

## Tennis Courts Chairman Report April 2018

It has been another good year for the tennis courts. The courts have been well maintained over the year, the nets have been replaced and all groundwork has been undertaken by Alan Hynes. Thank you to all for the effort in keeping the facility safe and open throughout the last year. This year it was agreed with the Parish Council that a large tree in the corner on the roadside would be removed as the roots were beginning to damage the playing surface. The Tennis Committee and the Parish Council shared the cost of removal that came to £340. You may have also noticed in the local Parish Pump, that Toby Abrey very kindly donated a trimmer to support the upkeep of the courts. Thank you Toby for your generosity.

The fees have remained the same as last year being £4 hour for adults and under 16's have remained the same at £1. This represents excellent value for the local community. All bookings both directly and from the booking forms continue to be managed by Richard Simmonds and Christine maintains the accounts including organises all payments for works and equipment. We have one coach using the facility being Ollie from Newport although this has now ended due to lack of coaching sessions and his priority to use other venues. Other users include Castle Hill Tennis Club. Last year I reported that we would monitor the accounts on a monthly basis and monitor the number of bookings vs. the income. It became clear very early on that the bookings did not match the income. This is difficult to monitor for a number of reasons including last minute cancellations due to poor weather, which are not factored in. I trust that the honesty system works and is maintained as all income goes towards maintaining and improving the facility. Incomes from the courts were £2070. The closing balance for 2017 is £13,888, which provides the courts with a small buffer to continue maintaining them to a high standard. I would like to thank Richard and Christine for their contribution in completing this work and allowing their front garden as a source for the key and booking sheets. There is a financial report available.

Last year I mentioned that we would be introducing a web site for the tennis courts. This has been very problematic however we are very close to launching in the next few months. The main benefit will be a booking system whereby tennis players and coaches will be able to book the courts without having to visit the Simmons front garden. Having spoken with Ollie the tennis couch at Newport he expressed that this would support his business, as he will be able to check availability quickly. It has also been commented to me that some players might want to make a last minute decision to play and it would help if they could check availability easily and quickly. Communications improve this year. Alan Hynes sourced and installed a notice board so that we were able to advertise different event including the summer club and tournament. In addition to this we advertised the Debden Open Gardens.

The summer club was well attended this year and Anabel Barker took the lead in organising and supporting this. We were pleased to welcome a number of new players who joined us both playing and in the Plough for a drink. The summer club is a social event and all players are welcome. I am looking forward to another successful summer of tennis starting on 1<sup>st</sup> May. I would like to express my thanks to Anabel for undertaking this work.

This year the annual tennis competition took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The attendance take up was slow to begin with however we due to Jeanette O'Brian rally the troops the event was well attended. A BBQ was organised and cooked by Jim Watson so all

were well fed during the day. I was delighted that David Perrett and Alec Bird won the final. Alec is our youngest ever winner. Congratulations to you both and I hope to see you this year on 29<sup>th</sup> September when we will be holding this year's competition. I would like to thank Jeanette and Jim, as it was another fantastic local event.

Last year I mentioned that we would investigate further the possibility of installing lights. Planning has been submitted and we are waiting to learn if this has been successful. If we are, then we will need to raise £30k. The LTA do provide matching funding interest free loans and conditions are that we need to be affiliated to them plus we need to have an online booking system. It is hoped that we are successful and then the hard work of raising the funds will start.

So overall it has been another good year with plenty going on and the courts are well used and maintained to a high standard. This will continue in 2018.

This concludes my report for 2017/18