

A warm welcome to all members. It has been a good year for our club, and I am excited to share our achievements and objectives with you.

We have enjoyed a series of successful events and activities this year. Hosting a splendid Open Day to celebrate our Club Cabin and highlight the friendly spirit of the club. Excel's coaching sessions for juniors and adults gave the afternoon the full tennis experience. For this event we launched an extensive advertising campaign, distributing posters and leaflets in surrounding villages and leveraging social media to reach a wider audience. The event was well-attended and provided an enjoyable day for youngsters and adults and the chance to catch-up with members of the founding committee .

Our club nights have been thriving, with the Christmas Club Night being a particular highlight. Friendly matches have developed well and are now a firm part of our social tennis offerings. The summer tournaments, including Ladies, Mixed, and Men's doubles, were highly competitive and enjoyable. The involvement of youngsters has been a particular highlight for me, seeing them engage and excel in the sport. Our adult and junior tennis coaching, provided by Excel, continue to be well-received, helping our members improve their skills. Our commitment to the community continues by awarding bursaries to students at Standlake and Stanton Harcourt schools.

We have made significant improvements to our facilities. The completion of the Cabin build now offers a new space for events and activities. We also re-covered court 2, ensuring a high-quality playing surface for our members and extending the court-surface life. Clearing the perimeter hedging was necessary to avoid moss ingress, maintaining our courts in top condition. It was pleasing to see the restoration of Shirley's bench. Re-surfacing of Court 1 is planned for 2025.

I am pleased to say that no safeguarding incidents have been reported in the last year. However, we should not be complacent. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Safeguarding & Welfare Officer. Our unannounced LTA Safeguarding Audit was successful with only a few minor points reported.

Overall, our financial health is good, with a slight increase in subscription income. Other, court-related income has also risen. However, court re-surfacing, our major source of our expenditure, has increased significant to around £20K per court.

There have been challenges this year, including a weakening of the committee. The membership secretary post has not been filled, and our Secretary has stepped down having been relocated abroad. However, existing members have stepped forward to fill the gaps, further showing their dedication to the club. But the committee does need strengthening.

Decline in membership is a concern and we need to look at ways of attracting new members and widen our established activities to attract younger members.

Our bursaries which whilst well received do not translate into continuing membership. We should consider other ways to use this expenditure for the community and offer a clearer path to membership.

My thanks to the committee for their hard work during the year. To Diane and George for their work on Club Night and Friendly matches. To Chris and Clive for all their work on keeping the courts to the

highest of standards, to Ed and Excel for providing advice and guidance and their high-quality coaching and Dom for his promotional work. Thanks also to Charles Potter for his work on keeping the floodlight tokens flowing, Nadeem and the village post office for their support.

This year, we have achieved much providing a strong programme of tennis activities that our members have genuinely enjoyed. Moving forward, we should build upon this to enhance the experiences for our current members, actively attract new people, and create opportunities for young people to develop and enjoy tennis alongside us.

I am stepping back from the Chairman's role but will look forward to continuing to be part of the Committee.

Mike Buckle
Chairman
March 2025