

## Northleach Tennis Club – Chairman’s Report 2023/2024 – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

So, another year over and looking forward to the new season starting in a couple of weeks.

I think on the whole last year was ok as regards the tennis being played, although from a personal note I didn’t play that much from early June onwards. And I think there were also a couple of other club night regulars that didn’t make it quite as much as in previous years, and this did lead to some club nights being a bit sparse. So it would be really good if we could encourage some more members to turn out on Tuesday evenings to keep it going.

I apologise if I’ve got this wrong, perhaps because I was away, but I’m not sure we had more than just the one Club competition last year, is that right? But I know we did at least have one because, somehow I managed to end up winning the American Doubles alongside Sam Orton.

In the Gloucestershire Dunlop Summer League our team held their own again in what I believe was quite a strong Division 2A, but hopefully Rich can expand a bit on that, and also tell us about the coming season’s league matches.

Membership – rather disappointingly numbers were a little down on the previous couple of years, made up as follows – 28 adults, 21 plus 7 family, (33; 22+11 family), 9 juniors, 5 plus 4 family (16; 6+10 family), 1 student (2) and 1 social/key holders (2). A total of 38 playing members as compared with 51 the year before. So, as I said, a little disappointing. Quite why the drop in numbers, maybe some of it is the general cost of living crisis, who knows, but it is something to bear in mind when we set the subscriptions for the new season.

Casual bookings – This is an area that has again done quite well. At the time I extracted the figures earlier this week, we had a total of 86 casual bookings, compared to 81 in the prior year. This generated £878 after deducting the bank processing fees, income that we obviously need.

Coaching – Sad to say that this turned out very disappointing, again. The coach we had teamed up with for the second year, is I believe, a very good coach, but with us he let himself down with his communication and administration. I’m not sure as to whether or not he actually did any junior coaching for us or indeed with the school. Anyway, I’ve not heard anything from him and I certainly didn’t want to waste my time chasing him.

For the coming year Colin has been in touch with a new coach who seems keen to come to Northleach, so fingers crossed something transpires there, although I hope it isn’t too late to get things underway. Perhaps Colin will be able to update us on that shortly.

Maintenance – I mentioned this time last year that there was quite a lot of moss on the courts, albeit mainly around the edges, so that it didn’t really impact on the playing surface. However, by the time Autumn arrived it was getting quite bad and certainly by the end of October and into November because of all the wet weather we had they were beginning to be rather unsafe to play on. So we had the courts pressure washed in December and they were back to looking pretty good again. We would normally have had them treated at the same time with mossicide, but we were advised that conditions were too wet and that it would be best to wait until the Spring. So that is an expense of £264 yet to come, assuming costs haven’t gone up any further. For the record the pressure washing cost £834, making a total of £1,098. I think in the past we have put off having the courts cleaned in this way to try and save money, but realistically I think it is a cost that we should expect maybe every two years.

Staying with maintenance, we didn’t have anybody regularly keeping the weeds at bay last year, and despite the valiant efforts of a couple of committee members the whole facility was not looking it’s best by the end of the season. But hopefully we have now engaged the services of a local gardener who, having blitzed the weeds in January and got the courts looking tidy again, will go down on a regular basis throughout the season to keep on top of things. This is, of course, an extra cost that we have to bear, but one that I think is worth it.

Finances – Our finances are again in a pretty good state, as I'm sure our Treasurer will report on in a moment so I won't go into any detail, but just to highlight the fact that despite the court cleaning costs, the drop in membership and the fact that there are two years of fees to the Town council included in the accounts, our closing balance of just over £10,700 was up on the previous year by about £675.

That's nearly all other than to say thanks to all on the committee for your efforts during the year in keeping the Club running; the membership or the Town Council don't fully appreciate what goes on behind the scenes to keep this facility up and running. Special thanks to Ken who is stepping down from the committee after quite a long time, so thank you Ken.

But it is also over and out as far I'm concerned. Having been chairman for some 17 years I think I've done my stint and it's time to let somebody else take over. I've said I'll stay on the committee if needed but hopefully we can find some new blood to help run the club. And I think that is quite important because the future of the Club in its current form depends on it.

Mike Tyler, Chair, Northleach Tennis Club