

# **Faringdon Tennis Club**

## **Chairman's Review 2009**

The past year has combined the familiar cycle of activities together with some notable events and some set-backs.

The tennis club continues to provide adequate, if not luxurious, facilities, for people of all ages to enjoy playing tennis in a relaxed and sociable atmosphere. A range of club sessions, coaching for youngster and seniors, competition in the county leagues and other games arranged between members means that the three courts are regularly in use throughout the year.

I'd like to thank all the committee members and others who work behind the scenes to ensure that the club continues to flourish.

My thanks to Lin Ross, our club treasurer, for keeping the books in order. Our finances are stable; we don't have any debt and our income balances our outgoings. We continue to diligently grow our sinking fund (reserve) that is needed periodically for expensive maintenance bills such as when the courts need resurfacing.

Thanks to Paul Silver, Alan Elbourn and Andy Sawyer, and others who help with regular maintenance and those who attend the annual work day to ensure that the club is in good repair. Just like your house or garden, there are dozens of jobs that need to be done to maintain the status quo.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Paul who has been a long serving member of the committee with responsibility for overseeing the property maintenance. Paul will not be standing for re-election to the committee, but will continue to assist with the upkeep of the club in conjunction with Alan.

Pat Perkins has successfully managed the "Wimbledon draw" for many years. We had a greater than normal allocation of tickets in 2009 which made the process even more complex than before. However, Pat succeeded in ensuring that the ballot and subsequent effort to match winners with tickets was completed to everyone's satisfaction. Pat now feels it is time to let someone else rise to the challenge. Consequently, Alan Elbourn is to take on this responsibility for next year.

Please note – our allocation of Wimbledon ticket relies on ALL members signing up for British Tennis Membership. It is free until Feb 2012, so please ensure you have signed up, and if necessary renewed, your membership for 2010.

The membership numbers have increased from 100 to around 125 this year. The introduction of Family Membership together with the interest generated by juniors and ladies coaching has contributed to this increase. A healthy membership base with a cross section of

ladies, men, teenagers, girls and boys is essential for the long term health of the club.

It is very likely that you'll see new faces at club sessions, or meet other players during the day which may be family groups or others you've not met before. Please make them especially welcome and offer help or information if necessary.

Thanks to Sjoerd for his work as membership secretary and especially for maintaining the FTC web site which is the primary source of information that members and potential members should use.

The club enters teams in the county leagues. Our match secretaries, Anne Sawyer (winter) & Steve Perry (summer), plus the various team captains should be thanked for enabling many people to participate in competitive tennis. If you are interested in playing, please get in touch with one of the captains.

We arranged two 'Summer Open Events' this year. The first, in May, was especially well attended, the weather was excellent and a large number of people – both member and guest enjoyed several hours of fun tennis. There were slightly fewer people at the second event in June, but again the weather was good and we played from 6pm – 9pm. Our thanks to Alan for organising these friendly tournaments; each player plays a number of mini sets with different partners and opponents chosen by Alan to ensure it is a competitive game. Thanks also to Anne for the refreshments which kept us going.

Junior development and coaching is a key ingredient of a vibrant and expanding club. We can all enjoy club sessions and occasional competitive games. However, LTA / OLTA / Sport England and bodies that provide grants and assistance gauge clubs on how active they are in encouraging young people to participate.

Our thanks to Alan Elbourn and Susanna Hunt who provide a range of coaching for juniors and ladies, both at our courts and at other facilities in Faringdon and the surrounding area. This raises our profile within Faringdon, within schools and with the OLTA whose development officer and performance coach recognise the work being done.

I said at the last AGM that we had anticipated that the club would by now be in the process of relocating and, when established at the new site the club, would quickly flourish to take advantage of the increased courts / floodlights and facilities. There were several setbacks during the year, in part due to the economic downturn that decreased the value of the land at Southampton Street.

Anne Sawyer, will report on the current situation with the relocation shortly. This is something that is important to all us. It has consumed a lot of Anne's time and others members' time plus our professional advisers who are very supportive and mostly give their time freely. As has been said before – this is an opportunity we cannot afford to get wrong.

This is my third and final year as club Chairman. It has been a privilege to work with the committee on your behalf and I trust that we've helped the club make progress towards realising some of its aims whilst ensuring that the majority of members enjoy their tennis.

Don Cain

FTC Chairman

Committee members

Lin Ross (Treasurer)

Alan Elbourn

Susanna Hunt

Steve Perry

Anne Sawyer

Paul Silver

Sjoerd Vogt

Dave Weston