

Tennis report for 2018 AGM, Weald Tennis and Squash Club.

In the last twelve months the Tennis Committee has been very active, meeting on average every six weeks. We are hugely lucky that we now have a complete committee of enthusiastic and committed members and my personal thanks go to all of them for volunteering their time and energies. Particular thanks go to Sharon our very able manager who I meet with weekly, she is a great sounding board and I value her advice. Thanks also to the other team members who have been with us throughout the year.

Social tennis forms a significant part of the tennis activities at the club and Jan has really made herself invaluable this year organising with frightening efficiency our Monday and Wednesday morning sessions, I'm sure all the participants would like to express their thanks to her. Social tennis participant numbers are up – an average of 32 (that's 8 courts) on both Mondays and Wednesdays – and the new policy of 'all are welcome' is working well.

The committee's thanks also go to those members who make the other social sessions that occur on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday such a success and to Colin, Lauren and Jamie Titshall for their excellent organisation and running of the singles box leagues.

The club has continued to run successful junior tennis tournaments throughout the year. This included our Grade 3 (regional level) tournament, The Weald Open, which was held for a week during the Easter holidays, and the U14 girls County Cup which was held during the Mayday bank holiday weekend. We were asked to host 2 mini tennis events for Tennis Sussex, and have also held a handful of Grade 4 (County Level) events for Under 10s and Under 14s. The Fast 4 Grade 3 adult tournament was held on the Whitsun Bank holiday weekend.

The Hosting of these external tournaments continues to be beneficial to the club with regards to income, for both entry fees and bar income.

The club have already been asked to host the 2019 U14 County Cup qualifying weekend, which the Tennis Committee have approved. This will be held during the Mayday bank holiday weekend, on the hard courts. We are waiting to hear about dates for The Weald Open and also other tournaments throughout the year. These will be posted onto the Tennis notice board and website as soon as the dates are agreed by the Tennis Committee.

The TC is keen that we should be more proactive in encouraging juniors and improving junior tennis opportunities at the Weald. Lucie has stepped up to the plate as our new Junior rep and we will be looking for junior LTA tournaments to host and enter to get young players used to competition, especially at grades 4&5 (county level) and grades 6&7 (local level). These are important sources of income for the club with bar takings up and match fees paid. The recent Junior club champs was a great success.

Coaching

We have a great coaching team of four at the club and I meet regularly with Bradley, at those meetings we are now looking to begin the formulation of a five year development plan for coaching at the club. Within the first 12 months, dependant on LTA course availability, it is expected that Bradley will become a Level 4 coach.

As part of the welcoming of new tennis members Bradley and the coaching team will invite all new members to a free coaching session of 30-45 mins to assess playing standards and see how the new member can be helped and to explain what is on offer at the club.

Hard Court maintenance

In March the courts were power washed and treated as required. Some rust spotting has been discovered and we are monitoring these closely and have taken advice from the installers.

Clay court maintenance

In the summer the annual clay court maintenance was undertaken by outside contractors, subsequently the protracted very dry period caused problems for the courts and the need for regular watering of the courts was realised. Should we get such a period of dry weather next year then watering of the courts will form part of the groundsman's duties. We are also intending to use the large triangular brush regularly towed behind the quad bike to ensure better distribution of the clay particles. We are acutely aware of the issue of line visibility on the clay courts and we are still working on a solution to improve this that is achievable within budget constraints.

Great British Tennis Weekend

Sandra organised a very successful GBTW and our thanks go to her and her helpers for making the weekend go so well. The incentive of waiving the joining fee for anyone who signed up on the day and paid in full also getting the remainder of May free, was well received. We will be repeating this in 2019.