



We have all experienced a unique and unsettling time for which we were not prepared but had to manage as best we could. It has been necessary to adapt and find a lifestyle that we could manage and still try to thrive with. I know this has been tougher for some than others but at the tennis club we have tried to help in any way we could. We have been very fortunate that tennis was one of the early sports to re-start and our members have made the most of this and have been incredibly supportive, sensible and considerate of each other. I would like to thank the committee for working seamlessly to propose, agree, action and inform everyone of all of the adaptations and changes that have been required since March. Certainly ClubSpark booking has been used to much more effect this season!

A few pieces of headline news:

1. We received a substantial £10,000 grant from VWHDC (to help us manage during these Covid times) This was accessed as a consequence of finally having a valuation made for our rates. We have created a Development Fund to support players and the club. A MASSIVE thank you to Sjoerd for his dogged perseverance to chase this at every turn till it came through.
2. We now have a table tennis table beside the club house (balls and bats are in the club house when we can open that up again.)
3. Following a proposal from a member we will shortly (or may already!) have a few spectator benches up at the top of the bank for people to admire our play – or that of cricket if they face the opposite way!

Our new coaches are doing well and have grown the programme despite current circumstances and not being able to work with any schools over the summer term as had been planned! See their report for more details.

We have continued to grow the membership – at the beginning of September we were at 330 members – the highest September number we have recorded. 64 new members joined during lockdown; and we hope that a significant proportion will continue their tennis into the winter months. We are maintaining our teams this Winter Season and I know our more competitive players are looking forward to this enormously! Once again Adrian Noke has been an absolute marvel organising the clubs' fixtures alongside some exciting county junior tournaments that we will be hosting.

Members have been enjoying social tennis on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. I have been to a couple of Sunday mornings and it has been great to see a variety of faces there – it would be super to see even more.

We have just completed (well almost!) this year's Club Championships – they were brilliantly organised by Steve Wright – with the help of Alan and Susanna. Thank you for all your hard work – especially at the start when things were more uncertain. Well done to all who competed and to those who came out to support them.

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

Juliane Spiers. September 2020