TENNIS CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE OWA AGM 2023 **24th November 2023**

I have been in the job for a year since taking over from Nigel, it has certainly been a steep learning curve for someone who didn't know much about running a tennis club. I am very grateful to Nigel Jordan and to Judith Heayberd for their help.

A few weeks after taking over, my first and most pressing task emerged and that was to find new volunteer committee members for the following roles:

Mark O'Conner has taken over from Alex Burn as Communications

Peter Schoff has taken over from Judith Heayberd as Membership Secretary

Stacy Woodward has taken over from Jo Burn as Secretary

We also have a deputy Safeguarding officer Honour Rakz to assist Judy Evans.

During this last year membership numbers have fallen by about 5%, we currently have across all categories a total of 653 compared to 691 last year.

I think we have achieved quite a lot of improvement to the tennis club, these improvements include:

John Drabwell has overseen the re-sanding of courts 1-4 and we have entered into a regular maintenance contract with a specialist company Called Sports and Courts to look after the courts' surfaces and to prolong their service life. The scope of this contract has been chosen to mesh with the week-to-week maintenance that we will get from the OWs grounds staff in the future.

Jim Cursey has organized repairs and replacement of sections of fencing around the courts. We have also put up wind breaks that have improved the appearance and playing experience of the courts.

We had the flood light columns inspected by a structural engineer for condition and stability ahead of fitting LED floodlights to courts 5 and 6. This is the second phase of the floodlights overhaul and conversion. These have proved very popular. At the same time we also had the existing lights to courts 1 - 4 maintained for the coming year. These have operated well so far this winter season. Members are keen to know when these remaining lights will be converted to LED.

Tony Howard has overseen the purchase of rechargeable leaf blowers to enable members to clear leaves quickly in the Autumn to help keep the courts clean and playable.

Jim Cursey and Chris Gurr have fitted padlocks and retaining chains to the courts to keep them secure when not in use.

Chris Gurr and Tony Clark have organized and laid a new path leading to the gate of court 3 reusing old paving slabs set aside from the new path works carried out in the previous year.

Tony Clark has fitted tamper-proof programmable heaters to the pavilion and a door closer has been fitted to the pavilion door both measures to save energy and improve the comfort of the pavilion in winter.

Chris Gurr, John Drabwell and Tony Clark have also constructed a storage cupboard for use by the coaching team on the far side of the pavilion.

Judith and Judy have been busy keeping our documentation up to date with new court etiquette guidelines that have now been incorporated into the club handbook and a revised club safeguarding policy has been published aligning the club's practices with the newly overhauled policies of the LTA.

Martin Partridge has also continued to run the 100 club very successfully and raised increased amounts of money for the club.

Looking forwards, we are hoping for cctv to improve security in the pavilion and around the courts which may be extended from the main clubhouse at some stage in the future, and we are also hoping that wifi will be possible in our pavilion.

On the downside, we have noticed a slight drop in enthusiasm for our social events and fewer people signing up for our in-club competitions which is a trend we are hoping to turn around next year.

Anyhow, the net income from events has fallen this year and coupled with an expected increase in rent this year payable to the OW CIO. So going forwards we will have to keep a close eye on our financial position and planning so that we can afford to complete our floodlights renewal programme and replace playing surfaces in the future when we need to.

Thank you.

Andrew French