

LTC 2024 AGM: INFORMATION PACK

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2023 AGM.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM can be found under the governance section of the club website or by following this link.

[Leatherhead Tennis Club / Governance \(lta.org.uk\)](https://www.leatherheadtennisclub.org.uk/governance)

Resolution 1: To approve the Minutes of the 2023 AGM.

Proposer: Ed Stansfield Seconder: Nigel Catlow

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ED STANSFIELD

REVIEW OF 2023:

From the Committee and Chairman's perspective, 2023 has been a successful year for Leatherhead Tennis Club.

Our membership numbers are strong, our playing facilities are in excellent condition, attendance at club sessions are steady or for some sessions a little higher than last year, our social programme is busy and well supported and our coaches are more likely to complain that they have too much rather than too little work!

I feel fortunate to be part of such a friendly and active organisation where most members are on court regularly and are happy to engage with and to support the club. Indeed, we are lucky that we usually have a steady supply of volunteers ready to help us with things as diverse as basic clubhouse and court maintenance, tournament planning, open days and team management I and the rest of the Committee, as well as our coaching team, are all grateful for your generous support.

Over the past two years we have made significant upgrades to the court surfaces and the court lighting. And over the coming 12 months we have more ideas about how we can implement further improvements to both the playing facilities, the social facilities and the overall membership experience of the club.

Our ideas are set out in more detail in our 2024 objectives below, but in summary we are hoping that 2024 will be the year that we are finally able to have floodlights on all six courts. We also hope to broaden our offer to members this year by trialling pickleball, as well as continuing to explore the potential to deliver padel to LTC at some future point.

However, if anyone has ideas that they would like to be added to the Committee's wish list please do let us know. You can email us, speak to us around the club or use the new suggestion box. We may not be able to implement all the ideas, but we will give all ideas a decent hearing!

PROGRESS ON 2023 GOALS.

a. To progress the upgrades to Courts 5 & 6

We made significant progress on this objective in 2023. However, our work is not yet complete. On a positive note, the plan to resurface Courts 5 & 6 with tarmac, to ensure that the club was able to offer members a choice of playing surfaces, was completed. Work began in early July and five weeks later - in time for the

courts to be used for Finals Day – they were ready for play. The consensus seems to be that they look fantastic and are playing well. Huge thanks must go to Nigel Catlow for overseeing the work – despite his personal dislike of tarmac courts!

We have made less progress on getting permission to install floodlights on Court 6. However, as the planners have already turned the club down twice, we wanted to have more than one option up our sleeve before we submitted a planning application. Therefore, over the past year we have identified a first and a second-best solution which we will now take forward in 2024 (see page 3).

b. To refurbish the clubhouse

Over the past 12 months, we have developed a plan to improve the clubhouse. This plan will create a more flexible space by combining the kitchen and bar functions in a single space, allowing us to remove the current bar completely and to improve some of the storage constraints that we have.

These plans have been through several iterations and are still being tweaked. For the time being, however, we have decided to treat them as long-term plans rather than an immediate priority. With Rebecca Ussher unable to continue as Bar Manager and Social Secretary, it is not clear how the club's social programme will look over the year ahead. Until we know who will be replacing Bex and what their ambitions will be we have decided to hold fire on any major work.

c. To investigate the demand for and feasibility of offering padel at LTC.

We have made progress on this objective although we are still some way from either dismissing it as unrealistic, or from having a firm proposal to put to members. In part, this is because we wanted to learn more about the padel centre that will be developed behind Leatherhead Leisure Centre – full details of which only became available when its backers submitted their planning application in late September.

That application has now been approved and it is possible that the delivery of six new indoor courts in such proximity will undermine the case for padel at LTC. But the new development seems to be presenting itself as a centre of excellence and a national hub for padel – rather than necessarily being open to all – so the jury is still out for now.

In the meantime, preliminary discussions with Mole Valley Parks Department indicate that they would be willing to offer the club additional land on which to site a padel court or two. However, any final decision would rest with the planners and would need to demonstrate the support of – or at least a lack of opposition from – the Fetcham Residents' Association and our immediate neighbours. We will continue to explore our options over the coming year.

THE COMMITTEE'S GOALS FOR 2024

d. To obtain planning permission to install lighting on Court 6

Our priority this year will be to try to obtain planning permission to install lights on Court 6.

The ideal solution would be to add three more columns along the far side of Court 6 and six additional LED light fixtures – one each on the new columns and a second one on each of the columns that sit between Courts 5&6. Unfortunately, a pre-planning application made to MVDC in November, to test the likely success of this approach, has not given us a very clear steer – although at least they indicated that they would not dismiss any application out of hand. Accordingly, we intend to press ahead with a formal application as soon as time allows.

If that application fails and we cannot see how to address any concerns that the planners have raised, we will pursue an alternative option. Namely to install LED strip lights at the top of the fence alongside Court 6. With no new columns to install, there would be no obvious reason for the planners to turn down any application. Admittedly, this fence-top light solution would give a lower level of light than we have on Court 5 and would not be suitable for matches. However, it would be adequate for coaching, club sessions and everyday play. It would, therefore, increase our evening court capacity and ease the pressure on the courts during the busy Dorking & Leatherhead League summer match season.

e. To offer members the opportunity to try pickleball.

While padel is grabbing all the headlines in the UK and Europe and remains a potential area of development for the club, in the US it is pickleball that has really taken off as the alternative to tennis.

Unlike padel, pickleball does not require the construction of dedicated courts, and offers a fun alternative to tennis where shot placement and strategy tend to be key. The Committee would like to trial pickleball as an additional option for members.

To test the water, we will be holding a series of taster sessions in March – all equipment provided by the club. If the reaction is positive and the demand is sufficient, we will consider adding regular drop-in Pickleball sessions to our weekly calendar. If not, the club's bats, balls and nets will still be available for members to book out a court and arrange their own games if they wish.

f. To identify and implement incremental improvements to the clubhouse.

As explained above, until we get a better picture of how the social programme of the club will evolve over the course of the next few months, we have decided against moving ahead lock stock and barrel with the more ambitious plans that we have drawn up to remodel the clubhouse.

We believe that our long-term plan would improve the functioning of both the bar and the kitchen area, while generating more (and more flexible) space within the main room of the clubhouse. Yet the success of last year's social programme is testament to the fact that things are perfectly functional as they stand.

Therefore, our priority this year will be to see how the situation with the bar manager and social secretary vacancies evolve and to see whether we can move towards our plan in manageable, incremental steps.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – MARTIN CRAYTON

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: the LTCL annual accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 show a net surplus (after depreciation) of around £6.8k (the surplus was approximately £13.6k in the prior year).

Subscription income was £6.5k (13.6%) higher than the prior year. The bar profit was £5.7k versus £3.6k in the previous year.

Expenditure was higher reflecting a rent review increase and increased electricity prices. The depreciation charge was £5.5k higher than the previous year reflecting the significant capital expenditure on the new court surfaces and the new LED floodlights during the financial year. A large proportion of the previous year's net surplus resulted from a government Covid support grant of £8k.

Bank balances were £43k after deducting advance subscriptions at 31st March 2023.

The net deficit for 2023/2024 is forecast to be around £6k primarily as the depreciation charge will be £6.5k higher than in the year to March 2023 and there will be lease renewal expenses of around £3k.

For a breakdown of the 2022/23 figures and more on the projected results for 2023/24, please see the appendices at the end of this document.

Resolution 2: To receive the LTCL Accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Proposer: Martin Crayton

Secunder: Sue Barnard

Irene Gawne has stepped down from being the Independent Examiner after many years of service to the club. As well as being the Independent Examiner for the last 9 years or so she has previously been a Treasurer of the club, as well as Chairperson. I would like to thank her for all she has done for the club.

We are in the process of choosing a new Independent Examiner.

4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT AND SUBSCRIPTION PROPOSALS – TRUDY MAPSTONE

MEMBERSHIP: The club's membership currently stands at 397 members. This is a slight decrease compared to the totals reached in March 2023. However, with over two months of the current membership year to go, the big picture is one of very healthy membership levels. Encouragingly our membership renewal / retention rate is also up on last year.

To date, we have welcomed 76 new members to the club. Again, this is down a touch on 2022/23 but we expect this figure to increase. Enquiries and requests for taster days are starting to pick up already in this early part of 2024 which bodes well.

The main driver of the drop in member numbers has been in the Junior and Mini categories. However, the figures last year were probably inflated due to the 'Alex' effect, where a large number of his loyal Under 18s followed him from Oxshott.

I think the drop in numbers this year reflects a settling down and realignment, more in keeping to previous years' numbers.

The Committee believes that the club's popularity reflects the strength of our offer:

- an excellent and cohesive coaching programme for all ages and abilities.
- a varied and enjoyable social calendar.
- an active team programme.
- a well-appointed clubhouse and excellent playing facilities.

In addition, the welcoming atmosphere at our club stand out is another key feature. Indeed, the friendliness of the Club and the variety of tennis and events on offer has been cited by many of our new starters as the key reasons why they chose Leatherhead.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024:

We have set out our proposed subscription rates below. We have set them to ensure that our membership remains competitive when compared to other clubs in the area, while allowing us to cover our day-to-day running and maintenance costs and still generating sufficient funds for continued improvement in our facilities.

We are proposing that membership fees for the year ahead rise roughly in line with inflation - at around 4%.

We propose that our annual membership fees will increase as follows:

Adult	by £14 to £265	
Young adult	by £7 to £132.50	
Junior, Junior Parent	by £4 to £85	
Student	by £4 to £85	
Mini and Mini Parent	by £8.50 to £45	
Social	by £8.50 to £45*	* No early bird discount

For renewals – we are pleased to offer a substantial early bird discount for all renewals paid on or before 1st April

Adult	£250
Young adult	£125
Junior, Junior Parent	£80
Student	£80
Mini and Mini Parent	£40

Resolution 3: To approve the increase in membership subscriptions to the rates shown above.

Proposer: *Trudy Mapstone*

Secunder: *Rebecca Ussher*

5. SOCIAL REPORT – BEX USSHER

It has been another exciting year for events and social activities at LTC with a few new ideas and revised formats - as always trying to adapt and appeal to as many of our members as possible. Successful events and a well-supported bar have generated a healthy profit for the club as shown in the club's Financial Statements whilst bringing the club together off the tennis court.

As you are hopefully already aware, I am standing down as Chair of Bar and Social Events and we are looking for volunteers to bring renewed energy and fresh ideas to this important role. Thanks to Mike Watkins and Ranmore Wines for not only supplying amazing products, but all the extra things like glasses and ice buckets, as well as spending hours researching local gins, delivering tastings and donating so much to the club; Rob Robinson for his endless music enthusiasm and expertise in all things sound and light related. And to both for the many hours spent over the years on the BBQ. To Katy Cook for bringing support and ideas; Tim Schuy for being game enough to dress up as a Leprechaun for St Patrick's Games Night; Shiela Budd and Helena Chandler for keeping me going and making sure I always had help; Trevor Cook for taking on every crazy construction request, recycling and stocking the bar; Paul Smith for generously donating his Disco gear for every event and encouraging the Silent Disco idea.... and to everyone who has helped as a Bar Operator.

OVERVIEW OF EVENTS HELD IN 2023

Gin tasting - 4th March

A really successful evening led by Mike with around 30 attendees tasting and learning about 4 different locally produced gins and finishing with music and dancing.

St Patricks games night - 17th March

The club enjoyed an Irish themed games night with our own Leprechaun and poker school, alongside highly competitive darts and table football battles. A fun night with Guinness enjoyed by most alongside some interesting Irish themed shots – lethal!

Spring quiz - 1st April

We trialled a new, slightly less formal, format with Katy and me as quiz masters and a “bring your own food option” for a £5 entry fee. It proved highly successful with no food wastage and was easier to organise and deliver. We had around 50 quizzers, lots of fun and a busy bar!

Open Day, Tournament and BBQ – 8th May

A great day with cardio tennis available for members and visitors, hitting with the coaches, an opportunity to meet the whole coaching team and committee members, as well as an open tournament followed by a BBQ. The club showcased at its best with new members signed up and fun had by everyone. Thank you to Alex Jackson for co ordinating and all those who were involved.

Summer walk and picnic supper – 24th June

Katy did a great job of leading around 16 walkers on what was a very hot day, supported by Nigel and Annette Turner, thank you. This was followed by a picnic supper and drinks by from the bar in our beautiful club garden on a perfect Summer's evening.

Summer party – 1st July

This school themed party proved to be less popular than hoped in terms of attendees (around 30) but this did not deter those attending from enjoying the evening! We had a lot of fun wearing our school uniforms and there were some great old school photos to try to guess who they belonged to. Of course, Rob Robinson was in his element delivering the music and Schools Out for Summer was no surprise!

Finals day – 2nd September

We were incredibly lucky with the weather this year and the day had a fantastic atmosphere with lots of supporters to watch the matches and enjoy the cakes, bar and BBQ. This year we asked people to donate cakes to be shared for afternoon tea and we had an amazing response - thank you to everyone who contributed. Massive thanks also to everyone who helped on the day including all the bar operators - Neal Standen, Trevor Cook, Jess Paige, Julia Crowe, Paul Jackson, Almut Dirks, Fran Bryant, Katy Cook, Shiela Budd and Mike Watkins, Rob Robinson and Tim Schuy covering the BBQ too. The perfect example of a club coming together to celebrate tennis throughout the club including our junior stars and their families.

Autumn quiz - 14th October

We repeated the format trialled in March, this time with Trudy as my partner in crime. Another highly enjoyable evening with around 50 people attending and plenty of alternative fun questions to spark the imagination!

Christmas cocktail party and silent disco – 16th December

With the clubhouse decked out with Christmas decorations and an extra bar created in the kitchen area for cocktails this was a well-attended event with 80- 90 people. We had lots of positive feedback. The silent disco was a great hit and there were no complaints from neighbours about any noise which was a welcome relief! The festive sausages were also a highlight for many, along with the delicious range of powerful cocktails. Rob Robinson did a great job with the music, thank you, and was in his element with even more tunes to control over 3 channels! His outfits were also of note and the only disappointment was that his shoes didn't arrive in time!

Themed club sessions

A number of these were held during the year and included a Roland Garros Tournament and BBQ on 3rd June and a Fast Four Tournament with pizzas freshly made in our new pizza oven. Thanks to Simon Wardle for facilitating these so brilliantly.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024. Good luck to the new Bar and Social teams.

6. HEAD COACH'S REPORT – ALEX JACKSON

Thank you to everyone who has participated in or supported the coaching programme over the last year. We have had another successful year on court in 2023.

2022 was a year of change for our coaching programmes and so the focus for 2023 was simply to maintain our philosophy of quality over quantity. We have limited coach to player ratios to 1-6 to ensure all sessions are of the highest quality and not overcrowded, to maximise players' enjoyment and improvement on court. This approach seems to be paying dividends, with sessions delivered to over 8000 participants.

JUNIOR PROGRAMME: All sub-sections (Foundation, Club, Academy) of our junior programme are enjoying healthy numbers. We are seeing the growth of our relatively new Academy section, with two players selected for Surrey County Training in our 9 & under group. Three of our junior teams have won their national winter league divisions and are through to the knockouts for 2024. We also continue to see some great results from our juniors at external tournaments which we try showcase on

social media. The future of the club's juniors looks bright as we continue to pull in children aged 4-7 from schools and other local tennis clubs.

ADULT PROGRAMME: Cardio and adult coaching sessions are enjoying good retention from attendees, although we hope to increase weekday attendances this year through improved marketing initiatives. We also plan to add new sessions to our adult programme during off-peak hours to increase the number of sessions on offer.

Club session attendances have typically held up well with some upturn in numbers on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. This year we will continue to offer seasonal sessions such as Rusty Rackets and beginner's courses. Team training dates for 2024 are also now confirmed.

We have had some changes to the Coaching Team in 2023, with coaches joining and subsequently leaving, but we continue to enjoy providing our members with a successful coaching programme and pathway for development. Thank you to the Coaching Team for their continued efforts and thank you to everybody who has participated in our coaching programme over the last 12 months. We look forward to an equally successful 2024.

7. TEAM REPORT - SCOTT DOWSETT/HELEN SHEPHERD

After an outstanding 2022, which culminated with many teams gaining promotion, 2023 was always likely to be challenging. This was reflected in mixed results, although, overall, our teams fared well against tough competition.

In the Dorking and Leatherhead League, our Men's 1st team again finished top of Division 1. However, the Men's 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams all finished second from bottom in their new Divisions. The Ladies' 1st team were runners up in Division 1, while the Ladies' 2nd team finished mid-table in Division 2. Meanwhile, the Mixed Doubles team finished mid-table in Division 1 and the Vets Mixed doubles team finished second from bottom in their Division 1.

In the Wilson Summer Surrey Leagues, our Men's and Mixed Doubles teams will stay in the same Division for the 2024 season. But unfortunately, the Ladies' team is likely to drop down a Division.

In the Chaucer League, the Men's team, missed out on top spot, despite winning all their matches, due to winning marginally fewer sets than the team finishing top. It was a similar story for the club's new Men's National League team. Although they won 4 out of 5 matches, they finished in second with the same points tally as the winners.

We run fewer teams in the Winter, but the Winter Surrey Men's 1st and 2nd teams look to have made a good start in 2023/24, as do the two Vets Mixed Doubles teams who are playing in the Winter D&L League. We wish all our teams success for the remainder of the season.

Team practice night on Wednesdays continues to deliver excellent standard of play as well as the opportunity for formal coaching. The past year has seen an influx of strong new players join this session. If you are interested, please visit the Teams section on the LTC website for more details about how to play, captain a team or both!

Congratulations to all our 2023 teams and to everyone who turned out to watch and support our home games. Thank you also, to thank all our captains for their organisation, commitment, and volunteering, with a special mention to Nigel Walley who, after several seasons, has stood down as Winter Men's captain.

8. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE – MIKE WATKINS

There have been two changes to the Committee and Committee member roles over the past year. In the summer, Jo Hammond decided to stand down as Club Secretary, though she has stayed on as a general member. In the interim, Sue Barnard stepped into the role and has done a super job. Both we and she are happy for her to continue. In addition, Rebecca Ussher has relinquished her roles as Bar Manager and Social Secretary to focus on her role as Director.

The current Directors and Committee are all happy to serve for another year. All nominations for positions are uncontested and so the proposals are collective:

Resolution 4: To appoint Ed Stansfield as Chairman and Director, Martin Crayton as Treasurer and Director, Trudy Mapstone as Membership Secretary and Director, and Rebecca Ussher as Director of Leatherhead Tennis Club Limited.

Proposer: Mike Watkins

Seconder: Jo Hammond

Resolution 5: To appoint the following members as the Management Committee:

- Ed Stansfield - Chairman
- Martin Crayton - Treasurer
- Trudy Mapstone - Membership Secretary
- Sue Barnard - Club Secretary
- Rebecca Ussher General Member
- Jo Hammond – General Member
- Nigel Catlow - General Member
- Mike Watkins - General Member

Proposer: Mike Watkins

Seconder: Martin Crayton

9. AOB

Please let us know if you have any items to raise here and we will address them at or before the meeting.

10. MEETING CLOSE

TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. INCOME

Subscription income increased over the previous year. Other sources of income were also strong as social activities at the club during the year continued to be popular.

2. EXPENDITURE

a) The three-year fixed price electricity contract expired in August 2022, and we entered into a new one at a price that was approximately 60% higher than the rate we had previously been paying. This has led to a significant increase of around £3.3k in the cost of electricity.

b) Our landlord is Mole Valley District Council and the rent that we pay them is subject to review every 5 years. The increase due with effect from 1 April 2021 was agreed in the last year. In the previous financial year, the electrical boards in the clubhouse failed (in February 2022) and the club incurred around £4.5k of expenditure getting the problem rectified.

3. IN SUMMARY

On normal activities our total income of £63.0k less expenditure of £32.3k gave a surplus of £30.7k. After depreciation of £23.9k we were left with a net surplus of £6.8k.

4. BALANCE SHEET

a) The net of depreciation values of fixed assets at 31 March 2023 were as follows:

Clubhouse	75,000
Outside social area	9,912
Courts	86,343
Floodlights courts 1 – 4	18,635
Floodlights court 5	15,269
Sundry equipment	2,520

b) Bank balances are shown as £81k but this includes advance subscriptions paid before the year end of £38k. Our true cash levels at 31 March 2023 are £43k compared to £95k last year (£138k less £38k).

5. PROJECTED 31 March 2024 RESULTS

Subscription income will be similar to the year ended 31 March 2023 with a good contribution from the bar as well. Expenditure will generally be at similar levels to the previous year apart from electricity being higher as a full year will have been subject to the increased price levels. Depreciation will be higher than the previous year due to the capital expenditure over the last 18 months. We are projecting an approximate deficit of £6k for the current year.

6. CASH BALANCES AT 15 JANUARY 2024

	£000's
Lloyds	11
Birmingham Midshires	24
Total	35

We will need a further £8k for running expenses between then and the end of the financial year.

LEATHERHEAD TENNIS CLUB LIMITED
Summary of 2022/23 Accounts

	31-Mar-2023		31-Mar-2022		31-Mar-2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Subscriptions	54,051		47,562		43,864	
Bar profit	5,665		3,562		252	
Floodlights	5		103		1,057	
Social events	1,216		297		-	
Misc	2,058		2,018		2,396	
		62,995		53,542		47,569
Rent & rates	6,307		4,286		3,816	
LTA levy	1,400		720		-	
Coaches (net)	1,162		-		3,124	
Insurance/Licences	1,399		1,270		1,219	
Electricity	7,749		4,472		2,252	
Balls	3,658		4,281		2,892	
Cleaning	2,175		2,096		1,549	
Telephone / broadband	582		595		400	
Garden	2,956		1,655		1,090	
Sundry	1,812		1,814		1,380	
Clubhouse repairs / maintenance	374		6,051		1,593	
Court maintenance	2,707		2,354		6,430	
Depreciation	23,893		18,290		17,003	
		56,184		47,884		42,748
Net surplus		6,821		5,658		4,821
Covid grants		-		8,000		20,289
Total surplus for the year		6,821		13,658		25,110
SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET						
Fixed assets		207,678		146,285		146,575
Current assets						
Stock and debtors	4,916		4,467		5,681	
Bank balances	81,582		133,416		97,063	
		86,498		137,883		102,744
Liabilities		294,176		284,168		249,319
Advance subscriptions	38,386		37,973		20,060	
Sundry creditors	6,452		3,678		400	
		44,838		41,651		20,460
		249,338		242,517		228,859