

Secretary's Report March 2024

There have been some important court improvements during the 2023-24 season. The drainage of the courts following rain was becoming an issue, so it was decided to have the courts refurbished at a cost of around £10.5k as the surface generally is still in good condition. This happened in September and the improvement has been particularly noticeable following the regular wet weather we have seen since then! A full court replacement would cost in the region of £40k. Fortunately, club funds were available and we aim at increasing our surplus over the coming years so we can cover these large capital expenses. We have also recently invested in new nets.

Most maintenance continues to be carried out on a voluntary basis by club members and I hope more members can become involved this year.

Court usage has been on a par with last. We hope to restart the internal club tournaments over the summer months in addition to the charity events we run. Weekday daytime court usage has been relatively low so if you are in the fortunate position to be free during these times, please make the most of the facilities.

The annual winter social evening held in early February was a great success with a great spread of food on offer. A raffle was held for club funds and Jimmy's famous quiz was back to bamboozle one and all. Thanks to all who contributed to its success.

Club membership has remained stable over the past year, and we hope to welcome more village members to the club so we will be present at the Garden Village Association Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday the 4th of May to recruit some new members. We also hope to organise a barbeque some time over the summer months.

The use of the ClubSpark system for bookings, coaching and courses has worked well over the past few years and will continue to be used for bookings. You now need an LTA Advantage account to log into ClubSpark so please register if you have not already done so. The basic LTA Advantage accounts are free and give you the option for example to opt-in to the Wimbledon ballot and receive discounts and priority access to tickets for other LTA events etc.

The on-line information for the tennis club will continue to be updated via the ClubSpark website, Garden Village Association website and Facebook page. Finally, I hope everyone is well and looking forward to getting back on court soon.

Mark Maxwell
Gosforth Garden Village Tennis Club