club in many other ways including a Great British Tennis Weekend, facebook, twitter, temporary banner at the Sports Club entrance, display in a High Street shop window and keeping the notice boards up to date.
- As well as club sessions, we have held various social events to promote camaraderie amongst club members including: a Christmas Crackerjack competition, winter indoor tournament, quiz night, summer BBQ, tennis weekend at Okehampton and winter box league.
- The Club championships and the Club Open which raised over £1,500 for Wiltshire Search & Rescue were both very successful events. The Club Open had 27 pairs of ladies and men who came from as far afield as Bristol, Highworth, Cirencester and Marlborough.
- We recognise the importance of being able to play competitive tennis against a diversity of similar standard players and have continued to sponsor multiple summer and winter teams in both the Chippenham and Swindon leagues. Please refer to the Captains' reports for full details, including the many cups and promotions we have achieved this year. Extremely well done to all our teams and many thanks also to the Team captains for organising their teams to take part.

- Effective from 1st April 2018, we agreed modest increases in fees in line with inflation, after a comparison with other comparable local clubs. We think we provide good value for money as a club with 6 newly resurfaced floodlit courts, clubroom and use of the Sports Club bar. We provide free floodlights for club sessions and tennis balls which are used match balls.

RESULTS SO FAR: Despite losing a number of adults for very good reasons (relocation, health, etc), we have gained some new members which means our membership income is only slightly down on last year. Adult membership subscriptions are our main source of income and even after having the courts resurfaced we have sufficient funds for the clubroom patio door project (c £10k) and have a healthy amount in the Sinking Fund towards the next major facilities project.

We are very grateful to Linda Roberts, our Membership Secretary, who administers all the adult and family membership records, their subscriptions and the associated membership payments to the Sports Club.

FURTHER ACTIVITY PLANNED: We recognise that we have been limited in our ability to recruit new and improving adult members, by the constraints on the current coaching programme. Unfortunately, John O’Meara, our current Head Coach has decided that it is in the best interests of the club if he stands down and therefore the Coaching Sub-committee are in the middle of an exercise to recruit and appoint a new Head Coach. We have had a very good response to our advert placed on the LTA website, and are excited that with a new Head Coach we will be able to grow our membership across all ages and abilities.

Objective 2 – Promote mini and junior membership

ACTIONS TAKEN: The prime responsibility for mini and junior membership lies with our Head Coach, although we have jointly run a Great British Tennis Weekend.

RESULTS SO FAR: We continue to run a healthy programme with some 70 children being coached throughout the year – see Head coach report for details.

FURTHER ACTIVITY PLANNED: Unfortunately, John has not had the time to be able to promote our mini/junior coaching programme to attract significantly more children to the club. However, with the imminent appointment of a new Head Coach we are expecting the mini and junior programme to grow strongly over the next year.

We are incredibly grateful to John for taking on the coaching programme at very short notice in April 2017. We are all very sorry that he has decided to step away from being our Head Coach, and offer him our profuse thanks for the many lessons and drills which he has put on and which have been an inspiration to all of us to be fit and keep improving our game.

Objective 3 – Maintain and improve facilities

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- the newly resurfaced courts are playing very well. However, some of the paint is wearing and we have alerted the contractor who should rectify it under the terms of the contract.
- following last year's AGM, the committee have further investigated a ball wall to add to our facilities. The committee concluded that the only place to put it, without obstructing viewing and avoiding balls rolling back onto adjacent courts, would be at the front of courts 3 and 4. The Serve Ace mesh structure looks aesthetically appropriate being set in the current perimeter netting, but when we took up references with Lansdown they told us they no longer used theirs. The committee have therefore dropped this idea.
- in response to members feedback, the Committee have decided to go ahead with altering our clubroom to provide trifold patio doors opening out on the side of the tennis courts. This will provide a fabulous indoor viewing area and better access to the clubroom during tournaments. The Sports Club have agreed to this project. We are incredibly grateful to Chad Evans who has provided the designs, managed builder quotations and applied to Wiltshire Council for planning consent. We are currently awaiting planning consent
- we have had 2 Maintenance Working Groups (Spring and Autumn), where members have volunteered to deep clean the clubroom and carry out various maintenance tasks on the courts e.g. tying down the netting at the back of the courts. We are extremely grateful to James Brown, our committee member who leads on maintenance activities and to all the members who have contributed to our biannual maintenance working parties.

RESULTS SO FAR: We have very good facilities and continue to invest in them.

FURTHER ACTIVITY PLANNED:

- Subject to obtaining Wiltshire Council Planning Consent, we will commission the clubroom Patio Door project described above.
- We are exploring with the Sports Club the possibility of extending the balcony around to face out onto the tennis courts and to replace the dome with a Fixed Structure which will include 2 indoor tennis courts as part of the multi-sport complex..

Objective 4 – Maintain Tennismark+ status

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- In October 2017 we again achieved tennismark+ status which means we are deemed to be a well-run club.
- In May 2018 we published our Data Protection policy
- In Oct 2018 the committee approved revised Safeguarding, and Diversity and Inclusion policies which are available on the website

RESULTS SO FAR:

- The LTA is withdrawing Tennis mark + status with effect from 1st Oct 2018. Instead clubs are being encouraged to put new Safeguarding policies in place, which we have done.
- The LTA have determined that the Head Coach can no longer be an assistant to the Welfare Officer. The Welfare Officer has become a key role for which LTA training and DBS are required. We are very grateful to Linda Opie for undertaking this role – especially as no one of us enjoy spending our free time updating the CTC Safeguarding policies!

FURTHER ACTIVITY PLANNED: We need to apply for our LTA registration by the end of Nov.

The Sports Club

Chippenham Tennis Club is affiliated to Chippenham Sports Club and all of our members are also members of the Sports Club. We have enjoyed retreating to the bar after club sessions and matches, and playing against other sections at skittles, cricket, etc.

During 2017/18, the Sports Club have refurbished the Members bar area as well as the main function room. They plan to extend the balcony around to the tennis court side so that we can stand there to watch matches. They are also hoping to attract sufficient grant funding to be able to replace the indoor dome with a permanent facility.

Your committee

I am extremely grateful to our dedicated committee for everything they do for the club.

This year, special thanks go to Nathan Brown for acting as Treasurer for the past 4 years. Nathan is standing down from the Tennis Club committee in order to take on the role as Treasurer for the Sports Club. We are extremely grateful to Nathan for his wise advice. In his place, I hope you will vote for and support Jake Williams who has volunteered to become our new Treasurer.

We are proposing a change to our Rules (item 9 of the AGM agenda) to include the Welfare Officer as a formal position on our committee. This reflects the importance which the LTA now places on this role and I would ask you to vote accordingly. Linda Opie is our current Welfare Officer, but during the course of this next year, we will be looking for another volunteer to attend the relevant LTA training and take on this role.

We are also proposing that Charles Gordon joins our committee to bring the “five other Members” up to complement. Thank you very much to Charles for volunteering. If anyone else would be prepared to join the committee we will be looking for more new volunteers a year hence (or earlier).

Helen Stuckey
Chairman, October 2018