



President's Report (February 2024)

Another year at Blackhall Tennis Club has flown by and there have been plenty of things to cover as part of my review of the last 12 months.

During last year's president report, I commented on membership growth as a key objective to increase our player pool and to help reduce the burden of rising costs facing the club. Whilst we still hope to expand our membership further, I've been delighted by how our new members have settled into the club.

A strong contributing factor to this has been an increase in Social Tennis Activities through the year.

Rusty Rackets, organised by Scott Langley on Thursday evenings, has been a great way for members who are not sure of whether they are team level standard to come down and hit with similar level players.

We've also had a number of Handicap doubles events that have added some fun competition for players of varying standards.

It has been exciting to see a new coaching offering of Cardio Tennis in early 2023 and this proved popular with our Ladies Section. This is hopefully something we can offer again in 2024.

The club has been active in the local Blackhall Community, supporting a very successful Sports Day at Ravelston Park in June and introductory coaching sessions for the Brownies and Nursery.

The competitive season saw mixed fortunes for the club's teams. Our Juniors and Ladies Teams had a very strong season – ensuring safety or promotions from their divisions. Unfortunately 2023 wasn't as fruitful for our Men's Teams but at least we should be in more representative divisions for the season ahead. Thank you to all of our captains of Adults and Junior Teams through 2023.

Off the court, my thanks to the committee – Sheila, Susan, Elspeth, Mandy, Peter, Catherine, Helen and Sean - for their sterling efforts. This includes the organising of the fantastic Quiz event last March, ensuring the club meets our Financial and Safeguarding requirements and maintenance of the court grounds. I'm also grateful to our non-committee volunteers who have been supporting this with Stewart Methven and Tony Harrison in particular giving up their time.

Helen and Sean have decided to step down from the committee and I appreciate that they will offer continued support around the club. With these changes, we are actively looking for new committee members. There are lots of different ways in which volunteers can benefit the club and if anyone is keen to do so, I would love to have a chat.

I'm very conscious that the existing committee have volunteered their time and efforts for a considerable time and it would be great to have some fresh ideas and an opportunity for others to step off the committee.

When I took on the Club Presidency in September 2022, it was on the condition that I step down in January 2025 as I recognised that fresh leadership and energy would be needed after a couple of years. With that in mind, this year will be my last as president and I will hand over the Presidency

during next year's AGM. Although I'm very keen to give the club my best efforts this year! And with that in mind, I'm pleased to announce that another quiz will be organised for October this year and we'll be running our next Social Tennis Event on the 1st of March. The link to sign-ups was included in Catherine's recent newsletter so please have a read of that if not done so already.

Hope to see you on the court soon!

David Brunger

BLTC President