



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jeremy Goulding

I am very happy to present the 2017 Management Accounts and this information pack in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

As well as seeing these reports from your elected Committee members, the AGM gives you an opportunity to hear from our new Chairman, Andy Ewings, about key activities over the last year. More importantly perhaps, you will hear about potential plans for the coming year, you have the chance to ask about anything to do with the running of the club, and to elect representatives who have volunteered to work on your behalf on the Committee.

Volunteer – as a member's club, that we sustain and grow is largely down to the efforts of volunteers. And to those volunteers please let me lead a big "Thank You" on behalf of the membership; thankyou to Mark Groves for becoming Treasurer this year and for overseeing the club's finances that are presented in this pack that continue to present a very healthy outlook; thankyou David Barnes for your tireless efforts as club fabric manager to keep everything in order throughout the club; thankyou David Blake and Barbara Gooch who look after everything in the grounds to make the club look so attractive; thankyou Andy Ewings for leading the way as Chairman over the last year; and to Committee members giving their time to help improve the club, and to all those others that I haven't listed here, thank you very much.

Since the increased interest in helping run the club that we saw at the last AGM, several sub-committees have also been operating, with the Marketing, Development and Governance sub-committees all bringing ideas and recommendations back to the Committee – a number of those being reported here and at the AGM itself. On court too, we have seen numerous successes, all of which you will find in the reports in this pack – congratulations to all involved!

There are notices around the clubhouse telling you how and by when to put in your nominations for Committee; my message to all members is that every single one of you is more than welcome to help in the running of the club – if you can spare an average of an hour or two a week and would like to help please put yourself forward, everyone's contribution is very much appreciated.

The rest of this pack gives you a summary of the key aspects of the club over the last year and everything you need for the AGM.

I look forward to seeing you in the clubhouse at 7.00 pm on 31st May.

TENNIS/ TENNIS COACHING

Chris Bannister

It has been an eventful year with a great deal of change in the organisation of the tennis committee. It has been a completely new-look committee this year with several new faces (Nicola Maddox, Jeremy Labrams, Rod Valentine, Richard Luetchford, Fiona Gillison & Steve Reilly) meaning that it has been a steep learning curve. There have been some hiccups along the way, but we have all worked together to try to improve the club's tennis-related activities.

As a committee we were unanimous in our intention to ensure that all members were represented and the focus was not solely on competitive team players. To this end several new initiatives have been introduced which members should be taking advantage of shortly.

As part of the new tennis contract with TT Tennis, the club pays a retainer which allows us to request specific activities from Tom and his team. It was necessary to establish where these funds had been spent in the past and how best they should be used going forward to ensure that as many members as possible will benefit.

Questionnaire

Thank you to all those who completed the tennis questionnaire – the results were very interesting and helped to inform the direction in which the committee went and how the TT Tennis funds would be spent. Questionnaire results should be available on the website for those who are interested. The results will be addressed in the relevant sections.

Club Play

Participation in club play has been cause for concern for a while, so a number of measures have been considered to improve it. The questionnaire suggested that there was general support for coached club play sessions and, most significantly, sessions for different ability levels. Starting in May, there will be coached club play sessions on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Tuesday of each month led by TT Tennis. It is intended that this will help those attending to improve the doubles play. This will continue for a trial period over the summer after which we will consider extending the arrangement if it has been successful. In the coming committee year, it is proposed that we introduce a self-selecting 3 tier club play arrangement with overlap between them to help players to improve and provide competitive practice.

Coached member sessions

To further improve the provision for all members, a free 6-week tennis coaching programme is being introduced where any member can sign up and join in with a coached group session focusing on a specific aspect of play. Each session will focus on a different aspect of the game. Spaces will be limited initially so that we can get an idea of how popular these sessions may be.

Teams

Last summer was a successful year in the Avon LTA Summer League with the Men's 1st, 4th and 5th team winning Division 1 and getting promoted respectively. Unfortunately, in the Ladies league, the 1st team were relegated from Division 1, but the 2nd team retained their place in Division 2A.

For the 2018 season, and due to a large number of departures from players in the top 2 teams, the decision was made to drop one of the men's teams from the league. As the lack of players was at the higher level, we were given permission by the league to drop our men's 2nd team from division 2, meaning that we now have teams in Divisions 1, 4, 5 and 8. Team training kicked off in April (with 4 weeks of coached sessions from TT Tennis) and, so far, attendance has been very good.

The mixed winter league was fun as always with the 1st team retaining their position in division 1, but the newly promoted 2nd team were relegated from division 2.

It has just been confirmed that **Charlcombe Homes** will be continuing their sponsorship of our men's and ladies teams in 2018 – which is fantastic news!

Club Tournament

The 2017 club tournament was well supported and planning is underway for the 2018 event. In a change to previous years, the 3-event limit will be removed (hopefully allowing more people to enter the Men's/Ladies singles). Also, based on feedback from the questionnaire, there will be a plate tournament for those losing in the 1st rounds (if numbers allow).

Social Tournaments

There have been a number of fantastic social tournaments recently with special thanks going to Jill Kingaby for volunteering to arrange the mixed doubles events. Both were fully subscribed with great fun had by all. It was a great way to meet other members of different abilities and enjoy a few drinks in the bar afterwards.

Carter Jonas Box Leagues

After doing a fantastic job, Marianne Hogg stepped down from running the Box leagues this year with Eleanor Bird kindly volunteering to take over. There have been some changes to the structure and things are now into their new routine.

One of the areas identified in the questionnaire as a possible option, is the introduction of a doubles box league alongside the singles version. The committee are currently looking into if this is feasible. The main challenge will be finding a mutually convenient time when all 4 players are available to allow matches to be playing in a timely manner.

Facilities

There have been some issues with the new floodlights on the clay courts which dragged on, but these now appear to have been resolved.

SQUASH AND RACKETBALL REPORT

Julian Moore and Tess Lawrie

It has been an excellent year for Squash and Racquetball. The partnership between Lansdown and Elite squash has grown steadily with John Welton providing excellent coaching at all levels.

The handicap tournament was held early in the year, with Andy Ewings winning in 5 sets in a thrilling final against an obdurate Alex Miller. The handicap plate was won by Chris Stoaling beating George Samios. Many thanks to Martin Ramsey for organising this event.

The Club Championships held In April were keenly contested using the “Monrad” system meaning that on the finals day there were many competitive games before the finals. The A Grade final was between Andy Ewings and Will Kingwell, with Will winning in 3 games. The B Grade final was a much closer game with Julian Moore beating Alex Miller in a hard fought 5 game match.

The Ladies final was between Pippa Green and Carolyn Chennells with Pippa winning in 3 games.

After the Finals we were treated to an exhibition of squash from Marwan Elshorbagy and Tom Ford, who showed us all just how easy squash can be. Marwan and Tom stayed and chatted to everyone in the bar afterwards which finished the day off perfectly. Many thanks to Martin Watson and Craig Jones for sponsoring the exhibition and for John Welton for organising the tournament.

Racquetball continues to grow with 32 entrants in this year’s tournament, with some excellent games throughout, Tim Jones won the final comfortably against Julian Moore in 3 games. After the final Luke Bishop played an exhibition match with John Welton playing some breath-taking shots. Luke played matches throughout the afternoon giving advice and tips to everyone. Once again thank you to Martin Watson for his kind sponsorship and John Welton for organising the tournament.

The winners of all the events are as follows:

	Winner	Runner up
Men’s	Will Kingwell	Andy Ewings
Ladies	Pippa Green	Carolyn Chennells
Grade B	Julian Moore	Alex Miller
Racketball	Tim Jones	Julian Moore
Handicap Squash	Andy Ewings	Alex Miller
Handicap Plate Squash	Chris Stoaling	George Samios

Team Squash

Congratulations to the Ladies team who have shown great consistency by winning both the Spring and Autumn Leagues. The Men's teams did not fare quite so well with The Lansdown A team being relegated into the Premier B and Lansdown B team being relegated from Premier C. However, it is not all bad news with Lansdown C team winning Division 3 and gaining promotion.

And finally,....

Warmest congratulations to Pippa Green who won the Women's World Masters Games O55 Championship 2017 and to Pippa Green, Roger Green and Mark Taylor for winning the O55 World Masters Games 2017 Team Championship in New Zealand, a fantastic achievement to all involved.

GROUNDS AND CLUBHOUSE REPORT

David Barnes

This report sets out to convey the overall works carried out over the past year and the forward planning by the Committee, General Manager (GM) and myself Facilities Manager (FM) to improve the fabric / facilities of the club and to make sure the existing in-house services, that are the heartbeat of the club are maintained properly for the benefit of the membership. The Club in its entirety Building/Grounds needs constant attention, problems identified and action taken. New projects planned properly, due diligence shown in bringing to fruition.

Every day running of the Club.

We have a tradesman on board to facilitate our general minor works as and when needed. Maintenance Contracts in place for our Mechanical and Electrical Services (M/E). Legionella testing of our Water Systems. Coupled with the above we have robust procedures in place to meet our obligations on compliance.

Categories for the Club.

Major Works, Minor Works, Inspection, Forward Planning, Outstanding Works and Voluntary Services.

Major Works.

Richmond Road Stone Wall. Inspection was carried out by our chartered engineer for our annual insurance certificate. The report concluded that the full length of the wall (apart from the section that was rebuilt a few years ago) was found to be in need of remedial work to make safe and structurally sound. The works have been completed by an approved contractor, awaiting to be signed off by our engineer for submission to the Insurance Company.

Lounge Partition Folding Doors. The folding doors have been installed within the lounge area, dividing the main lounge from the small recess area, thus providing greater flexibility for functions, meetings, plus a quiet area for members.

New Carpet. A new carpet has been fitted throughout the lounge.

Minor Works.

Car Park. Holes keep appearing, we are doing our best to contain the situation until we decide on further measures.

New Handrail. A small handrail has been installed on the steps from the club terrace to path between the tennis courts (health / safety).

Painting. The club lounge is currently being painted. Squash Court Ceilings have been painted. General. Small jobs carried out as and when needed.

Inspection.

A full inspection of the building and grounds is carried out periodically to identify immediate or possible future problems.

Outstanding Works.

Main Incoming Electrical Power. Main Electrical 415v/240v intake cupboard within the club house, consisting of 100amp fuses in 240v cut out is full to capacity. This means we cannot add any more circuits to the system. We have been in discussion with Western Power Distribution (WSP) our supplier for the system to be upgraded, so that we will be future proofed. The meetings were positive and they have submitted their report and quotation for evaluation. Our accredited electrical engineers have also submitted their report and quotation for the internal wiring. The dates for the work to commence are to be agreed.

Squash Courts Flat Roof Membrane. Awaiting inspection by our accredited engineer for insurance purposes.

Richmond Road Wall. Awaiting to be signed off.

Squash courts 2 and 3: We are awaiting for the fans to be installed. This will be done after the power supplies have been upgraded.

Squash Court 4: Awaiting floor to be sanded - this work will be done on the 18th May.

New Entrance Doors. Existing main entrance doors to club house are in process of being replaced due to excessive wear and tear and they are now beyond repair. Awaiting installation.

Voluntary Work.

Gardens maintained and enhanced by our dedicated constant gardeners David Blake and Barbara Gooch. (and what a grand job they do).

Conclusion.

As every year there have been enhancements to the club and challenges as well to make sure the Lansdown Club stays on top of its game.

I therefore submit this end of the year report to the Committee.

CROQUET REPORT

Jean Wilson

There has been no appreciable change in the number of croquet players this season, since newcomers have compensated for those members who have left the club.

Sadly, Keith Saunders was taken ill and died last autumn. He was a very active member of the club and will be greatly missed.

We welcome Verity Barnes, Paddy Baugh, Rosalind Marshall and Joy Meopham to the club.

I would like to thank Clive for continuing to maintain the lawn to a high standard and enabling us to play for most of the year, despite the weather!

We have played 3 friendly home matches which we managed to win, but 2 away matches had to be postponed due to the weather. Thankfully we are still holding the Urchfont trophy.

We have had some enjoyable club fixtures, though the weather meant that we had our barbecue indoors after the tennis and squash event. Unfortunately, it was also wet for both the singles and doubles matches; however, the players did manage to finish:

Singles Winner: Leila Grove

Random Doubles Winner: Tony Hewitt

The Christmas dinner in the club house was attended by more than 40 members and guests. There was entertainment by the "Ukeladies" and once again the food was delicious. We are grateful to Jo and her team for all their hard work in providing an excellent meal. The Christmas meal will take place on Saturday 1st December this year.

Our quiz team, the Croquettes, has been particularly successful recently, it is still hoped that another team from the croquet players will join the monthly event.

Considering the mixed weather of last season, the lawn was well used by many people. We hope for a better summer this year!

SOCIAL REPORT

There is no formal social committee but thanks to Jo and her team, we have had several events during this last year. In addition, an enjoyable Christmas party was arranged along with numerous member parties and events. The normal quiz evenings were also very popular.

If you are willing to devote some time to help to organise social events in your Club, please contact the office because this will not only encourage members to meet socially but it will improve the income which will always go towards making the Club a better place.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Groves

The profit on club activities in 2017 was £67,540 which was £4,156 lower than 2016 but nevertheless a healthy figure.

Subscription income was in line with 2016 at £256,469, this is the most important figure in the accounts and we need to ensure that membership numbers do not slip in 2018.

Other sporting income declined by £7,838 and within this coaching income from tennis and squash reduced by £3,812 and tournaments and sponsorship declined by £3,439.

The loss on the cafe/ bar increased to £14,841, we are budgeting to reduce this loss in 2018 to £10,000.

In 2016 we benefitted from a generous donation of £16,525 which was not repeated in 2017.

In terms of our costs, sports and ground maintenance declined by £19,523 as we did not have a repeat of the squash courts refurbishment from 2016. We continued to spend money on the clubhouse and hopefully members are seeing the benefits of this step by step.

On the balance sheet we have interest free LTA loans which at the 2017 year end stood at £97,600 and are being repaid at £13,600 per year. We put a further £20,000 into the sinking fund which is to allow for future projects. In our 5-year projection we have allowed £108,000 in 2020 for the refurbishment of tennis courts 1 to 3. To fund future projects such as this we need a strong cash position and I pleased to report that at the end of 2017 our cash balance was £272,256.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Philip Torjussen

Cafebar

Once again, Jo has worked wonders in the clubroom with some lovely food being prepared and she has been a great help in co-ordinating numerous events. Her range of 'special dishes' are very popular and I do believe that the menu provides extremely good value for money. The summer party with gin bar was a brilliant success as indeed were the various Christmas parties that occurred throughout November and December.

With the increases in the minimum wage requirements, it has been increasingly difficult to put the clubroom in a positive trading position. We have increased the prices to non-members several times in the year so that there is a greater differential between non-members and members and hopefully, this will reap rewards over the coming months. Jo and I are constantly looking at new ideas to increase the level of business in the clubroom and have regular meetings to think of new ideas. We also have regular meetings with our suppliers so that we are always getting the best possible prices without sacrificing quality.

The staff in the Clubroom are very popular and we feel that we have had the right mix to ensure member satisfaction. All the staff deserve our thanks.

Office

It has been a difficult year in the office with five months of the year being without any administrative support and I have been grateful for your patience on numerous occasions.

Maintenance and Improvements

As in previous years, I have tried to stretch the budget as much as I can so that I can make improvements to the Club but this has been a challenge. Ongoing work will continue to improve the clubroom and general decoration throughout. The problems with the tennis flood lights were frustrating for you all and to have the power overload issue as well did not help. You can be assured that I was doing what I could to overcome the problems and we should enjoy a trouble-free year in 2018.

Sponsorship

We have been very lucky to have some local firms who want to be involved with the Club and we ask that you patronise them as much as you can. Carter Jonas, Health in Bath, Charlcombe Homes, Martin Watson, Craig Jones and Bath Ales have all been generous in 2017 and we hope that we can rely on their support in 2018.

General

Our liaison with the LTA has continued to flourish with another grade 3 tournament being held here during last month which provided nearly £6000.00 worth of income.

I have tried, where possible, to update you on a weekly basis with the newsletter which I hope you consider to be worthwhile and we do aim to be using social media more in the future too.

Thank you to all the staff I work with on a daily basis. Your help has been invaluable. Thank you also to those members of the committee, who during the past year, have sacrificed a lot of their time to assist me to make improvements at the Club. It is appreciated. Special mention must be made to Barbara Gooch and David Blake who have worked hard to provide beautiful gardens around the Club premises.

I am always keen to hear from any members who have any ideas that may improve any aspect of the Club and as I have mentioned before, we are very short of help with regards to the organisation of social events at the Club. Do let me know if you are willing to help in any way.
