



# THE GROVE LAWN TENNIS CLUB

East Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1NB T 01799 525573 W [www.grovetennis.org.uk](http://www.grovetennis.org.uk)

## Virtual Annual General Meeting 2021

For the second year running we are having a “Virtual AGM”, where Committee members have written their reports. Club members' comments are invited.

### **1). Chairman's Report – Trisha Esplin**

Wow, what a year we have had, enduring this unprecedented global pandemic that has affected us all in so many unexpected ways .

Yet despite all the doom and gloom Covid has created, I am proud to say how amazingly well The Grove has fared.

This is primarily down to you, our loyal members, supporting the club by joining up for the duration of an uncertain year. Plus we have welcomed many new members, proving that our decision to reduce the annual membership fees across all categories due to Covid uncertainty was the right one for the club. Our financial position is sound as you will see from the Treasurer’s report- to follow.

Your Committee has been exceptionally busy off court, being instrumental in the smooth running, maintenance & improvements of all the club’s facilities; with the help of an Uttlesford District grant of £10,000, the clubhouse has had a face lift, the courts professionally serviced , the grounds well groomed ....all is ready to welcome you back for hopefully a full season of tennis & social activities ahead .

So on your behalf, I most sincerely thank the Committee for all their hard work throughout the year. I’d like to share with you a goodbye note received from Val , a loyal member of the club who served on the Committee in several different guises over many years ....she wrote after leaving,

“I now realise what a fantastic club The Grove is and what a great job the Committee do in providing such excellent facilities for so little”.

So, great thanks to go to Val for her contribution and for reminding us that your Committee are volunteers, giving up their precious time for the benefit of you, the members.

Which brings me to welcome Jacque Woolley onto the Committee to oversee the ‘house ‘ and to Jane Bowen as Membership Secretary , replacing Lynne Rushton. Sincere thanks go to Lynne for her years of voluntary service. Kirsty Rowlandson is welcomed as Ladies’ Captain and Adrian Holley as Men’s Captain. Thanks go to the outgoing captains, Debbie Bowes and Paul Kent for their sterling efforts with the teams.

Our thanks also go to Marc Squire and his coaching team who continue to attract and inspire both adult & the next generation of young players . We are a community as a club and we look forward to seeing our community thrive and prosper in the year ahead.

So let me finish by thanking you all for your support and let’s all look forward to a fantastic tennis year ahead .

Trisha Esplin

## **2). Treasurer's Report – Lorraine Squire**

**To follow**

### **3). House and Grounds report**

#### **House Report – Jacque Woolley**

##### **1. Maintenance**

- Cleaning: A new cleaner is due to start once the clubhouse is open again.

##### **2. Refurbishment**

- The new kitchen has been installed and new chairs, stools and rug purchased. Thank you to Trisha and Val for their time and effort.
- The floor of the clubhouse has been cleaned and resealed.
- The clubhouse, toilets and lobby have all been painted.
- There are now hand sanitizers outside the clubhouse and by the toilets.
- The external rail by the clubhouse door has also been repaired and painted.

##### **3. Income Generation**

- Recycling tennis balls. The balls are all sorted and waiting collection. There is a crate of the best balls to be used at social tennis. Please donate old balls for social play when play restarts.

#### **Possible future projects (carried over from last year)**

1. Awning
2. Patio furniture
3. Clubhouse door-coded lock

Any ideas you would like to see implemented please email me

Jacque Woolley

[jacque.woolley@hotmail.com](mailto:jacque.woolley@hotmail.com)

#### **Grounds Report – James Marchant**

To support Marc's team, in their non-coaching hours they have been running the day-to-day grounds-keeping in 2020/1.

##### **Activities:**

- Following the astro installation of court 5 in 2019, there has been no requirement for major works this year.

##### **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: pls. contact me.
- The courts will be deep cleaned externally three times this 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



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done this yet because the faults seem to have fixed themselves in each instance, so we have been able to delay the large cost for a call-out (£500-1k!).

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

[james@haverplastics.co.uk](mailto:james@haverplastics.co.uk)

Enjoy 2021 tennis.

James Marchant

#### 4). Social Report – Maddy Marley

Lock downs due to Covid greatly affected social play March 2020 – March 2021.

We shut the courts on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and reopened them for summer social play on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 on Tuesdays 18.00-21.00 (all courts) and Saturdays 14.00-17.00 (all courts apart from Court 2, 2-3pm). We were fully compliant with LTA guidelines for social play:

- providing hand sanitizer across the premises
- permitting club house to be used for toilets only, no further congregation
- social distancing outside the clubhouse whilst waiting for court play
- recording attendance by paper register (and later WhatsApp) -
- using own balls instead of offering club balls-
- preventing adjusting nets by removing handles
- bringing own drinks along.
- no permitted use of clubhouse for coffee and tea making, and no cakes provided for social play.

There was no evidence of catching Covid from Grove social play, indicating that these measures were effective.

When the clocks went back in October, social play hours changed on a Saturday, to 13.00-16.00, and on Tuesday evenings courts 3,4 and 5 were made available. Social play continued, in the place of Winter League, with lighting tokens available at no extra cost.

Another lock down followed 5th November – 2nd December, during which social play was banned. We were permitted to continue play during December in Tier 3, until Boxing day at which time we went into Tier 4, and then into lock down again on 5th January 2021. At the time of writing we are still in lock down, with no social play allowed.

According to the LTA restrictions will be lifted from 29 March onwards – we hope. Social play is about to resume around that time.

Throughout the year the social players kept in touch with each other via the popular Social Tennis WhatsApp group. This was especially useful for introducing new members, organizing your own games, gauging attendance on poor weather days and advertising social tennis times. A blackboard, suitable for indoor and outdoor use was also purchased for similar advertising. A Social page was added to the Grove Website under the 'More' heading, in preparedness for future event advertising, and we are pleased to now have Krystyna who has volunteered to keep the website up-to-date.

Attendance was below normal for all social sessions.

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

The Government's published roadmap for the easing of lock down restrictions confirmed that outdoor tennis courts will be able to open from 29 March, though this may still be subject to additional restrictions and protocols, as stated in the LTA Summary Grid: Covid 19 restrictions. With this in mind we have provisionally entered 4 Ladies, 3 Men and 3 Mixed in the Cambridge League and 2 Ladies and 1 Men in the Essex Summer Cups.

The latest guidelines do not allow spectators and as our internal competitions; the club tournament, the Briscoe Cup (Mixed Doubles), Charles Hassell Cup (Ladies Doubles) and Wallis Cup (Men's Doubles) go hand in hand with a social event. I propose waiting until more restrictions are lifted before arranging them.

The 2020 season was devastated by Covid and all internal and external tournaments were cancelled. In autumn, an attempt to run a one off 2020 Celebration League based on the existing Men's and Ladies was curtailed with 85% of matches played which sums up how Covid has disrupted our tennis.

One piece of good news was the introduction TennisRungs a ladder system for singles and doubles and by the end of the year over 60 members had signed up. Thanks to Simon McInnes for organising this and this has provided a very popular competitive alternative to inter-club matches. You can join the ladder from the website.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Debbie Bowes and Paul Kent who both retired from their respective Captain's roles in 2020. They left the club in a strong position and our next challenge is for the incoming Captains Kirsty Rowlandson and Adrian Holley to maintain our position.

Keep the faith. Will.  
Friday, 26 February 2021

## 6). PR report – Andy Rice

Email communications have been regular and (hopefully) helpful and clear over this period of uncertainty. PR has been negligible as, well, nothing of note has been happening! We will continue to work with the Saffron Walden Flyer to promote the start of the season. The website is now run by [@Krystyna Windle](#) and social media (facebook and Instagram) by [petercannon63@gmail.com](mailto:petercannon63@gmail.com) if you have any comments or additions to either, please email them.

If anyone is interested in taking over the role of 'Communications', which comes with a seat on the Committee, I would be very happy to relinquish the responsibility – just drop me a line: [arice@majoreventsint.com](mailto:arice@majoreventsint.com)

## 7). Committee Members for 2020 season

Chairman	Trisha Esplin
Treasurer	Lorraine Squire
Secretary	Krystyna Windle



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Match & Tournaments	William Freeman
House	Jacque Wooley
Grounds	James Marchant
Ladies Captain	Kirsty Rowlandson
Mens Captain	Adrian Holley
Comms	Andy Rice
Social Secretary	Maddy Marley
Membership	Jane Bowen
Child Protection Officer *	Clare Jackson
Coach *	Marc Squire

\*: Non-Committee position

### 8). Membership Report – Jane Bowen

For numbers of members please see “Subscriptions”.

### 9). Subscriptions for the season 2020-21

The membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March.

Autumn Membership runs from 1 September to 31 March.

We will keep the fees the same as for 2019-20 season. The fees are non-refundable.

Membership category	Number of members 2020/21		Total	Proposed membership fee for 2021/22
	Full year	Autumn		
Adult	86	12	98	£210
Adult concession	23	1	24	£194
Adult daytime	8	2	10	£162
Country	2		2	£110
Family	14	7	21	£432
Guardian Associate	14	2	16	£45
Junior	31	12	43	£62
Mini Junior	31	27	58	£34
Student	3		3	£120.00
<b>Total membership</b>			<b>275</b>	

### Membership categories and proposed changes for 2021/22

Membership category	Membership description	Proposed Change(s) for 2021/22
Adult	19 years and over on 1st April 2020. Unrestricted play	19 years and over

	<p>Eligible to play in matches  Vote at the AGM  Book courts 7 days in advance  Wimbledon draw  Invite visitors</p>	<p>on 1st April 2021.</p>
Adult concession	<p>65 years and over on 1st April 2020. Unrestricted play  Eligible to play in matches  Vote at the AGM  Book courts 7 days in advance  Wimbledon draw  Invite visitors</p>	<p>65 years and over on 1st April 2021</p>
Adult daytime	<p>19 years and over on 1st April 2020.  Weekdays until 18.00  Vote at the AGM  Book courts 7 days in advance  Wimbledon draw  Invite visitors</p>	<p>19 years and over on 1st April 2021.</p>
Country	<p>19 and over on 1st April 2020  Living outside a 20-mile radius of the club.  Eligible to play in matches  Vote at the AGM  Book courts 7 days in advance  Wimbledon draw  Invite visitors</p>	<p>19 years and over on 1st April 2021.</p>
Family	<p>2 adults and up to 4 children under 19 on 1st April 2020.  Adults have unrestricted play and the same rights as an adult member.  Restrictions on children are the same as for Junior and Mini-Junior membership.  Book courts 7 days in advance  Wimbledon draw  Invite visitors</p>	<p>2 adults and up to 4 children under 19 on 1st April 2021.</p>
Guardian Associate	<p>Parent of a Junior or Mini Junior member.  Normally may only play with the child at Sunday afternoon family sessions or when the child is being coached.  Not eligible to vote at the AGM, play in teams, invite visitors or take part in Wimbledon draw.  <b>FOR THE DURATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION ONLY</b>, may book court 2 to play with a junior member only or play with the Junior member on courts 1, 3-5 if not needed by adults.</p>	<p>Parent of a Junior or Mini Junior member.  May play with the child at Sunday afternoon family sessions or when the child is being coached.  Not eligible to vote at the AGM, book courts, play in teams, invite visitors or take part in Wimbledon draw.</p>



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Junior	11-18 on 1st April 2020. during the current situation, has priority on court 2. may play on courts 1, 3-5 if not needed by adult members. children under 12 must be supervised by an adult from their household. Children of 12 and over may play singles with another member unaccompanied. also see guardian associate above for play with parents.	12-18 on 1 April 2021 Book courts 3 days in advance
Mini Junior	10 years and under on 1st April 2020. During the current situation, has priority on court 2. may play on courts 1, 3-5 if not needed by adult members. Children under 12 must be supervised by an adult from their household. Also see guardian associate above for play with parent non-members.	11 years and under on 1st April 2021.
Student	In full-time tertiary education. Along with Juniors and families, has priority on Court 2 at all times. May use any court when not needed by adult members.	Book courts 3 days in advance

Access to all facilities and court booking

5 floodlit artificial grass courts which can be booked up to 7 days in advance. Access to clubhouse with excellent facilities Eligible to play in leagues matches for the club Vote at the AGM Wimbledon draw Invite visitors

Adult membership for anyone who lives outside of 20 mile radius of the club: you must live outside of a 20 mile radius of the club.

### 10). Coaching report – Marc Squire

What a difficult year for everyone!

After the first lock down the coaching team got back on court on the 18th May but we were only able to carry out 1 to 1 lessons no groups were allowed. (£106.50 non-member fees raised in the summer term). We were able to run 3 weeks of summer camp but we had to change how we usually run the camps which meant less children could attend (£640 was raised with non-member fees). In September group coaching recommenced (8th Sep to 4th Nov then we had lock down and we could continue 2nd December to 19th December. (£729 raised with non-member fees). Due to the lock down in January we were unable to complete the courses but this will be done after this lock down. During the Autumn period we ran 9 adult groups and 14 junior groups (£246 for floodlights was paid on 20/12/20). Adult group coaching is on the whole pay and play (using izettle) now, due to covid, groups are now using WhatsApp which has really helped with the sign-up process. (max group number for 1 coach is 8 using 2 courts).

Unfortunately the coaching team have only been able to work 29 weeks since April but hopefully from this April things will start to go back to some sort of normality.

**11). Proposals for AGM from the Committee**

1. Older juniors (12 yrs and above) should be able to book Court no. 2. This can be done on ClubSpark

There are some restrictions on those bookings:

- can be made within time windows (TBD)
- maximum 3 days ahead
- not during social evenings

THIS would NULLIFY the present rule for ‘priority for juniors on Court 2’ which is confusing to all ....

2. Membership fees for 2021/2 season

We will maintain the same membership fees as in 2019... ie NO Increases.

3. Guardian membership

During Covid Guardian members were able to book a court, but this has to revert to original conditions. See website membership for details.

**Collated by:** Krystyna Windle (Secretary). 2 March 2021