

Faringdon Tennis Club Chairman's Report 2014

The scaffolding around the new site up at Folly Sports Park went up just a few days after the 2013 AGM, and the last of the scaffolding disappeared at the end of August. Inevitably, the past twelve months have been dominated by the prospect of relocating. In spite of this major distraction, we've had another good year in fulfilling our main objectives: that of providing social and competitive tennis for all ages and abilities; in a Club atmosphere that's relaxed and friendly.

There are many volunteers amongst the membership who help to make this possible, and our heartfelt thanks to all: the Officers of the club; the main Committee; the relocation, social, junior & maintenance committees; our clubmark contact, welfare officer, Wimbledon Ticket organiser, Club consumables coordinator, match secretaries and captains – and of course our head gardener Andy Sawyer.

In 2011 we were only the twelfth club in Oxfordshire to attain Clubmark status, and we continue to work hard to retain this mark of quality and performance. This is an ongoing journey that involves every aspect of the Club and the services that we provide, and Mark Mobey does a good job in steering us through this journey. Our Clubmark status was extremely helpful in meeting the conditions set by the Vale when negotiating terms for the new lease.

Thanks to Paul Silver and Alan Elbourn for coordinating the maintenance of the Southampton Street Clubhouse and facilities. They'll both be very pleased that we're now relocating to our fantastic new facilities.

We again had our usual allocation of Wimbledon tickets this year, and Alan Elbourn did an excellent job of coordinating the Draw, which took place in the new Club House at Folly Park View, while outside the groundworks were only just starting. Our thanks to Susanna Hunt and Juliane Spiers (with lots of help from Anne Sawyer) for organising the social side, as well as the other social events during the year. The Pimms & Prizes sessions were summer evenings at their very best, and it was heart-warming to see so many people on and off-court enjoying themselves.

Bucking the national trend, our membership continues to grow, and this year for the first time we hit a new high of 155 members, with a very healthy mix across all ages and abilities. Through a mixture of Club Sessions, Coaching, Matches and Tournaments we try to cater for the tennis interests of the majority of our membership, in a club atmosphere that's conducive to both having fun and improving our tennis, and with your help we can ensure that we grow from strength to strength – whatever challenges the next year may throw our way.

When we relocate from Southampton Street on Sunday the 21st September, we'll be leaving behind countless happy memories and good times going all the way back to 1926.

This is now the start of our new journey - with new opportunities and inevitably new challenges.

Sjoerd Vogt
Chairman – Faringdon Tennis Club