

SOMER VALLEY

TENNIS

Covid-19

The management committee have found it difficult at times trying to keep pace with all the Covid-19 changes and restrictions; apologies from the committee to all members if not everything has worked as it should first time! The committee have worked hard and done a great job in keeping everyone informed and making sure every opportunity was taken to play tennis. Testament to this was the club championships that were held in the autumn of 2020. Good effort by everyone involved in the organisation of the championships, in particular Patrick Lodge and James Brocksopp.

The Club Policies, Constitution & Charity Status

All club policies and constitution document have been reviewed during 2020. The updated policies are now available to the members via the Somer Valley Tennis Clubspark pages. Club Secretary (Mandy Stonier) and Club Safeguarding Officer (Rachel Perryman) have worked hard on the various safeguarding policies and associated junior specific policies. The general constitution document does require some basic updates to keep it in line with the club changes made during 2020 and the transition to Somer Valley Tennis. A letter from the Chair and two associated documents have been issued to members prior to the AGM and a vote will be required.

There will be a second vote at the AGM regarding a further change to the club constitution. The review of the constitution has raised questions regarding the clubs status and the format of the governance structure. The management committee has issued to the club members prior to the AGM, information regarding the proposal to register the club as a charity. This final change will close the gaps in the constitution and also allow the club to develop further in 2021 and beyond.

Dragonfly Leisure

As with all businesses, Dragonfly Leisure has had a challenging time during 2020 are also reviewing their operations to adapt and cope with post Covid-19 environment. The relationship between Somer Valley Tennis and Dragonfly is very good and productive discussions are ongoing to formalise a new contractual arrangement between both parties. The current five year agreement ends in April 2021.

Outreach Courts

The management committee has received an overwhelming response from Timsbury and Chilcompton that they are keen for Somer Valley Tennis to have a presence at their courts. The management committee will continue to work with these two outreach venues to develop the possibility of providing some form of regular club activity there. Both Timsbury and Chilcompton venues have club house facilities that Somer Valley Tennis can use for social events.

Management Committee

Notable changes to the committee during the year:

- Jenny Perez stood down back in July 2020 as Communications. Jenny had been a long standing supporter on the committee and had done an excellent job. The communications activity has been picked up by Alex Hull (Social Media), Mandy Stonier (Secretary) and Bryn Jones (Chair).
- James Brocksopp (Mixed League Coordinator) is not standing for re-election at the AGM. James has been a valued member of the committee for 12 years and this year was awarded the Club Volunteer of the Year.
- Tom Craig (Additional Committee member) is not standing for re-election at the AGM. Tom has been an active



member of the committee and club, such as coordination of the Box Leagues.

The management committee is made up of volunteers who provide their time, expertise and enthusiasm for free. Therefore, it is important to have sufficient people and the right mix of people on the committee to make the management process work. There are defined roles on the committee such as Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, etc... However, there are also opportunities for others to join the committee and provide some assistance/expertise in the running of the club. The management committee would welcome any offers of assistance from any member, please contact me directly prior to the AGM if you are interested in joining the committee.

ClubSpark

The club secretary (Mandy Stonier) has put in a considerable amount of effort and time during 2020 with regard Clubspark and coordinating the transfer of data from the old club website and former Writhlington Tennis Centre AVO. Clubspark is a vital tool for the club and is available at no additional cost from the LTA; it helps centralise and coordinate the all the clubs activities and communication. Clubspark's online booking system for club events also provided an effective Covid-19 'track and trace' system too.

Finances

The club finances are generally in a good condition and a high cash balance (circa 10k) indicative of the lack of tennis being played and limited courts being booked. When planning the court bookings for 2021, the management committee will need take into account the high number of deferred membership packages as a result of 2020/21 Covid-19 suspensions. Keeping the costs down is important to promote access to community tennis. However, running costs (court and registration fees, balls, admin) are likely to rise and based on some financial planning that has been done by the management committee.

Fund Raising and Socials Events.

Fund raising activities will be planned again for 2021. The club quiz nights have been a great success in the past with Jeff and Christine Hunt putting a lot of effort in to make them fun and enjoyable.

Other fund raising ideas have been implemented such as 'Easy Fund Raising' where retailers provide cash back offers on online purchases for good causes. 4000+ retailers such as Amazon, Screwfix, Argos, etc...offering a percentage of the transaction charge when someone shops online via the 'Easy Fund Raising' portal.

Summary

A challenging year for the committee due to Covid-19 but many positives to take way from the challenges faced. However, the club is now in a better place to grow and support community tennis going forward. Covid-19 will still affect the club and the playing of tennis during 2021 but there is light at the end of the tunnel and the management committee are now experienced in reacting to the challenges.

With polices and clubspark updated and a way forward mapped out for the club structure, Somer Valley Tennis is well placed to develop and support the members of the club and the wider tennis community in the Somer Valley area.



Signed.....
Bryn Jones
Chair of Somer Valley Tennis
February 2021

