

### Chair Report for AGM Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021

This is our second attempt to hold our AGM, which should have taken place in November 2020 but postponed owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. The past 15 months have been unique times for organising tennis arrangements. However, during this time, when lockdown measures have started to ease, we have ensured that tennis has been able to resume at different levels. We have been supported by the LTA who have regularly updated their guidance for venues, players and coaches. Following their guidance, we have been able to undertake our own risk assessments to produce 'Delivery Plans – Covid -19' which are pertinent to our club, depending on the type of restrictions in place at any time. We have placed information on to our website and informed members as updates have occurred.

### Club Sessions

These were resumed whenever permitted, whilst conforming to Covid -19 guidance. Attendance at these has been somewhat sporadic: I believe that because people had set up their own groups before club sessions were permitted, there was less desire for these sessions and maybe concerns about mixing. When permitted, the sessions have been available on Sundays 2-4pm throughout the year and Thursdays, 2-4pm during the winter and 6-8pm during the summer. We also started a ladies morning on a Friday 10am-12 noon in 2021. The current guidance states that social play is permitted under the rule of 30.

### Coaching

As soon as Graham was permitted, he began individual coaching. Following on from this, he was able to coach small groups of adults and then larger groups of children. In the Summer of 2020, we had coaching groups for Juniors (8-11 year olds) for 6 Sunday mornings and young people over the age of 11 on Monday evenings for 6 sessions. We initiated a system whereby those requesting a place on a course needed to be a member of the club and pay Graham directly for the coaching; this appears to have been successful. However, the committee have recently discussed the issue of young children needing to be members and decided that this was probably not appropriate and, therefore, we are unlikely to put this into our system next year.

We have continued this payment arrangement with our coaching sessions since. This has included our new Cardio Tennis Courses (currently course 2 is running on Thursday mornings), our children (Sunday mornings), young people and adult courses (Wednesday evenings). Our Welfare Officer Jo Fordham, has attended the first session of each course for our children/young people in order to complete contact detail forms and ensure she was recognisable if a young person needed to contact her. Graham has been actively busy coaching at our courts whenever he has been permitted to do so

Unfortunately we were unable to award the Sloper Shield in 2020 but, hopefully, this will be possible in 2021.

The latest LTA Coronavirus update states that coaching sessions are permitted. Graham will be following guidelines from the LTA for coaches.

### Leagues

Owing to the Coronavirus, the Dorset LTA Winter league 2019-2020 was cut short. Fortunately, the ladies had completed all of their matches so were unaffected. They came 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 2. The men, however, had not completed all of their matches; the outstanding points were split between the teams that had not completed their matches. This resulted in the men finishing in position 2 in Division 5 (they were disappointed as they felt they could have won if the matches had been played). However, the men were promoted to Division 4 for the Winter League 2020-2021 which began in October 2020. Again, these leagues were cut short and not concluded.

We are currently playing in the Summer Dorset LTA League – Men's and Ladies. Both teams are doing well and currently at the top of their respective divisions.

The Shaftesbury League 2020 was cancelled. We are currently playing in the 2021 Shaftesbury league. The A team, in Division 1, are romping away with success – very well done. The B team, in Division 2 are doing well, winning some but not all of their matches. Each team has approximately 3 matches left to play.

### Public Access

We became a member of the LTA rally scheme. This, in part, is to enable more participation in tennis. For us, we have now been able to put in place a system which offers those who do not wish to become members, the opportunity to 'Pay and Play'. We received a grant from the LTA to help with this set up. We have used the grant to purchase a new key safe called an 'Igloohome' (and have it fitted by Alec Fincham), for use by the public. Once registered, a non-member can book a court on the Clubspark/Shillingstone Tennis Club website. They choose the time they wish to play for and pay accordingly (£4 per half hour per court). On payment, they receive an email giving them a code to use for the Igloohome key safe. The code can be changed as often as needed via a smartphone. It is also possible to use the phone to see the log of when a code has been used. We have set up some emergency codes for Kathy, Sharon and Chris just in case we are contacted by a member of the public who is having problems accessing the court. So far, it has been working well with members of the public making use of the courts.

As part of the 'Rally' initiative we have put up a sign and banner provided by the LTA (with permission from the Parish Council).

### Website/Facebook/Booking

Owing to Coronavirus, it became imperative that courts had to be booked before use as part of the NHS Track and Trace system. Unfortunately, not all members have been including the names of participants on their booking slots despite many reminders to do so. We will continue to remind members as we are required to keep a track of those who have used the courts for 21 days. Clubsparks have had teething problems (especially the phone app) with the system but are trying to sort out issues as they arise.

Before the system of adding participants and paying for guests was fully integrated into the online system, we had been receiving many more guest fees into the box inside the shelter. Whilst we are aware that not all members are paying for their guests (even when prompted to do so), the revenue from guest fees has risen significantly – even more so with the online booking system.

Many thanks go to Belinda Simpson who has taken on the role of website manager. She has also set up a Shillingstone Tennis Club Facebook Page. Belinda has been updating information, match reports, warnings of cricket matches and generally keeping it all in order – many thanks.

### Maintenance

Thanks to everyone who has continued with the maintenance of our courts – Janet strimming, Hilary nets and rubbish, Kathy and Chris leaf blowing, mowing etc and Chris for repairing the outer netting.

However, during our last lockdown we went a little further with our maintenance. We had the perimeter netting replaced with something more substantial in the hope that this would prevent the unpicking that some individuals had been doing in order to get access into the courts – and save Chris a lot of work! We also had had a working party of all the committee members who painted the shelter area, put up our new nets and generally spruced the place up – thanks to all. We had the roof of the shelter cleaned and gutters cleared. Our Parish Councillor Richard White came along as well and was soon signed up to build a small wall to prevent flooding in the shelter – many thanks.

### Cricket ball risk

Following on from our emergency committee meeting, Rob and I had a meeting with Clive Nelson (June 2020). The actions we outlined in the minutes, from that meeting, were not fulfilled e.g. updating Labosport Risk assessment for wind speed, rotating wicket, obtaining some funding for ball stop netting, advising tennis club when there were cricket matches etc. I have had further discussions with a representative of the ECB (Neil Higginson) and the LTA (Rob Peters). These 2 bodies have also had a Zoom meeting together. I have passed on to the committee notes, as relevant at the time, to keep you updated but not overloaded. I have discussed this issue with the LTA legal advisors and with Howdens (insurers). Their advice is to ensure our members and any members of the public are aware of the risk e.g.

inform by email, information on the website and notices at the court – we have done all of this.

A previous communication with Clive (Cricket Club Chairman) states that:

*“As a club we carry insurance that covers everything including public liability and indemnity for club officers. During the season an assessment is carried out of the recreation ground regularly by the Parish, and the cricket club has its own risk assessment procedures as well. For 2021 the increased signage we have discussed, regular contact and sharing of fixtures should meet the required criteria.”*

Information from the Cricket Club is sporadic. The Parish Council updated, in October 2020, their risk assessment. However, there was no reference to other users of the recreation ground e.g. cricket/football club but the tennis club was mentioned requiring us to take responsibility for the tennis courts. I took this to the Parish Council via Richard White. This has now been updated – ‘regular inspections required – responsibility of specific club’. There is no mention of their knowledge of the risk of a cricket ball causing injury.

### Policies

Jo has updated our Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Covid-19 policies. A few points regarding the pavilion have been raised with the Parish Council which they are/have addressed.

### Pavilion

The ‘Pod’ door, which was damaged when children became locked inside, was replaced by the PC and is now back in action. Although we have had little opportunity to use the pavilion this year, the employment of cleaners, by the Parish Council, appears to be more effective than when leaving the cleanliness to the users.