



THE GROVE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

East Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1NB T 01799 525573 W www.grovetennis.org.uk

Virtual Annual General Meeting 2020

The AGM was scheduled for the end of March, however the Covid-19 lockdown necessitated its cancellation. This is just a summary what happened at the Club in the 2019-20 season.

1). Chairman's Report – Trisha Esplin

Dear Members,

First and foremost welcome to loyal members , your stalwart Committee and the coaching team . Thanks go out to you all for supporting your club especially through this strange & unprecedented periodLockdown , no play permitted , social distancing , no gatherings , it goes on .

Sincere gratitude must also go to the Committee who have worked exceptionally hard throughout this past year enabling the club to thrive and prosper ; the membership has benefited from not only the refurbishment of the fencing on Court 2 and the resurfacing of Court 5 , but also by increasing the frequency of the servicing maintenance program for all the courts .

We must thank Marc and his coaching team for their hard work encouraging new members across all categories from the “minis” up to the “seniors “ , and also thank Lynne ,our membership secretary ,for managing all the various packages on offer, so effectively & efficiently. The club finances have benefitted greatly from having Lorraine ,our treasurer , at the helm . Thus the ‘coffers’ were in a healthy state to weather the storm of Covid-19, as you will see from the report below . So thank you Lorraine for all your hard work, especially for recently securing a £10,000 grant from Uttlesford district council for club improvements .

We have been active in the community this year , the clubhouse hosting a Home Start charity event and then morphing itself into an Uttlesford Polling Station for the general election last December. We certainly widened the club profile locally, so thanks must go to all those that worked tirelessly to enable the smooth running of both these events.

Sadly this last year we lost a great servant of the club, Stuart Gorman , a past club chairman , match player and Men’s Captain . His devotion to the club was outstanding and a great example for us all to follow . A donation was made to the Arthur Rank hospice on the club’s behalf . Recently we lost one of our most long-standing loyal lady members , Sylvia Banks who joined the Grove back in the 1950s ...her enthusiasm for tennis was apparent throughout her long career on and off the court .A donation was sent to Cancer research UK .

On a happier note , we made Moira Robertson a life-long Honorary member , in recognition of her service and devotion to the club . We look forward to happier times ahead , seeing her back at the club , welcoming us all and having a chat over a cup of tea . Let’s hope that it’s not too long before we can “resume play” after this long and drawn out enforced break . Meanwhile take care and please continue to support your club and each other , Best wishes , Trisha

2). Treasurer's Report – Lorraine Squire

I am pleased, to present the report and accounts for the end of the financial year ended 31st December 2019. I would like to thank you all for your support to the club, which without you, would not be the success that it is.

For the year, more income was generated by collecting match fees and Winter League subs on a regular basis, visitor fees increased and the hiring of the clubhouse to Uttlesford Council as the polling station for the general election, in addition to the membership fees.

For the year 2019 we had the expense of new fencing, which will be an ongoing project for the future.

The grounds are maintained on a regular basis, which I am sure you have appreciated to see how nice the club looks.

Overall the overheads for the club in 2019 are less than 2018, which the committee are addressing in all aspects for value for money.

However we are still having to push forward and generate income to have the funds for when the time comes to renew the courts.

As we now enter the next financial year it is important for the club to keep the momentum of membership and fundraising and to build on the success of previous years, especially now in these testing times with COVID-19.

Lorraine Squire

3). House and Grounds report

House Report – Val Forbes

1. Maintenance

- Cleaning: appointed new cleaner Deanne Howe (1.5 hrs weekly Wednesday am)

2. Refurbishment

- New Defibrillator pads/battery purchased
- New Social notice board inside clubhouse
- Third notice board and sign for outside club waiting to be hung
- New Control timer for hot water/heating
- Updated Honours board- ongoing
- Quotes for refurbing Kitchen area- 2/3 quotes so far. Need a third

3. Income Generation

- Recycling Tennis balls. – £197.00 this year for club funds. Please donate old balls. 2 boxes sent to Dog's charity
- Polling station- £750.00

Going forward

1. Floor resealing/cleaning



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2. Changing room locker/bench
3. Repaint

Possible future projects

4. Awning
5. Patio furniture
6. Clubhouse door-coded lock

Any ideas you would like to see implemented please have a word or email me
Valerie Forbes

V40rbs@googlemail.com

Grounds Report – James Marchant

Thank you to Geoff Smith, one of our members, who has been our Gardener at the club for the past 12 months. He has done a really fantastic job and been exceptionally helpful to the club. Marc's team will be taking over the day to day groundskeeping in 2020.

Activities:

- Following the installation of court 5 last year, there has been no requirement for major works this year.
- We replaced the boards surrounding the courts.

Ongoing maintenance:

- I have made sure that the club is maintained to its current standard. If there are any members who have the time to work on improvement projects, including planting bulbs and flowers in the court surrounds: 'Yes Please' & pls. contact me.
- The courts continue to be deep cleaned externally twice a year and we rely on the efforts of members to keep the courts clean and clear of any litter and fallen leaves and seeds.
- I am aware the lights token box has been erratic. If it continues or gets any worse, it will need to be looked at by the manufacturers (based in Sussex). I have not done this yet because the faults seem to have fixed themselves in each instance, so we have been able to delay the bizarrely large cost for a call-out (£500-1k!).

Please email me with any issues/requested improvements with the grounds:

james@haverplastics.co.uk

Enjoy 2020 tennis.

James Marchant

4). Social Report – Maddy Marley

Report covers period January 2019-21 June 2020.

Highlights

Saturday Social Tennis attendance improved

1. A good uptake of Marc's suggestion to limit the number of games per set to 9 and play a one deuce. This ensured good circulation of members of varying standards. It was "casually" policed by me, with the help of members eg Val
2. The Tennis Social Whatsapp group was formed and proved very popular especially for arranging informal games , finding match replacements, ensuring turn-up on poor weather days
3. Homemade cakes were on offer on Saturday social, contributing to the enjoyment and togetherness
4. Scones and Pimms were offered on 20 July, following Marc's doubles clinic. No charge was made, but donations and raffle ticket money were collected.

Wimbledon Draw 11 May 2019

Cream Teas, Strawberries and a glass of Pimms were offered for £5.00 Very popular and well-supported. Scones were baked by members (Val, Clare, Rachel, Jane, Kathy myself, to mention a few).

Tennis Club finals 14 Sept 2019

Cakes, sandwiches, snacks were provided by members, and glasses of Pimms were offered for £2.00 (so popular we ran out of Pimms!)

Hospital Cup Tournament 21st Sept 2019 (organised by Clare Jackson)

Same catering as Tennis Club finals 14 Sept 2019, collecting donations for Hospital Cup. Clare had also organised a raffle. Well-attended and supported, and nice to see ex-Grove members too.

Quiz 7 February 2020 £10.00 including a Fish and Chip supper

This was so popular it was oversubscribed, and we had to work really hard to fit everyone into the clubhouse – which we did!- over 40 members and their partners. We decorated the clubhouse with lights and covered the tables with gingham tablecloths. Snacks on all the tables. Rosie was chief Quiz Master, and Jane Paterson helped out too. A raffle was held. Fish and Chips from the shop on the High Street. Great atmosphere and support -raising over £200.00. Will be repeated.

Cancelled:

Philippa's charity tournament, 8 June 2019 = due to weather
Tennis Club Quiz 15th June, and 18 October=due to lack of support
Thai Food from Ananta 14 Sept 2010=due to lack of support



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5). Matches and Tournaments secretary's report – William Freeman

The club participates in various Cambridge and Essex Leagues and Tournaments and I'm pleased to report that last year, we won the following trophies;

Cambridge & District League

Summer League 2019

Team	Division
Ladies 1	1
Mixed 1	2
Mixed 2	4
Mixed 3	6

Winter League 2018

Men's 1	3
Ladies 2	3
Mixed 2	5

This success was recognised at the Cambridge & District League AGM, where the club was presented with a Special Achievement Award.

We also participated in

Essex Small Leagues

Summer League 2019

Team	Division
Ladies 5	3

Essex Tennis Knockout Tournament

Winner of the Men's Junior Cup Division II

This success is a reward for the hard work and dedication of Debbie Bowes and Paul Kent the respective Ladies and Men's Captains. The most rewarding aspect was that the club had success at all levels and this reflects the strength and depth of the club. We've now set ourselves a high bar and our next challenge is to maintain our position.

Club Tournament

The club finals day took place on the 14th of September and was as usual well supported and members and friends enjoyed some great tennis and more importantly food and drink. The only downside was due to injury the Ladies Open Doubles could not take place and the winners were as follows;

Cup Winners 2019

Men's Singles	J Lampon
Men's Doubles	P Kent & B Oakes
Mixed Doubles	J Westnedge & B Oakes

Shield Winners 2019

Ladies Singles	K McInnes
Ladies Doubles	S Harris & C Jackson
Men's Singles	T Butler
Men's Doubles	T Butler & A Brown
Mixed Doubles	S Harris & J Stone

For 2020, all tournaments are suspended until the 28th of June and we are awaiting an update. One idea been put forward by the Cambridge & District League is to abandon all normal 2020 leagues and offer a one off "2020 Celebration League". Men's and Ladies doubles with divisions broadly around the summer 2020 structure but inviting clubs to add / withdraw teams as they wish. We could find a novel way to celebrate the Division winners. It would be a memorable way to mark a year which we'll never forget - even if we'd prefer to. This would allow us to spread fixtures and have more days between matches.

At the present time, the club tournament has been suspended and depending on Covid developments, we are looking at running the Briscoe Cup (Mixed Doubles), Charles Hassell Cup (Ladies Doubles) and Wallis Cup (Men's Doubles) in the autumn which will compensate for finals day but more importantly give members an opportunity to get together.

In the meantime, thank you to Simon McInnes for organising access to Tennis Rungs a ladder system for singles and doubles that makes it really easy for players to make challenges and will provide an alternative for competitive play.

William Freeman

Wednesday, 10 June 2020

6). Committee Members for 2020 season

Chairman	Trisha Esplin
Treasurer	Lorraine Squire
Secretary	Krystyna Windle
Match & Tournaments	William Freeman
House	Val Forbes
Grounds	James Marchant
Ladies Captain	Debbie Bowes
Mens Captain	Paul Kent
Public Relations	Andy Rice
Social Secretary	Maddy Marley
Membership	Lynne Rushton
Child Protection Officer	Sally Harris
Coach	Marc Squire

7). Members Report

Our current standing is **179 ACTIVE MEMBERS** , only slightly down on previous years , thanks to the loyalty of our members in supporting our club.



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8). Subscriptions for the season 2020-21

We have discounted the fees by a 30% due to the consequences of the pandemic Covid-19 restrictions on tennis activity, with a plea to make donation. Current membership fees are:

Adult	£147
Adult Concession	£136
Adult Daytime	£113
Adult Daytime Concession	£103
Country	£77
Family	£302
Guardian Associate	£32
Junior	£43
Mini-junior	£24
Social	£10
Student	£43

9). Coaching report – Marc Squire

April 2019 to March 2020

Overview of Coaching

The coaching programme at the Grove has 3 terms that coincide with the school terms.

Term 1: April to July

Term 2: September to December

Term 3: January to March

Each term consists of 10 to 12 weeks of group coaching for juniors/adults, Tuesday to Saturday.

- Approx. 9 adult groups and 17 junior groups run per week

We also run tennis camps for juniors during the school holidays throughout the year

- 3 days during Easter holidays 2019
- 1 day Road to Wimbledon Tournament during May Half Term 2019
- 3 weeks of camps in the summer holidays 2019
- 3 days October Half Term 2019

*No camps are run during the Christmas holidays and no camps were run during the February half term 2020

The numbers of junior and adults over the last couple of years has remained very consistent and the amount raised via non members attending all coaching (outlined above) has gone up from £2196 in 2018 to £3313 in 2019.

We have whatsapp groups for all coaching groups and these have proved useful for organisational purposes and for people to play outside of lessons.

Tennis Leaders

In April 2019 we held a tennis leader course aimed at juniors ages 14+ to allow them to get on the coaching ladder; we had 10 juniors complete the course. This course is a valuable opportunity for the juniors to help the coaching team and feel more part of the club.

Social and tennis Clinic

On the 20th July 2019 I ran a coaching clinic which was opened to all members and whose aim was to improve a particular aspect of their game. The clinic proved to be extremely popular and was attended by more than 20 members; it also constituted an opportunity for people to socialise and get to know each other.

Men's coaching

Andy Rice and Paul Kent took over the running of the Sunday morning training sessions in the summer term 2019 and are continuing to do so. From September 2019 the men's coaching session moved to a Wednesday evening.

Family Social on Sundays

This is an allocated slot where families can come together and play. In order to raise awareness among the members, the first session was coach led. The event very successful, 35 players turned up! After the first session not many people continued taking advantage of the slot.

Coaches

Thomas Butler was working with the team full time over the Summer 2019, until September when he started his university degree.

Callum Forsyth (Level 3 coach) joined the team in July 2019, along with Joe Lampon our singles champion 2019 (level 2 coach).