

TENNIS REPORT TO ASTC AGM 21st OCT 2016

General

It has been another good year for tennis with membership up and playing levels greatly increased through higher participation levels in the regular roll up sessions. We now have in excess of 60 tennis players as follows:

Tennis members: 28

Midweek Tennis Members: 14

All sports members playing tennis: 14

Junior and Student members: 12

The big step forward this year has been the granting of planning permission to floodlight one of our tennis courts. The General Committee has confirmed its support for this project and we expect to have the lights installed by the end of the year.

Coaching

Following the resignation of our coach of 10 years, Mandy Beaumont, at Easter, we have acted quickly to make alternative arrangements, and have appointed an organisation called Cover Coaches to provide adult and junior coaching programmes on our courts throughout the year. So far we have good numbers of young players participating in various LTA approved courses, but the ongoing success of this is dependent on having a floodlit court to continue to provide after school coaching through the winter.

As ever, establishing our club as a successful coaching venue is a key element in developing the club as a tennis venue. It will continue to be a major attraction for new members, and to raise our profile locally and in the eyes of the wider tennis community. It will also be a significant and growing source of court (and lighting) income.

We must thank Mandy, who remains a playing member, for her contribution over the years. The current much healthier membership situation has largely been achieved through attracting juniors and adults to the club through her coaching programmes.

As in all successful tennis clubs, Coaching will remain at the Centre of our tennis development strategy.

Team Tennis

We continue to enter 5 teams in the Dorking and Leatherhead Summer Leagues, and 2 teams in the Surrey Winter leagues.

Last Winter our Mixed Team won most of their matches and were promoted, while the Men's team were 50/50 and will remain in their Division.

In the Summer leagues just completed results were mixed as follows:

- Mens 1st team had problems getting their matches played and will be relegated
- Men 2nd team won 1, drew 4, and lost 2 matches and will remain in division
- Ladies team won 0, drew 2 and lost 4, but will remain in division
- Mixed team won 5, drew 0 and lost 2 and finished 3rd of 8
- Mixed vets team also won 5 and lost 2 and may be promoted
- Overall our teams won 11, drew 6 and lost 10

Club Championships

All four tournaments were well attended and competed for this year and the 2016 Champions are as follows:

Mens Singles: Champion: Jim Flynn. Runner up: Don Lloyd

Mens Doubles: Champions: Aubrey Fox & Mike Stewart. Runners up: Jim Flynn & Jon Vann

Ladies Doubles: Champions: Maggie Christie & Jane Sillett. Runners up: Sheila Fox & Jenny Snow

Mixed Doubles: Champions: Don Lloyd & Maggie Christie. R/U: John Balfour & Lindsey Clement

Future plans

The strategy of the General Committee is to continue to support the development and expansion of our tennis section. We will therefore continue to promote coaching, and to attract new members of all ages and to increase tennis activity at all levels. To do this we must invest in our playing facilities both to maintain them in adequate condition and to improve and increase them. The first step will be floodlighting which will at once open up winter coaching and increase our potential playable court time. A two court tennis club with no lights and dated playing surfaces is greatly restricted in its potential, so following the floodlights, the next steps will be to explore the resurfacing of our existing courts with artificial clay and the addition of a third court with a multi sport surface. The ultimate objective is to turn the club into a popular tennis venue capable of supporting 100+ tennis members with income to match.

Don Lloyd 7th October 2016