



## Chairman's AGM report 2022

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the AGM and ideas evening. It's a totally new format for us tonight but we feel we needed to try new things as the AGM was being attended by fewer people every year. We have also had a number of new members over the last three years and wanted to see if we could tempt a few of those down to share their experiences and opinions. So, we thought it would be 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. However, many people turn up and whatever happens we can always enjoy the wine and cheese if it doesn't work.

As the treasurer has already shown you 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 archived nearly £27,000. A substantial increase which of course is very welcome given the extra cost we incurred in renewing court 3. This of course is driven by the increase in adult members we had over the two covid affected years and have been able to retain into this year. So subscriptions values are at an all time high. Again the treasurer has mentioned the significant increase in Sports Association costs driven by electricity prices which resulted in us paying nearly £2,000 more for floodlights this year. With electricity prices forecast to go even higher we have a working group evaluating the possibility of installing LED lighting on courts 3 and 4 and will advise further on this once we have information on costs, grants available and return on investment models in place. However, electricity costs are our main costs concern going forward and we may need to take action in future depending on the magnitude of future increases.

The men's teams go from strength to strength in the summer league with the Men's first team retaining their premier league status for the first time ever, so congratulations to Jack and the team for that. The men's second team got promoted from Div 4 under Dave Green's leadership with a new look team and the 3rds finished third in Div 5. All three teams have a number of players that joined in the last three years and are developing into fine league players and driving the performance of these teams. Generally we have an increasing number of new members wanting to play league tennis so that's encouraging for the future. We are still fielding two men's vets teams although the 1st team got relegated in what proved to be a transitional season with regard to personnel. Due to the demand for league tennis from the younger guys we have in fact entered a men's team in a winter league for the first time and await the first game with anticipation.

The Ladies teams have had a fantastic year, maybe even the best ever? In the summer league the ladies first team blitzed the 2nd Div winning it by an incredible 18 points under Katie Standley's leadership. The second team, playing in the same league, missed out on promotion by "sets against" having the same number of points as Rugby in second place. The 3rds missed out on promotion by one point and the 4th team in their first year in the league finished a creditable mid-table. Amazingly the winter league was even better with all three ladies teams getting promoted. The ladies also contributed to the mixed teams where the second team got promoted with the firsts already playing in the first Div. We saw more ladies playing spring league this year with mid-table finishes for both teams. So a really exciting year for the ladies with more to come next year one hopes.

The club championship saw good weather and some absolutely fantastic tennis in all the finals. We saw Joey Porter retain his men's singles championship and then pair up with Sam Hiskett to win the doubles. In the ladies singles Louis Porter regained her title back from Sam Shakeshaft and then joined Imogen Witty to win the doubles. Over 90's were won by Sue Walsh and Katie Standley and Dave Green and Dave Lea won the men's. The final match of the day saw a close fought mixed doubles won by Helena Wilson and Phil Shakeshaft. A big thank to Dave Green for continuing to organise the club championship and to Sam Shakeshaft and Matt Quinn for organising the other club tournaments and tennis days. We now have more club competitions and more teams in more leagues. So as a club we are playing more competitive tennis than ever.

Social tennis Saturday afternoon sessions continue to be well attended while Tuesday sessions have been less well attended probably due to us now have a men's practice night on a Monday and a ladies one on Wednesday which has probably squeezed Tuesdays a little. The good news is that many new members are coming down to both sessions and some have very quickly established themselves as regulars. Many thanks to Angela and Paul for organising social sessions. Our aim with social tennis sessions is to have a session that members can come to whatever their tennis level at least once a week and we will be reviewing how we can achieve this over the coming months.

With regard to the Sports Association I have already mentioned the effect of electricity prices on floodlights but of course this also impacts the running of the clubhouse and the running of the bar. These are obviously big issues for us and we await information from the Sports Association on the effect of the electricity cost increase in March before deciding how we can best tackle these.

We have been very lucky to keep our three main coaches for a number of year now; Collen, Jon & Harry have been a constant and stable presence. The three coaching musketeers do a brilliant job, day in, day out delivering high quality lessons to a wide range of members across both groups and individual sessions.

Collen and Harry were asked to coach the county boys under 14 team this year and led the team to victory in the County Cup; this is testimony to the growing reputation of the club's junior programme.

Helena Wilson & Dylan Vine are now actively engaged in supporting the coaching programme. Seeing both develop from junior players into Level 1 coaches has been a real highlight of 2022.

More of our juniors are now representing Warwickshire and played at County Cup. We are seeing more parents of juniors joining the club.

Other encouraging signs are the transition of 18 and under players into senior activities. We are consistently and continuing to engage teenage girls in lessons and our clubs junior teams regularly compete against other clubs. So many pleasing things in the coaching and junior area.

One of our aims this year was to have greater visibility in the community and it's really positive to see we are getting half a page or more every quarter in the Bugle now thanks to Jo Brattle organising our contribution. On top of this we have had two major charity events with Patrick Parry-Evans organising a Strawberry tennis afternoon with all whites and wooden racquets in June which raised £1,137 for breast cancer. In Sept we raised £2,313 for the local foodbank with a well-attended Race Night.

A quick mention for some of my committee colleagues who give up endless unpaid hours to keep the club running smoothly. Firstly Matt Quinn for seamlessly taking over the role of membership secretary. Secondly to Judith Thomas and Paul Foster who both do numerous things on a daily basis and commit far too much time to the club. I'd also like to say a thank you to 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.

So in conclusion we have achieved a record amount of subscriptions and operating surplus, our mens first team has had its best season ever. The Ladies first team had a tremendous season with a record amount of points. We have more teams in more leagues than we have ever had and all our teams are becoming stronger as new players become integrated. We have more juniors in county squads than ever before and our coaches now coach those squads. So I'm really very happy to say all I can see is a positive future ahead.

Thank you.