

## **Tennis Chairmans Report**

**2015 / 2016**

The past year has been another successful one for Tennis section and the club as a whole. We have seen significant investments in our facilities with the replacement of courts 1,2 and 3 with the latest Tiger Turf surface, repairs to much of our fencing and the installation of the LED lighting system to the indoor courts.

These projects represent a spend in the year of more than £130,000 on maintaining the quality of our Tennis facilities for the immediate future. It is a testament to the success of the club that we can carry out these programmes of investment and consider further improvements for both the short and longer term.

The next planned work will be to resurface courts 6 and 7 in the spring of 2017, probably with two more of the clay courts. This plan will be reviewed during the next 6 months so if any member has a view on this please make it known to one of the committee members.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the regular club members who may not partake of coaching or play in matches but who spend so much time at the club, helping to make it the welcoming and friendly place that it is. It is gratifying to visit the club on a weekday morning to see so many people from so many different age groups on court and in the café bar. There was inevitably significant disruption to their routine during the refurb of the courts and no one complained for which the club management is grateful.

For those who do enjoy team tennis we are fielding 24 adult teams and 11 junior teams this summer, so there should be match tennis for all those who desire it. If you think you are missing out on this part of club life please let us know and we will speak to the appropriate captain.

The highlights of the 2016/2017 season are as follows:

### **Mens Over 70's**

This team has perhaps become the most successful team in the club's history, following last year's success they fought through again to the National knock out final; coming a close second and qualifying again for the European club championships.

### **Apsley League**

Our Apsley A team won the Premier Title, we have been dominant in this league for some years and now our Apsley B team joins them in the Premier, having won the 1<sup>st</sup> Division championship.

### **Hants & IOW**

Our ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team won the top division but sadly the B team were relegated.

The men's teams did not bring home any silver this year, with the first team coming a close 2nd in the top division, closely followed by the B team in 3<sup>rd</sup> slot.

Our ladies A team also won the winter title, while our men's (winter) B team will join the A team in division 1 next year as promoted champions.

### **Sarum League**

The A team won this league as they have every year bar one for six years.

As ever We are grateful to the team captains who give their time for free in what is often a thankless task, particularly when experiencing the rising panic of trying desperately to raise a team and speaking to the 20<sup>th</sup> person who is not available.

### **Basingstoke League**

We have four teams operating in the Basingstoke league, and there was success for the ladies B team who were Div 3 champions.

### **Junior Coaching and Tennis Development**

Andy Sheridan and his team continue to shine in the development of junior tennis, helped by his team of nine LTA licensed coaches. Andy is also driving the success of Peter Symonds College, whose teams are comprised mainly of players from our squads. All 5 of the Symond's tennis teams have qualified for the National Schools and Colleges finals this year, which is a great performance.

In addition to Peter Symonds the coaching team are currently working closely with Winchester University, and provide coaching to four of the local schools, covering all age groups from primary onwards.

Further support for the young players comes from Scott in the gym who runs their strength and conditioning sessions, designed to improve fitness and prevent injury. There are currently 460 juniors in training squads at the moment and we are the envy of other clubs throughout Hampshire.

At the top level we have fielded twenty players in Hampshire County teams and our 8&U team have been superb in winning the Hampshire title for the third consecutive time without losing a single match. There have been excellent performances on an individual level with players of all ages winning various grade 3, 4 and 5 events within the county and further afield.

As a club we are heavily and enthusiastically involved with all the LTA initiatives to increase participation in tennis at grass roots levels as well as nurture the top talent. This is already bearing fruit by attracting new members to our club by use of joint marketing and some special offers to families joining us for the first time.

### **Committee Members**

We have two members of the current committee retiring (after a 3 year stint) at the AGM, so we are keen to have new volunteers to join this group. We do our best to make sure that we have representatives from all the elements that make up the club membership. Please approach one of us if you would like to help in running the tennis section at Winchester.

Mark Finlayson	Chairman
Rupert Goodman	Vice Chairman
Judy Slaney	Ladies' Captain
Mike Johnson	Men's Captain
Fiona Pryor-Jones	
Helen Thorpe	
Richard Morgan	
Alison Beard	Coaching Representative

(Thank you to MG Shea and Rob Gwilliam who retire from the committee after their three years)