



Chairman's Report November 2024

Dear Members

DRINKS ON THE BOARD!

You all probably have enough meetings in your lives, so I accept our AGM might not be the most exciting invitation you get this festive period. This year, with so little actual "business" on the Agenda, we thought drinks were in order. Please join us for drinks and snacks at 7:30 on 19th November. A brief AGM will follow.

NEW COURTS

"When are the new courts being built?" I get asked this a few times per week, and rightfully so. It has been a while since we submitted our planning application, and I am very frustrated about the time it has taken. Initially there was an admin error in the submission process which delayed things, which was not our doing. We have since been asked to provide more information about light spillage, noise and drainage, which we have duly done. Most of which was reiterating information we had already submitted. The consultant we are working with keeps on chasing an outcome, so I am hopeful that by the time we meet in person, there might be further news. Sorry, I wish I had more to say on this matter.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

A key duty of this report is to thank those who have contributed to the club in the past 12 months. I am very grateful that the volunteering spirit remains alive and well at MPLTC. We have relatively low "paid for" support due to how much is covered by volunteers, allowing us to keep on investing in our facilities.

Specifically, I would like to call out:

Catherine Copping - who continues the important role of Welfare Officer, keeping our members and staff, safe and in line with LTA guidelines.

The “unlockers” who open the club every day to make sure we can get on court. These are Amir Syed, Suzanne Eyre, David Hawkins, Giles Topping, and James Nethersole.

Tony Martin for fulfilling his Wednesday peg board duties with patience and creativity.

Suzanne Eyre and Ruth Reilly for shepherding our Tuesday mid-week social.

THANKS TO OUR TEAM

Thanks to Amy and her team for continuing to provide amazing service and great atmosphere at the bar.

Mike, Amir, Mark and Nathalie for their ongoing service and commitment to the club.

SAM LUTO

I would like to thank Sam Luto for his immense contribution to the board and life at the club. Sam will be transitioning away from his duties as Social Secretary. I think we can all agree, he has been both selfless and dedicated in providing wonderful opportunities for us all to socialise, make friends, laugh, sing, dance and even meet future partners.

There were some questionable speeches at the DUORACKETHON, and one tiny ill-judged WhatsApp group picture which I am sure he won't mind me mentioning one last time.

Thank you, Sam. You are one in a million.

The BOARD

This board now begins the final year of our 2-year term. All positions will be up for re-election this time next year. Would you like to be involved in the Board or a sub-committee in the future? Please reach out to me.

We are specifically looking for volunteers to cover two positions.

Social Secretary and Volunteers – taking over from Sam as the leader of the team, or just joining the sub committee

Summer Tournament Director – leading the team that delivers the on court elements of the summer tournament.

Please reach out to Sam or me for further details.

Bobby Chandra has indicated an interest in the Treasurer role, as Stewart intends to stand down at some point. He will keep in touch with Stewart through the course of the next year, especially at the key financial moments to learn the ropes, and hopefully transition into this role in due course.

My intention is still that this is my last year as Chairman. Personally, I think the next Chairman should come from within the Committee or have some previous experience on the Committee. Please reach out to me should you be interested in this role. I have found it hugely rewarding.

See you at the AGM!

Gareth