



KNUTSFORD TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 24 March 2021 @ 7:30pm – via Zoom Link

Present:

Bill Jackson(Chair)	Anne McPhie	Keith Edminson	Sonia Amos	Christine Falder	Guy Hill
Mark Airey	Karen Wolstencroft	Kirstie Blake	Guy Lang	Nikki Arnell	Stuart Arnell
Christine Banks	Colin Banks	Sarah Baron	George Brown	Jim Byrne	Pat Byrne
Michael Dicker	Martin Dunkerley	Heather Eddowes	Ruth Gallagher	Di Morris	Noel Hastings
Dave Hunt	Julie Hunter	Colin Hurrell	Deborah Jamison	Sue Jarrold	Thomas Jones
Jason Lynch	Deborah Martin	Jane Mckinley	David Meredith	Moya Meredith	Fred Owen
Claire Hughes	Jeff Parkinson	Anna Righton	Helen Sawyer	Malcolm Sawyer	Mike Sharman
Lorraine Shaw					

Apologies:

John Hutcheson Jacqueline Moore

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members to this year's AGM, which has taken place via Zoom link due to current COVID-19 restrictions. He explained that the information regarding committee nominations and proposed subscriptions for 21/22 had been communicated to all 300 members in advance of the AGM. No suggestions, comments or objections had been subsequently received. Likewise, no queries had been received concerning the committee reports that had also been emailed to all members.

1. Minutes from the 2020 AGM

Approval of minutes: The Chair stated that the motion to accept the previous (2020) AGM minutes as a true record of the meeting had been carried in advance of the meeting.

Motion proposed by Anne McPhie. Seconded by Keith Edminson.

2. Safeguarding & Welfare

The Chair stated that Safeguarding and Welfare is a priority for the club and as such, is always first on any committee agenda. Sonia Amos (SA) reported that there were no safeguarding issues to report, however two or three members are currently unwell. Part of the welfare remit is to follow up on the progress of members who are in ill health.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chair thanked the members of the committee as a proactive team of people and gave particular thanks to his Vice Chair, Anne McPhie. During this most challenging of years, he thanked everyone for their contributions and Moya Meredith for her invaluable and continued assistance with the risk assessments. Part of the Chair's role is to liaise with the coach, Mark Airey and ensure that all sides (members and coach) are happy. The Chair thanked Mark for his initiatives this year and stated that as the heartbeat of the club, he continues to exceed the expectations placed upon him.

Chairs Annual Report (Prepared by Bill Jackson and emailed to all members in the newsletter of 28 February 2021)

Well, what a second year as Chair! We thought we had a challenge in year 1 when we had to replace courts 6&7 in record time, so expected year 2 to be a breeze. Then Covid came along. Yet again our magnificent committee responded to ensure we made the very best of the challenging situation. So, join me in thanking our committee and coach Mark for keeping our club positive and prosperous. Also thank you to the volunteers not on the committee who have helped with COVID issues, court cleaning and maintenance etc. Finally, an equal big thank you to you, our membership, for your support throughout the year, it really has been appreciated. Your enthusiasm with Club nights, WhatsApp groups, internal tournaments, participating in Mark's videos etc uplifted everybody's spirits.

Despite the challenges we managed to grow our membership. In particular, our 3-month trial membership was a great success, thank you to all who helped with this initiative that will continue throughout 2021.

As always Safeguarding, player safety and welfare remain our number one priority. Thank you to our experts who put together our playing protocols and Risk Assessments. Our goal through 2021 is to safely return our tennis to the new normal, reopen the Clubhouse, and try to improve and build on every aspect that can make play at our club more rewarding. Any ideas from our members are very welcome, just pass on to a committee member.

Mark and Tom will be active for sure to give you the best coaching and tennis experiences. Continued Junior development will remain a focused area.

You will see below that we have 2 key open positions on the committee, Junior rep, for which Mark is looking at putting a small team together to cover this (contact Mark if of interest to you) and Publicity rep (contact Anne for more details). It would be great to fill these vacancies.

Finally, due to the periods when courts had to be closed, next year subscriptions for existing members will be reduced. Details have still to be confirmed but will be issued ahead of the AGM.

4. **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer's report was prepared by Keith Edminson and issued to the full membership on 12 March (see Appendix I).

Keith Edminson reflected on the following points:

Income and Expenditure Account

- Despite the pandemic, KTC showed a healthy surplus for 2020 of £17,621 (2019 deficit of £49k due to court 6/7 refurbishment)
- The good result was due to a big increase in net subscription income (up by £9.3k before provision) which was due to:
 - Strong recovery in membership numbers after lockdown
 - A successful 3-month trial membership
 - Reduction in the amount paid to the main club.
- Expenditure items of note:
 - Major servicing and repairs of floodlights £3.3k
 - Court maintenance costs of £1.5k, including the purchase of equipment
 - Mayor's fund grant of £800 was spent on equipment and rackets for juniors

Balance Sheet

- The year-end bank balances were £40.1k and we had outstanding loans of £28k, from KSC (18k) and the LTA (10k)
- Plans for 2021 and beyond
 - 2019 expenditure on courts 6&7 depleted the reserves which were funded by loans received
 - In 2020 and going forward the focus is on rebuilding the sinking fund for future court maintenance and refurbishment.

5. **Membership Report**

The Membership Secretary's report was prepared by Christine Falder and emailed to the full membership on 12 March 2021 (see Appendix II). The Chair thanked Christine Falder (CF) for her hard work this year.

CF highlighted the following points from her report:

- The success of the trial membership: the club gained over 50 new full members who signed up for the rest of the year after the trial. The scheme will continue in 2021/22.

- Subscriptions have been reduced by 25% for existing members. Members were reminded to use the link in the forthcoming renewal email to access the discount.
- The Club Booking System brought in to ensure COVID compliance has been popular. The committee would be looking for comments regarding its continuance later in the year.
- Wimbledon 2021: there will be no LTA ballot for tickets this year and therefore no club allocation. There will be a way to purchase tickets online but no further information is available at this point.

6. **Ladies' Team**

Kirstie Blake, Ladies Captain, advised that the Summer and Winter Leagues had been cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, the Summer League will start in April and the fixtures are in the diary and booking system.

7. **Men's Team**

Guy Lang (GL), Men's Captain, reported that three teams have been entered into the NE Cheshire League and the first match will take place on 22 April. Interest has been good so far, but any interested parties should contact Guy. The Chair thanked GL for stepping in to organise the fixtures in place of Dave Bufton, who is sadly in poor health.

8. **Tennis Aces Coaches Report**

The Tennis Aces Coach's Report was prepared by Mark Airey and emailed to the full membership on 12 March 2021 (see Appendix III).

Mark highlighted the following points from his report:

- The appointment of Tom Jones as Assistant Coach has been a great success. He is concentrating his efforts on grass roots and mini tennis.
- The coaching programme has been challenging this year and MA thanked members for their support for the online variations throughout the lockdowns.
- One-to-one coaching will recommence on 29 March, with Easter Camps spaced throughout the day to accommodate social distancing regulations. The full programme will re-start from 19 April.
- MA is working towards the appointment of a Junior Rep, who will work within a wider group to assist with date organisation, backing up publicity to schools and general team tennis ethos.
- MA thanked the committee members, particularly Bill Jackson and Anne McPhie. He gave special mention to Guy Hill for his hard work and dedication to the club.

9. Elections of New Committee and Honorary Auditor

The notice to agree the following members as KTC Committee Members for 2021/2022 was posted in the Club Newsletter on 28 February 2021. No objections were received by the deadline of 8 March 2021.

Motion Carried.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
CHAIR	Bill Jackson
VICE CHAIR	Anne McPhie
TREASURER	Keith Edminson
SECRETARY	Karen Wolstencroft
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Christine Falder
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Vacant
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	Guy Hill
FIXTURES SECRETARY	Guy Lang
LADIES CAPTAIN	Kirstie Blake
MENS CAPTAIN	Guy Lang
JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE	To be advised
CHILD WELFARE OFFICER	Sonia Amos

Subject to her agreement, Karen Jones has been nominated by Keith Edminson for the position of KTC Honorary Auditor for 2021/2022.

10. Grounds Report and Development Plan Update

The Grounds Officer's report was prepared by Guy Hill (GH) and emailed to the AGM attendees on 22 March 2021 (see Appendix IV).

GH highlighted the following points from his report:

- Funds had been spent to future-proof the floodlights and the inners of the lights had been changed.
- The honeymoon period with the middle courts is over, as dirt is collecting in specific areas following rainfall. GH has bought brush equipment to deal with this problem, but members will need to clean their shoes before play.
- GH thanked those members who have volunteered their time this year; 'Guy's Crew' is a tremendous asset to the club and is very much appreciated.

11. AOB

- Any questions from the membership should have been posted by 22 March – no questions had been received by the deadline.

- The Chair reported that the Main Club have plans for developing the bar and the outside verandas. A focus group will be formed to discuss ideas relating to this project and representatives will be drawn from all sections. The Chair asked for a volunteer from the tennis section: interested parties should contact The Chair, or Vice Chair and their names will be forwarded to the Main Club.
- The Chair asked members to consider volunteering for two vacancies on the committee: Junior Rep and Publicity Rep. Any interested members should contact the Vice Chair for the job specifications.
- The Vice Chair spoke on behalf of the committee and all members to thank Guy Hill, Grounds Officer, for nurturing our courts for the last fifteen years. He was presented with a Lifetime Membership Award as a genuine appreciation for his dedication, hard work and commitment. GH in turn thanked the committee.
- Helen Sawyer asked if the LTA Wimbledon ticketing policy would be permanent. Moya Meredith stated that Wimbledon tickets would be allocated more centrally moving forward. The situation is presently unclear, but the club should be receiving an allocation of some sort next year.

12. A Close of Meeting

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked members for attending. He reiterated that the committee was dedicated to making the tennis experience of the members as pleasurable as possible.

Karen Wolstencroft
KTC Honorary Secretary
March 2021

Appendices:

- I. Transcript of Treasurer's Statement and Signed Accounts
- II. Transcript of Membership Secretary's statement and Proposed Subscriptions
- III. Transcript of Junior and Coaches Report
- IV. Transcript of Grounds Report

APPENDIX I
Treasurers Statement
and Signed Accounts

KNUTSFORD TENNIS CLUB
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	2020	2019	Change	%Change
Net Assets				
Debtors	630.00	735.70		
Current account	6,214.79	4,919.59		
Savings account	33,871.45	19,852.86		
KSC loans	-17,988.88	-16,300.00		
LTA loan	-10,000.00	-10,000.00		
Less: Creditors	-548.87	-7,651.00		
Less: Provisions	-3,000.00	0.00		
	<u>9,178.49</u>	<u>-8,442.85</u>		
Financed by				
Balance at 1 January	1,882.15	5,764.78		
Excess Income over Expenditure 2020	17,621.34	-49,882.63	67,503.97	-135%
Trf (to)/from courts improvement fund	-15,000.00	46,000.00		
	<u>4,503.49</u>	<u>1,882.15</u>		
Available cash reserves	4,503.49	1,882.15		
Courts improvement sinking fund	4,675.00	-10,325.00	15,000.00	-145%
	<u>9,178.49</u>	<u>-8,442.85</u>		

Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 December 2020

	note	2020	2019	Change	%Change
Income					
Subscriptions (net KSC element)		30,757.85	24,445.45	6,312.40	26%
Court hire income		157.50	156.26	1.24	1%
Floodlights		1,470.80	1,751.45	-280.65	-16%
Match fees		273.50	1,024.00	-750.50	-73%
Net income from Social events		0.00	1,189.72	-1,189.72	-100%
Sponsorship & Donations		16.15	0.00	16.15	n/a
Grants	1	800.00	8,255.50	-7,455.50	-90%
Sundry	2	569.44	1,834.22	-1,264.78	-69%
		<u>34,045.24</u>	<u>38,656.60</u>	-4,611.36	-12%
Expenditure					
Coaching	3	7,714.50	8,173.75	-459.25	-6%
Grounds/Courts	4	5,585.20	76,365.11	-70,779.91	-93%
Electricity		1,126.74	1,438.59	-311.85	-22%
League admin	5	174.50	972.00	-797.50	-82%
Sundry admin	6	383.32	388.68	-5.36	-1%
Balls, nets, equipment etc	7	1,106.62	796.49	310.13	39%
Sundry	8	333.02	404.61	-71.59	-18%
		<u>16,423.90</u>	<u>88,539.23</u>	-72,115.33	-81%
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>17,621.34</u>	<u>-49,882.63</u>	67,503.97	-135%

K Edminson.....
Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account of the Knutsford Lawn Tennis Club and certify that they are in accordance with the books and documents produced to me.

Karen Jones
..... Auditor

**KNUTSFORD TENNIS CLUB
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 December 2020 - Notes

	2020	2019	Change	%Change
Note 1: Grants				
Knutsford Council Mayor's Charity	800.00	1,285.00	-485.00	-38%
Cheshire LTA for Zsig nets	0.00	337.50	-337.50	-100%
Knutsford Sports Club	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00	-100%
Manchester Airport for benches	0.00	633.00	-633.00	-100%
	800.00	8,255.50	-7,455.50	-90%
Note 2: Sundry income				
Visitors' fees	477.00	756.00	-279.00	-37%
Bank/Building Society interest	18.59	99.20	-80.61	-81%
Coach - fees/camps	73.85	939.07	-865.22	-92%
Income from clothing sales	0.00	39.95	-39.95	-100%
	569.44	1,834.22	-1,264.78	-69%
Note 3: Coaching				
Senior club nights	3,386.00	3,432.00	-46.00	-1%
Junior club nights	4,078.50	4,109.75	-31.25	-1%
Tournaments/assistant coach	0.00	132.00	-132.00	-100%
Bonus	250.00	500.00	-250.00	-50%
	7,714.50	8,173.75	-459.25	-6%
Note 4: Grounds/Courts				
Gardens and Trees	810.00	730.00	80.00	11%
Repairs, Safety Equipment & General Expenses	1,467.32	326.43	1,140.89	350%
Courts 6 & 7	0.68	74,177.08	-74,176.40	-100%
New Benches & Zsig Nets	0.00	1,113.60	-1,113.60	-100%
Bulbs/Floodlight repairs	3,307.20	18.00	3,289.20	18273%
	5,585.20	76,365.11	-70,779.91	-93%
Note 5: League admin				
CCLTA affiliation	17.50	770.00	-752.50	-98%
League fees/fines	157.00	202.00	-45.00	-22%
	174.50	972.00	-797.50	-82%
Note 6: Sundry admin				
Postage, printing, stationery	55.93	33.28	22.65	68%
Website/digital fees	174.15	210.58	-36.43	-17%
AGM refreshments	73.24	60.00	13.24	22%
Gifts	80.00	0.00	80.00	n/a
DBS Check Expenses/Training	0.00	58.00	-58.00	-100%
Bank charges/PayPal fees	0.00	26.82	-26.82	-100%
	383.32	388.68	-5.36	-1%
Note 7: Balls, nets, equipment etc				
Balls	312.60	796.49	-483.89	-61%
Junior equipment from Mayor's charity	794.02	0.00	794.02	n/a
	1,106.62	796.49	310.13	39%
Note 8: Sundry expenditure				
Lottery licence	20.00	0.00	20.00	n/a
Trophies/prizes	0.00	311.91	-311.91	-100%
Food for club night/junior events	88.72	0.00	88.72	n/a
Advertising incl banner	0.00	92.70	-92.70	-100%
Covid & First aid equipment	224.30	0.00	224.30	n/a
	333.02	404.61	-71.59	-18%

KNUTSFORD TENNIS CLUB

Commentary on the 2020 Accounts

Income and Expenditure Account

- 2020 surplus was £17,621 (2019 deficit was £49,883).
- Net subscription income (before year-end provision) is up by £9.3k. We banked £43.8k (2019 £39.4k) before deducting subscription levies due to KSC of £10.1k (2019 £15k). As can be seen below, the net subscription figure is much higher than in previous few years for a number of reasons:
 - Renewals in May were understandably slow to start with but, after lockdown ended, we had a good take-up from existing and new members.
 - A publicity campaign promoting a 3-month trial membership was particularly successful – more than 100 people joined the trial.
 - The main club didn't charge us for trial members until they joined in full, which about half of them did.
 - KSC charged each of the sections 9/12 of the normal calculated amount we pay to them, due to the club being closed due to covid, and they had also received a £10k grant from Cheshire East Council to cover expenses.

Subs £k	2017	2018	2019	2020
Receipts	38.2	37.5	39.4	43.8
KSC	14.5	14.4	15.0	10.1
KTC	23.7	23.1	24.4	33.7

Given the lockdown situation over the last few months, it has been decided that we will compensate existing members in 2021 by giving them 12 months membership from May for just 9 months, i.e. a 25% reduction. Although we will pay a proportionately lower fee to KSC, the total net subscriptions will obviously be significantly lower. For this reason, we feel it is sensible to make a provision of £3k against the 2020 subscription total to subsidise the lower income in 2021.

- Income from other sources
 - Floodlights – income from token sales and coaching sessions was £1.5k, which was lower than 2019 (£1.8k) because we chose to subsidise club nights until the end of December. This income, together with an element of match fees collected, is offset against the cost of electricity and any floodlight repairs required. In fact, this year we did some major servicing and repairs of floodlights costing £3.3k, resulting in a (floodlight) deficit for 2020 of £2.8k, compared to a £0.8k surplus in 2019.
 - Match fees were lower this year as there weren't many matches.
 - Sundry income is also lower due to reduced visitor fees (no U3A) and very few junior camps by Tennis Aces due to covid.
- Ground/Court Expenditure
 - The gardening arrangement with Paul Adshead continues to work well and offers good value for money for the club.
 - We have spent £1467 on court maintenance this year, including new light tokens, a power washer, and the rental, and later purchase, of an industrial vacuum.
 - See above for floodlight costs.

KNUTSFORD TENNIS CLUB

Commentary on the 2020 Accounts

- League admin: Cheshire LTA refunded our annual registration fee of £770 as a help to clubs in a bad year.

Balance Sheet

- The debtor balance reflects the usual pre-payment on the LTA affiliation fee. Creditors reflect accruals for electricity. The provision is explained above under subscriptions.
- The year-end bank balances were £40.1k compared to outstanding loans of £28k.
- Loans:
 - The amount outstanding on the £6k loan received from KSC at the end of 2016 is now £1,100.
 - Repayments on the £19k loan from KSC (the last £5k of which was received in May) started from May 2020 at £3,167 pa, and the balance is now £16,889.
 - The LTA loan of £10k will be repaid from April 2021 at £2k pa. They delayed the start date from April 2020 to help clubs during the covid court closures.
- After the expenditure on courts 6&7 in 2019, the sinking fund was depleted, funded by the loans received. This year we have transferred £15k to the court improvement sinking fund, bringing it back to positive numbers.

2021 Plans & Beyond

- The focus for 2021 will be to build on the increased interest in tennis, as reflected in our member numbers in 2020 and continue to push the trial membership program post lockdown. This income will enable us to meet ongoing items of expenditure, including our loan repayment commitments, and continue to re-build the sinking fund for future court maintenance and refurbishment.

My thanks to Karen Jones for auditing the accounts.

Keith Edminson, Treasurer
March 2021

Appendix II
Membership Secretary's Statement

KNUTSFORD TENNIS AGM REPORT



Name	Christine Falder
Section	Membership Secretary
Date	24 March 2021

Review of 2020/21

My first year as Membership Secretary has turned out to be quite a challenge; little did I know what the year would have in store when I joined the committee last March. Thank you to Julie Hunter and Moya Meredith for getting me going with ClubSpark and being there for help and support during the year, and to the rest of the committee for welcoming me as part of the KTC team.

The first lockdown closure coincided with membership renewals for 2020. We were delighted that so many members supported the club and re-joined regardless. Thank you very much.

We introduced a new 3 month trial membership which proved very popular and gained us over 50 new full members who signed up for the rest of the year after the trial. Thank you to Debbie Jamison for her help in promoting this locally with such impact, and to members for providing such a warm welcome at the club.

We also brought in the Court Booking system to assist with Track and Trace, and to ensure fair access to court time for all members.

We finished the year with just over 300 members, an increase from last year's 283.

Looking ahead to 2021/22

Subscriptions

The proposal from the committee this year is to maintain the full annual subscription at last year's rates. We would also like to offer all current full members 25% discount for their renewal to give some compensation for the lockdown closures of this season.

Membership renewals will be issued to everyone via ClubSpark at the beginning of April 2021. Please be sure to re-join using the link in the renewal email before 1st May 2021 to access your discounted rate.

Payments will again be accepted by bank transfer. Amounts over £150 may be paid in 3 monthly instalments. The committee are here to help with any issues over subscriptions, please just ask.

Fees proposed are:

	Full	Renewal		Full	Renewal
Adult Full	£230.00	£172.50	Adult Daytime Weekday	£180.00	£135.00
Family	£460.00	£345.00	Adult of Junior	£92.00	£69.00
Intermediate	£118.00	£88.50	Student	£72.50	£54.50
Junior (9 to 17)	£80.00	£60.00	Mini (under 9)	£15.00	£11.25
Social	£25.00	£10.00			

3 month trial memberships

We will continue to offer these as it's proved to be a great way of introducing people to the club. Spread the word amongst your friends!

Wimbledon 2021 – fingers definitely crossed!

At the time of writing we're yet to hear the LTA's plans for this years tournament. New members may not know that each year KTC receives an allocation of pairs of tickets for members to buy at face value. The club has traditionally run a ballot amongst the eligible members to assign the tickets and to take part a member has to be paid up, have a BTM number and be opted in to the KTC ballot on the LTA system.

This year, things will be different as IF Wimbledon goes ahead, and IF tickets are allocated to clubs, then KTC may still get some, however the ballot would probably be carried out on our behalf by the LTA. Let's hope that the Championships do go ahead in some format.

Court Booking System

This has proved surprisingly popular, with much positive feedback. Once the Covid restrictions on play are lifted the committee will discuss whether to keep it in place for the longer term and at that point we will seek your comments and suggestions.

Thank you all again for your encouragement, kind comments, help and support to me this year.

Appendix III
Junior and Coaches Report

KTC: 2020/21

Report:

- Despite the obvious issue we all had throughout 2020, the coaching program and in house tennis for the months we could play remained strong.

Jan – March 2020 –

- The Junior club nights in the early months of January to March saw an increase in attendees with the re-vamp of the overall experience and night.
- The Tennis Aces weekly coaching program remained well attended through those early months.
- The adult club nights remained well attended also and both junior and adult sections were gearing up for a competitive Spring / Summer season.

March – June –

- The coaching experience turned to video links for our members through the 1st Lockdown going through all aspects of the game for members to watch if they wished.

June – Sept –

- The coaching structure returned but in gradual stages of 1-2-1 lessons, groups of 6 and eventually up to groups of 15 for children and larger adult events as long as there were RA's and event plans in place.
- The competitive element to our club was also very well received with singles, doubles & mixed doubles leagues for all. Thanks must be made to the volunteer members who helped run those leagues internally.

September – October –

- We returned with a full coaching structure that remained very popular to the point an assistant coach was appointed (Tom Jones) Who was brought into the Tennis Aces format to further the coaching experience and keep up with demand for coaching.
- The junior and adult club nights returned via the WhatsApp booking on systems
- The club was gearing up to another doubles internal league in preparation for the upcoming external leagues.

November –

- We returned to lockdown and returned to videos online, this time the videos concentrated on challenges the members could take on and top tips for our shots.

December – January

- We returned once again to a slightly smaller number of coaching attendees due to now the run up to Christmas, but the sign up and development of the coaching structure remained positive with now the clubs 2 coaches being at capacity in many areas.

January – March –

- We returned to lockdown and the coaching structure returned to videos, this time slowed down footage of the professionals as well as the Grand Slam Team Challenge which will take us to the end of lockdown 3.

April onwards –

- The resumption of social play is ready with the ruling of 6 from the 29th March.
- 1-2-1 coaching will be allowed from 29th March.
- Easter camps over the holidays are waiting to be confirmed depending on LTA's decision regarding the re-opening of toilets.
- The Tennis Aces Program is ready to re-start from 19th April.
- Junior teams have been entered in preparation of the upcoming external leagues – 6 teams in the Junior National League and 2/3 teams in the NECLTL leagues.

Appendix IV

Grounds Report

Starting on 6,7 marks courts , thank goodness we did repair them, not so that we could get pretty new courts but at the peak of the rain last month , if we had the old court levels we would have seen them under water! The swamp area between us was the highest water level we have ever seen. This is because both us and EYC now use it as the main drainage run off for all our pitches , courts and cricket field . Sadly it would take a lot of politics and money to sort out, so we are saved by the fact that it is a sand sub soil and as happened, it disappeared relatively quickly. We did have to sand bag the sheds just in case! Other than that they are playing well and thanks to our high demand, I have even seen a few hardy adult players stagger to court 7, as they have spotted how quickly it drains after rain.

Beyond some blown bulbs to deal with , many Tuesday club night players were aware of the ‘fire’ we had in one of the floodlights columns. This was a 20 year old capacitor finally failing and was a wake-up call to the fact that the electric components are the originals and well past their ‘active life ’. Ideally we should be considering LED lights that don’t need these components, but the cost per court to change is £8k, so we are some way off that financing. So to avoid a nightmare scenario of not affording LED on courts 3,4,5 but existing components being obsolete, we did a proactive replacement of the capacitors in each column and several of the ballasts.

Sadly our honey moon with the middle block courts 3,4,5 is over . The courts are taking longer to drain after rain and we have some subsistence in the court base, particularly court 4. Not enough to spoil a ball bounce but to be a pain in collecting court dirt in , which when wet is a greasy sludge . I have provided ‘ sludge brooms’ to clear it instantly to make sure it isn’t a hazard, and the club now owns a jet wash/ wet vacuum that allows us to get deep into the carpet and clean relevant spots.

The most pleasing part of this year is getting the volunteers from all sections of the club to help in this and it has very pleasing to see the enthusiasm of support. So thank you as it make my task much easier to know there is willingness in the club to help in its maintenance.

The point of this spot cleaning is to try and avoid us replacing the sand, at a quote of £4k per court anything we can do to avoid that is worth it. Interestingly our dirt comes off the trees, in the air, from the cricket field etc, not something we can do much about. But this lock down has proved at least 25% is brought in on our tennis shoes. Anyone who knows how dirty a squash court gets will concur. The new patio area will help us avoid the grass when going to court, as do the carpets on the walkways. But we do need to get members to actively wipe their shoes before entry using the new brush pads.

Ironically any player coming off a clay court actively looks to wipe his shoes free of red clay , We need the reverse attitude going on to ours . So if you can encourage other members to do it , we have a fighting chance of avoiding the huge cost of starting again with new sand.