

Chairmans AGM report 2023

Good evening everyone and welcome to the AGM and ideas evening. It's a format we tried last year which resulted in us getting a few more people to attend and some ideas from members. You can see what we did with those ideas at the back of the room. We think it's a good opportunity to invite all members down to talk to the committee and tell us how they would like to see the club change and develop. So please put your ideas on the post it notes or talk to a committee member about them.

As the Treasurer has already shown, we have again had a record operating surplus. It wasn't long ago that an operating surplus of £10,000 was normal and this year we have again achieved £27,000 that's the second year in a row. A substantial increase which is very welcome. This of course is driven by the increase in adult members we had over the two covid affected years that we have been able to retain into this year. Subscriptions values are at an all-time high. Cost of electricity for the floodlights remains a drain on our expenses. We are paying nearly £2,000 more than two years ago and while electricity cost will reduce in Feb, we will not see the benefit of that till the 2024/25 accounts.

We have accumulated seventy-one thousand pounds in our capital investment fund. All of this is allocated to replacing infrastructure at the club including LED lighting on Courts 4 and 5, replacement of playing surface on court 6 and the replacement of playing surface and sub surface works on Courts 1 and 2. We have a well-defined and costed development programme and hopefully the funds to complete this in the next five years.

This year it's the Ladies first team who are the stars of the show with their promotion to the premier league. A feat not achieved for many years and a real endorsement for the improvement in the standards of Ladies tennis at the club over the last few years. So, take a bow first team Ladies especially 100% Sam who won all her matches this season and also Sarah for guiding Ladies tennis the last years. The 3rd team also got promoted so a very successful summer for the Ladies.

It was another successful season for our Mixed Winter league teams with the second team getting promoted and the firsts finishing second behind Warwick Boat club in the top division.

The men's teams continue to perform strongly in the summer league with the Men's first team retaining their premier league status again, so congratulations to them for that. The men's second team just missed out on promotion by sets won, so close to a promotion two years running. The 3rds did finally get promoted from Div 5. They have been knocking on the door for a few years, so it was good to see them get over the line. It's good to see the players who joined in the last three years progressing through the teams and making a difference. The two Men vet's teams are again in action this winter with The B team currently sitting top of the table; exciting things are expected. We have again entered a team in the men's winter league for the younger guys to play in.

The club championship saw good weather and a new record, with 100% Sam winning all four finals she was in. A real achievement not only of skill but also of endurance on the day. She was a very tired but happy lady at the end of the day. A special mention to 12-year-old James Lea who got to two finals. I think we may be hearing more about him in the years to come. A big thank you to Alex Nurse for his generous donation of all the food for the Finals Day BBQ.

Social tennis Saturday afternoon sessions have been less well attended this year and that's probably due to the increase in league tennis which is all year round now and Men's and Ladies practise nights on Monday and Wednesday. However, Tuesday's numbers have increased mainly due to Paul's introduction of a WhatsApp group. We will continue to monitor numbers and see what we can do to increase members attending.

With regard to the Sports Assoc, it was feared that the loss of Capellas income would mean significant levy rises for the clubs. However, the Sports Association have managed energy and cleaning costs very well, so this looks like having a much-reduced impact now. They have also hired the upstairs room to Madam Caci.

We continue to have a full coaching programme for Juniors and Seniors. We had two coach-led open days this year, so a big thank you to Stuart and the team for supporting those. The Junior coaching teams continues to be successful, with ten Junior members being invited to County fun days, talent ID sessions or County training. On top of that, we have more Junior members participating in local and regional tournaments. So, another successful year for the coaching team.

Jo Brattle makes sure we continue to have a regular page in the Bugle giving us a presence in the local community and hopefully attracting new members. Once again Patrick Parry-Evans organised a Strawberry tennis afternoon with all whites and wooden racquets which raised £1,483 for breast cancer. Dave Green ran another successful comedy night and raised over £400 for Parkinson's.

A quick mention for some of my committee colleagues who give up endless unpaid hours to keep the club running smoothly. First and foremost, Judith Thomas and Paul Foster who both do huge amounts of work and commit far too much time to the club. It's fair to say that the club just would not function without these two. I'd also like to say a thank you to Matt Quinn for his role as membership secretary and Craig Nash for organising today and all committee meetings and lastly to all the other committee members for all their efforts and activities and for putting up with me for another year. It's fair to say this is an excellent Committee and it makes my role a lot easier having their support.

So, in conclusion we have again achieved a record amount in subscriptions and operating surplus, both Ladies and Men's first teams are in the Premier league next year for the first time I can remember. All Ladies and Men's squads are looking stronger than ever. We are playing more league tennis than ever. The Juniors continue to have more County representation than ever before, and our Coaches continue to coach these squads. Our investment programme looks exciting and well-funded. I'm really very happy once again to say all I can see is a positive future ahead.

Thank you.