

# WCTC AGM Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Chairperson's Report for 2021/22 – Sue North

We have had a busy year, with no pandemic related court closures and a lot of catching up to do following the previous disruptions. Whilst COVID has continued to affect the use of the Clubhouse, matches and social events, we have been able to enjoy playing tennis and the courts have seen plenty of action.

In June we hosted an LTA Safeguarding Inspection, which looked in detail at all of our policies and procedures, which together aim to ensure the safety of our venue and activities for both juniors and adults. This is clearly an important responsibility and together Laurie, our SG lead, and I worked hard to ensure that we met all the requirements of the LTA. We will continue to review our procedures regularly, and act promptly on any areas of concern. Please do report any potential issues to Laurie, details of how to do this are on the website. Thanks go to Laurie for his time and effort.

In September, following a number of false starts, we finally had the courts repainted, making them noticeably less slippery, as well as smarter.

This has been a rollercoaster year regarding coaching. In April Sara Robson who was coaching the junior groups announced with short notice that she was moving to Leeds. Following a fraught couple of weeks Rob Norris agreed to take this on and between April and December a thriving group was established, with Kim's help.

Then, the weekend before Christmas, first Rob and then Mike stepped down from coaching with immediate effect, both citing personal reasons.

To cut a long story short, and following contact with a number of local coaching contacts, we have now entered an arrangement with Gary Waughman of Premier tennis. So far the feedback has been very positive. Please continue to feedback your comments, and also your requests, so that we can work with the coaching team to provide the best possible service. A particularly pleasing aspect of this arrangement is that once again WCTC will be associated with our local schools through the sessions Premier Tennis are offering. As a Community Tennis Club we feel that this reflects our ethos and bodes well for the future. A special mention here must go to Kim who agreed to keep the junior group running while new arrangements were put in place, she has been a great help over this time, so thank you Kim!

This year we have once again entered both a Ladies and a Mixed team in the Portsmouth and district leagues. (Maggie and Peter have provided separate reports) Many thanks to them for continuing to work hard running these teams. If anyone would like to play in the teams please do let the Captains know as new players are always welcome.

Social tennis events have been reduced by COVID but we did manage a most enjoyable BBQ in late summer. I very much hope we can begin to hold more regular events once again.

Club nights/mornings have been revitalised, with a core group of players turning out regularly on Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. This has been facilitated by the development of Whatsapp groups for each session allowing easy communication on the day, and encouraging regular attendance. Thank you to John for setting up and implementing this system with great success. These groups are currently thriving to a greater extent than ever.

Sunday morning is currently running as a Club morning which is member-led, and we will keep this under review to see that it is operating in the best interests of members.

Finally this year we have improved some of our admin procedures, bringing us in to the 21st century regarding secure document storage, and the ability to work collaboratively on shared documents. We have also benefitted from a much better pro rata system of subs payment through the year. For masterminding this I would like to thank John Ridge, for his time, effort and patience when dealing with what must at times have felt like a collection of dinosaurs.

So, in summary, I think as a Club we are in good shape, moving forward with an exciting new coaching partner, and having weathered a few storms in the past year or so. None of this can happen without the time and effort contributed by the Committee, so thank you once again, to Peter, Laurie and our secretary, Gary.