

Chair's Report 2022

Thank you

As usual I must start by thanking committee members and volunteers for their involvement and input, without you the club would be nothing like as successful.

A normal year!

Following two years of running a club with activities and play affected by Covid, we returned to near normality once again, being allowed to run almost a full programme of events and competitions.

Club Events

Our biggest event of the year by far was the Jubilee Open Day Extravaganza which proved to be an absolutely fabulous event and as one member said a 'Tennis club triumph spearheaded by Malcolm and Emma'. The club opened the event to local residents and family and they responded in great numbers. As a community we celebrated this historic occasion.



Head Coach Katie led fun sessions for children in the morning and we were delighted to see so many non members trying their hand at tennis, as well as members. A staggering 80 people sat down to our 'Street Party' lunch; a mix of members, young families, residents and friends. A huge thank you to professional chef Emma for calmly producing such a delicious lunch for so many people and to Malcolm for masterminding the event and ensuring we had plenty of bunting, which looked amazing! A great team effort. Some members also enjoyed a few games of relaxed social tennis after lunch.



This was not the only successful social occasion of the summer, Malcom and Emma had already organised the club's first social and tennis event of 2022 in April. This was our start of season 'Serve Off', a real success and we were lucky to have such fine and sunny weather. Thirty members enjoyed delicious canapés courtesy of chef Emma, a chat and some relaxed tennis organised by Malcolm.



Congratulations to Abigail Craig and Chris Hardwick who won the Waitrose Cup in May on a lovely afternoon and a big thanks to our sponsors Waitrose for providing the delicious strawberries and cream! Sixteen members took part in this mixed tennis event which was saved when young member Maisie Linton who happened to be at the courts took up her racket and replaced a player injured in the first match of the afternoon. Thanks to Holly Setchell for organising a cracking event.



The ever popular Davis Cup style team event was held on one of the hottest days of the year in July, with twenty four members playing in four teams of six. Congratulations to team USA for winning the tournament. The team were awarded the Jane Bellinger Memorial Trophy and each player won a bottle of Prosecco. A super afternoon of tennis despite the hot weather; we were so lucky to have a haze and a gentle breeze !



Our 2022 S&P Finals Day was a huge success! The weather was sunny and warm and we were treated to some excellent tennis. Forty members, friends and family enjoyed lunch, with cake and prosecco mid-afternoon. We held a minute's silence as a mark of respect to The Queen after lunch. The star of the day was Amy who won all of her 3 finals and thanks to Malcolm there was a super photo of Amy in the EDP.



Our final event of the summer was The Challenge Cup organised by Ann Starky and David Stephenson, this was won by Chris Hardwick and Chloe Brown.



Club facilities

As a committee we have over the last twelve months been considering the future of the grass courts and whether converting them to an all weather surface was desirable/achievable/affordable. After a comprehensive review of our financial situation, sinking fund and replacement costs of the existing facility, we have decided against pursuing this option. Whilst the club hold a good level of funds, we came to the conclusion that we will not have sufficient monies going forward to replace our current facilities when due if we entered into a new and substantial commitment to replace the grass courts.

This is primarily down to the fact that the budget cost in the plan to resurface our existing courts has increased as a result of inflationary conditions in the construction industry and we need to ensure that we retain adequate funds to carry this work out at the appropriate time. The normal life of a tarmacadam surface is fifteen years, on which basis the bottom courts would be due for resurfacing and potentially refencing in 2026, just over three years away.

Our key capacity issues are only in the summer, so we propose to take advice in regards to the potential to improve the grass courts to make them more playable. We will update members on this in due course.

Club sessions

Club sessions were run throughout the year with play taking place on Saturday morning, Monday morning , Tuesday evening and Thursday evening. Thank you to Margaret Robins for her continued involvement in running the Saturday morning sessions where there now thirty five players on her rota. A round of thanks also to Malcolm Clarke for making the Monday morning sessions so popular with the courts regularly being full to capacity .

Coaching

The Junior Coaching Programme has continued to expand in 2022 with over 100 children attending weekly coaching courses and holiday camps throughout each term.

Our Club-School Link is with Cringleford Primary School where every Wednesday afternoon during term time, Katie coaches mini red sessions in the sports hall. These sessions are very popular and there are long waiting lists for the courses.

During August and September of this year, 45 Junior members took part in the LTA Youth Team Challenge US Open and Monster Smash events at the club. The prizes included certificates, stickers, water bottles, bags and medals for all the children!

The CTC Junior Competition Programme was launched in February providing a great range of competitive opportunities for all ages and abilities at the club. There are LTA Youth Competitions including Match Play and Team Challenge events organised during every term and every school holidays for all of our Junior players at the club. These events have been very well attended and supported by our junior members and parents.

The Adult Coaching Programme has continued to develop and grow throughout 2022. The Friday Ladies Morning sessions have been very well attended throughout the year, with 20 ladies signed up for each term. Ladies Team Practice sessions took place during the Spring and Summer months and these sessions were also very popular.

Katie has plans for the new year which include:

- expansion of the adult coaching programme with Beginner and Improver Courses
- an additional weekly Ladies Morning session
- working with Danny Sapsford and his charity 'Bright Ideas for Tennis'.
- organising sessions at the Club for children from Harford Manor SEN School.
- organising an exhibition match at CTC involving current and former GB Davis Cup and Fed Cup pros, including Danny Sapsford and Andrew Richardson. Tim Henman may even play!

Katie was delighted to be selected to become an official brand ambassador for Tecnifibre in January 2022. The rackets are proving very popular with both the Junior and Adult members at the club.

Membership

Membership has continued to be very steady during the year and currently we have 262 members of whom 74 are Juniors. This compares with 265 members this time last year of whom 85 were Juniors. Membership income is well above last years Covid affected income and as of November stood at £16253.

Competitive tennis

Teams

This year saw a return to team tennis which was enthusiastically embraced by the club with four mixed teams competing in the winter league, two mixed teams in the summer Vets league and seven teams in the summer City League, five mens and two ladies. The standout performance was from the Ladies A team captained jointly by Holly Setchell and Amanda Bailey who finished top of City League Division 2 and are now promoted to Division 1. An honourable mention to the Mens City League D

team captained by Stuart Malone who won a fourth successive promotion and will be in Division 3 next year which will be very interesting as they will be playing alongside the C team and B team. A comprehensive match report prepared by Match Secretary Fraser MacMillan is available on our website click [Match Report 2022](#)

S & P Summer Tournament

The main summer tournament was once again very well supported with 60 pairs and 30 individuals signing up. Seventy two matches were played culminating in a fantastic finals day in early September.

Smith & Pinching Summer Tournament Roll of Honour 2022		
Event	Winner(s)	Runner(s)Up
Men's Singles	Will Foster	Ollie Palmer
Ladies Singles	Amy Fung	Lauren Henery
Ladies Doubles	Amy Fung & Lea Denley	Amanda Bailey & Alison Gilmour
Ladies Doubles Plate	Ann Starky & Sarah Cooper	Tina MacMillan & Claire Murfitt
Mixed Doubles	Chris Hardwick & Amy Fung	Nathan Dickinson & Amanda Bailey
Mixed Doubles Plate	Rob & Helen Atkinson	Fraser & Tina MacMillan
Men's Doubles	Will Foster & Chris Lambert	Rob Hall & Mark Reeves
Men's Doubles Plate	Fraser MacMillan & Nathan Dickinson	Walkover
Over 60's Doubles	Chris Mitchell/Alison Gilmour	Hugh Gilmour/Ann Starky

Box Leagues

Men

January-March

We had 20 pairs in four Boxes who played a total of 34 of the scheduled 40 matches. Box 1 was won by Robert Atkinson & Stuart Murray

April-August.

We had 36 individuals in 5 Boxes who played 20 of the 27 scheduled matches. There were several withdrawals and injuries. Box 1 was won by Alexander Watson-Lazowski, with Stuart Murray runner up.

Current October -December

We have 34 individuals in 4 Boxes due to play 28 matches.

Mixed

February -April

We had 14 men & 14 women enter in 4 Boxes. Most of the matches were played in the top 2 Boxes; but none in the bottom 2 boxes. A total of 11 of the scheduled 18 matches were played. Neil Henery topped the men and Lea Denley topped the women in Box A.

May-Sept

We had 16 men and 16 women in 4 boxes. A total of 15 of the scheduled 24 matches were played, with only one played in box D. Stuart Murray topped the men and Lea Denley again topped the women in Box A.

Current November-January

We have a record 20 men and 20 women in 5 boxes, due to play a total of 30 matches.

Thank You's

Hugh and Alison are standing down from running the S&P Summer Tournament after three very successful years during quite trying times! A big thank you to both for all your efforts. Hugh will continue to run the box leagues whilst Chris Hardwick will take over running the S&P. Team captains standing down this year are Chris Lambert City League A team, Adam Fryatt City League B team, Stuart Malone City League D team, Chris Mitchell Vets A team, Tina MacMillan Vets B team and Rob Atkinson Winter League C team. Many thanks to all Captains for their efforts, there can be a lot of organising, arranging substitute players, dealing with weather affected matches etc so a well done to all for their contribution to the club.

Finally, Nicki is stepping down after some ten years as a committee member and six years managing Club PR and the website. During this time members have become used to regular and comprehensive newsletters which have been appreciated throughout the club. An enormous thank you to Nicki for her efforts particularly during COVID in researching and implementing the court booking system which has been such a great addition for the club. Chris Hardwick is taking over the website and Facebook whilst Malcolm Clarke will be managing the internal PR.

Chris Mitchell - Chair

Committee

Chair Chris Mitchell, Hon Secretary Fraser MacMillan, Hon Treasurer Rob Hall, Membership Secretary Sally Hardwick, Mandy Bailey, Jenny Chambers, Nathan Dickinson, Nicki Mitchell, Paul Henery, Katie Brooks, Chris Hardwick, Holly Setchell and Malcolm Clarke.