

May 2024

Thank you everyone for attending.

I would like to begin by saying a big thank you to all my fellow committee members as without their continued support, I would not be able to fulfil my duties as Chairman. It really is a team effort to ensure the Club continues to go from strength to strength. Although I wish to thank all the Committee, as in previous years Carl in particular (our Coach) who sits on the committee in a largely consultative role has continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes. Many of the changes both on and off the Court have come about because of his hard work and perseverance for which I would like to say both a personal thanks and a group thanks on behalf of the committee. On another note, during this past membership year I have adopted the role of Treasurer. However, this is not an area that I have great expertise in so if anyone wishes to take this role on please make yourself known! However, if there is not a volunteer, I will continue to do my best as Treasurer but may need a helping hand or second pair of eyes from time to time.

Shortly we should see the improvement to our facilities in terms of retractable floodlighting on Court 1 and a new secure storage/mini clubhouse container. As part of the project team for this, I would just like to pay particular thanks to both Ali and Carl as they have both spent countless hours in project meetings, sourcing funds through grant applications, sourcing suppliers and coming up with suitable designs. On a separate point, it has become clear that recruiting and retaining committee members is becoming more difficult year on year. At the last AGM, my speech did mention that we would investigate ways of attracting or retaining committee members. With this in mind, I propose that in recognition of this that the following key roles attract a special (half adult price) committee membership fee - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer & Welfare Officer.

Over the past year, we have continued to hold regular adult and junior coaching with all junior squads and our Ladies Pair and Play night being particularly popular. It is also great to see the juniors developing as players as undoubtedly, they are the future of the Club. As a result, we have entered some of these players in the Suffolk Youth & National League so well done to those who are due to participate and to Carl for their ongoing development as players. I believe some of these are already representing the Club at local league level or if not they shortly will be pushing for that. In addition, we have also just hosted our annual club open day on 28th April which was well organised, enjoyable and a successful event resulting in the recruitment of some new members for the club. Thanks also to those who assisted on the day in whatever capacity.

As well as coaching and matchplay, recreational social tennis is also tremendously important to growth within the club as many people simply want to meet up and play tennis with friends and family. Consequently, its brilliant to see that our "free to members" adult Club sessions have expanded and now take place on Tuesday evenings, Friday evenings and Sunday mornings and continue to be well attended. Thanks to the coordinators for setting these up. We are also in discussion with the tennis charity known as Tennis for Free and hope to make some further announcements on a possible partnership with TFF later in the year.

Facilities wise, we hope to complete phase 1 of our facilities development plan this year, so our next/long-term aim is to change over to LED lighting on courts 2 & 3 as part of phase 2 of this plan. The current lighting on courts 2 & 3 is not only ageing but is expensive to run in these rising energy price times, so upgrading to LED lighting remains something we will look to do as soon as practically possible.

As a result of all of the above initiatives, court utilisation remains strong which is great to see. We continue to have a social media presence on Facebook and our club website and we also publish regular articles in the local InTouch magazine. The Club committee has also met regularly during the past year to ensure the Club continues to operate efficiently.

However, due to factors such as electricity costs, inflation and the need to cover maintenance costs within the membership fee, I feel that there does again need to be a small increase in membership fees across all categories. Therefore, I propose that we abolish the previous two tier membership structure and adopt the following one tier membership fees for the 2024-25 membership year.

Committee (Key role)	£36
Adult	£72
Adult senior (60+)	£60
Couple	£96
Family	£115
Junior	£22
Open day special family	£66

This represents an approximate increase of 10% which I feel represents very good value for money considering Floodlight usage is one of the benefits still included in the membership fee.

In view of this, I urge all existing members to renew their membership and if you know any others who are considering joining, please get them to come along. Our membership fee structure continues to remain very competitive, our facilities are very good, we have access to an award-winning coach and as mentioned we aim to make further improvements to the facilities, so please continue to support us in 2024/25. Finally, I am prepared to put my name forward to continue in the role of Chairman for the forthcoming year. However, as ever if others wish to stand at any point for any committee role, please make yourself known.

Chairman