

## Chair Report for AGM Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Our last AGM (originally scheduled for Nov 2020) was held in July 2021 owing to the delay caused by Covid-19. Therefore it is only 4 months since that AGM that we are now holding our 2021 AGM. This puts us back on schedule. Hence, this AGM may seem somewhat shorter.

### Social Sessions

At our last Committee meeting, we decided to reduce the number of social sessions as numbers attending had been poor. We made the decision to keep the Sunday afternoon session but not reschedule the Thursday session by reverting evening to afternoon, as would normally have happened. Following on from this, one of our members decided it would be advantageous to set up a Whatsapp group for anyone who would still like to play on a Thursday afternoon. I sent the information out to all members so that they could opt to be in the group if they chose. This seems to be working reasonably well and has morphed into the Sunday session. Hopefully, this will reduce the chance of anyone turning up to play, but finding no one else has.

Since the last meeting we have started a 'Rusty Racquets' session on Friday afternoons. This replaced the Ladies morning, which had not been very well attended. We have had a few attendees but not a significant number.

Although I feel that social sessions are important for those who do not have their own groups, most club members do not appear to want to take part in these. This may be something that our new committee may wish to discuss.

### Coaching

Graham completed all of the coaching courses in 2021: 2 courses on Sunday mornings for children in Year groups 1-6, Teenagers and adults on Wednesday evenings. The Sloper Shield was awarded at the end of the Teenager sessions. The second Cardio Tennis course was completed – as yet, another has not been organised as numbers for the second course were not cost effective.

Graham continues to be actively coaching private groups and individuals. If the participants do not book (which is encouraged), he will do this, ensuring that any non-members are paying the court hire fee.

### Leagues

The Shaftesbury Tennis League was completed this year. In Division 1 our A team won - significantly ahead of the rest. Our B team, in Division 2, came 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Summer 2021 Dorset League concluded successfully. The ladies came 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 3 after some very challenging matches. The men won their division and will be promoted for next Summer.

We are currently taking part in the Dorset LTA Winter League 2021/2022. We have 3 teams: Men, Ladies and Mixed. The Ladies have played one match against Dorchester, which was quite a marathon, but, unfortunately a loss. The Mixed team have also played one match against Hale Gardens – unfortunately, a loss - but many more matches still to come!

The teams have continued to have team practice sessions.

#### Website/Facebook

Since the last AGM, Belinda has updated both website and Facebook pages. She has also posted advertising for our social sessions and new Rusty Racquets.

#### Refurbished Outside Noticeboard

Since our last AGM, the outside noticeboard has been refurbished. This now has information useful to non-members to obtain details about the club.

#### Maintenance

Since our last AGM, an agreement has been made with the Parish Council that the Cricket Club will undertake strimming, mowing, hedge cutting etc around the courts as part of their maintenance contract. We will need to monitor this to ensure that the details in the agreement are adhered to.

#### Cricket

We have continued to ensure that all members are aware of the cricket ball risk by publishing cricket matches when/if Clive informs me on our booking page. We have warnings on our website and at the courts. We are aware of a few cricket balls coming on to the courts during the 2021 season.

#### Pavilion

We have continued to liaise with the Parish Council via their representative, Richard White. Recently this has centred largely around the issues of mess left by other users. Jo also checks from a Health and Safety point of view.

#### Newcomers' Party

Chris and I attended this event at the Portman Hall on the evening of Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. We had the opportunity to inform those attending about what the Tennis Club has to offer.

#### Blandford Tennis Club

Blandford Tennis Club folded some time ago. I was approached by an ex-member regarding the funds they still hold. I was asked if we might have a cause that could use some of the funds. I put the case for us to provide some free coaching for children who would otherwise not be able to afford to take part. We would also provide some racquets and suitable balls for those children to use. We have been successful in being given some of the funds – split with the Air Ambulance. At our committee meeting before the beginning of the 2022 summer season, we can discuss the detail.

Sharon Proyer