



This really is an amazing tennis club!

As the new Chair of Faringdon tennis club (and first timer) I wanted to go to some County meetings – yes I can tell you are all envious! – to see what was going on. Well my summary is that I cannot find another club that is as settled, supported, happy and open as ours! The members make it what it is and the whole committee are extremely grateful for all the large and small acts of support that are offered that make the club run smoothly. Obviously there are things that we are working to improve the club and ideas are listened to and, whenever possible, are acted upon quickly.

My first year has flown by and started with the news that Matt Williams was stepping down as Head Coach. This gave us a chance to take a fresh look at what we wanted from a coaching programme at the Club and following a number of discussions with members and current coaches we investigated a few options and were delighted when Dave Tuck and Tom Francis accepted the post. We feel that over recent years the club has made great strides coaching and bringing adults into team tennis but that the juniors had not experienced the same growth. It will take a while and there is lots of competition for children's sporting 'time' but we are in a position to now grow this area of the club too.

Thank you to Matt Williams for the time and passion he has given to coaching the young and old of Faringdon and its surroundings – and good luck with the teaching. Thanks must also go to Guy Mobey who has been involved more and more over the past 12 months and has ensured the coaching transition has been as smooth as possible over the summer and into September – good luck at Uni!

We have continued to steadily grow the membership – we are at 274 members – the highest September number we have recorded and we have maintained a 50:50 split of senior and juniors. This definitely bucks the Oxfordshire trend! The number of teams continues to increase – 13 - with some new mid-week leagues adding to the mix. Plus our Silver Servers for Over 60's who have a regular 'fixture' against Wantage Tennis Club led by Kate Haysman. This is my chance to thank Adrian Noke who does an absolutely amazing job organising the fixtures for ALL our teams – Summer and Winter. You are a star Adrian \*.

The weather was not quite as kind this season as the last, for our Pimms and Prizes evenings but they remain a highlight of our Social Tennis activities. The New Season Social was a success enabling members to chat, sign up for Wimbledon tickets, enter Club Champs and get their team photo's taken. Thank you to Anne Sawyer for providing refreshment for all our 'gatherings'. The social committee have brought back the 'big event' of old and hopefully many of you joined us at La Bobina on Monday. If not watch out for next year's event.

We have just completed this year's Club Championships – they were brilliantly organised by Steve Wright – with the help of Guy, Alan and Susanna. Thank you for all your hard work. Well done to all who competed and to those who came out to support them.

As we move into my second year there are a couple of ideas we are looking at: the possibility of having an outdoor, vandal proof table tennis &/or picnic table set up to the side of the club house. Plus the possibility of constructing a small 'pavillion' (shed) to the left of the courts – skate park end - which would enable players/ spectators to sit and watch the tennis.

Keep the ideas coming. We continue to strive to make sure there is tennis for everyone at the club!

Juliane Spiers. September 2019