

Chesham Bois Tennis Section 2022 AGM

22nd November 2023

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to present the report of your Tennis Committee for the year 2022-23

The year in review

In last years Chairmans report I stated that we were trying to develop a forward plan that would look to ensure that we

1. Grow our Junior Membership,
2. Continue to develop our Team Tennis
3. Provide the environment for players of any standard to enjoy playing tennis.
4. Are seen as club that is respected in our community.
5. Are known as a club that welcomes all.

I would like to update you on the progress that we have made in these areas.

1. Grow Junior Membership

In an effort to grow membership a number of new initiatives were tried.

Led by Adam Reid a Junior Lite programme was developed. The Junior Lite programme offered the opportunity to play at the club over the summer for a £10 membership fee. The promotion was incredibly successful with 51 juniors taking part.

I am delighted to say that due to the initiative we had over 210 juniors playing at our club this year compared to 181 in the previous year.

15 junior liters went on to full membership.

Post Covid , Friday night Junior Nights saw a significant decrease in the number of juniors taking part. However, due to the sterling efforts of Gemma Osbourne the numbers at Junior Night have increased significantly and to quote a number of people that have spoken to me "there is a definite buzz around the place"

Despite all these best-efforts full membership numbers in Oct 23 are 10 down compared to last Oct 22 so we will need to review and take further actions in the coming year to achieve our aims

I would like to thank Yingjie Wang, Gemma Osbourne and Stephen Whibley for helping to drive the junior section forward.

2. Continue to Develop our Team Tennis.

A full programme of team tennis took place in the Winter and Summer leagues. An amazing 56 teams competed in various competitions across the year

Many of our teams either won or were promoted from their divisions. We have also recently attracted a number of high-quality female tennis players to join the club. Amply demonstrating the high standard of tennis that is played. More details in the reports by the Men's and Women's captains.

Led by Matt Reid a development squad has been put in place. This allows some of the older juniors coming through to have their first taste of playing against adults and allows a smooth transition into the other club teams and it is great to see Christian Grant and Callum Hughes breaking into the men's top teams.

I would like to thank Louise Dobby, Adam Reid for their leadership of the teams and all the team captains for making it happen. I would also like to thank Sharon Gurney for her tenacity and patience in organising the fixtures no easy task with so many teams!

3. Provide the environment for players of any standard to enjoy playing tennis.

It can be daunting when you join a club, when you don't know what standard you are and where you should play.

To try and make it easier we have given the opportunity for new members to have a free coaching session with Matt Reids team so that they can be assessed and directed to the appropriate group to start playing whether that be First team tennis, Club play or one of the many social groups that have been formed within the club.

Our box leagues continue to flourish and enable all members to play against members of a similar standard no matter what level they are. Thank you to Geoff Williams and Adam Reid who continue to organise these.

Enjoying being at tennis club is not just about playing Tennis! The social events are also an important part. This year saw an American drive and BBQ organised by Sarah Skepper, Wednesday night Suppers organised by Kim Todd and Quiz nights organised by the Entertainments committee. I would like to thank them all for the significant contribution they make.

4. Seen as a club that is respected in our community.

Following on from the survey results as club we decided to set up a Community Fund that initially would focus on trying to engage with Juniors from disadvantaged back grounds.

We have also forged a connection with the Tim Henman Foundation (THF) . The foundation is a youth charity with the mission of transforming the lives of disadvantaged young people by creating sporting and educational opportunities as well as improving mental and physical health.

In partnership with THF we will develop a program to engage with schools that have greater than 22% of its pupils on free school meals. We have started to make connection with one school in our local area and expect the first programme to start in Nov 2024.

I am delighted to announce in the memory of Peter Lavery , our Tennis Director of more than 20 years , that the Club Community fund will be named the Peter Lavery Community Fund. Peter was a strong advocate for the development of Juniors and I can think of no more fitting tribute than this and that his name will sit equally alongside Tim Henman in this initiative.

I would like to thank Peter Henry , Jack Gocher and Matt Reid in helping to push this initiative forward.

5. Are Known as a Club that Welcomes all.

I hear many people tell me what a friendly club we are (and we are !) . However, one criticism was that we were not well known and were difficult to connect with.

This year rather than have an open day, through Matt Reid and his team, we arranged a “Free Tennis Saturday Drop-in Session” across the summer. We advertised in the local Your Amersham and Your Chesham Magazines and put banners at Tesco and at the end of Copperkins lane.

We had an excellent response. On an Open Day we would usual get 15 to 20 people attending but 58 people took part in the “Free Tennis” initiative and 9

became full members.

Despite this we have seen a drop in membership. 564 Oct 2022 to 530 Oct 2023.

We will review how we can better convert the people that took part.

6. Other Items

Floodlights

As many of you may be aware we applied for planning permission to install floodlights on courts 1 & 2 and 3 and 7. We also intend to change the floodlights on courts 4-6 to LEDS. At the time of writing, permission had not yet been granted but is fully expected to be approved by the time of the AGM.

The LEDs will give us significant costs savings and the extra floodlight courts will give us greater flexibility on court usage during the winter months. I will update progress at the AGM

I would like to thank Andrew Pearce for his dogged determination in seeing this project through.

Finals Day

The Tennis Finals day was held on 24th Sept and I was delighted to see that so many had taken part . A full write up of the event can be found on the clubs website.

This was Louise Dobbys first year at organising this event and did an excellent job in making sure the whole tournament progressed smoothly. Thank you to Louise and Yangjie Wang and for making this happen

The year ahead

It is essential that any club or organisation looks to improve and develop year on year.

We have made good progress in many areas but the decline in membership is a concern. We will need to look again at further actions that we can take to grow numbers gain.

The existing Committee members offer themselves up for re-election for the year 2023/24, as set out in the agenda.

I would like to thank all the Committee members for their support throughout the last year.

We hope that you find the range of reports interesting, and we look forward to seeing you at our AGM on 22nd November.

Kind regards

Wayne Stretch

Tennis Section Chairman

Tennis Section Membership Report

After last seasons bumper year, it was inevitable that membership numbers would be down for this year. Membership from June 2022 to May 23 stood at 604 (down by 60 on the previous season which was 664). This included 200 Junior members and 49 Social members. We are now 4 months into the new season and membership stands at 540, this is a further decrease as this time last season we had 557 members.

From June to August we trialled a membership offer called Junior Lite, which allowed new Juniors aged 14 & under to play at the Club with a parent for a fee of £10. They were not given court booking rights, but could come down and play on free courts. They could also come to Junior Night. This was successful in attracting 51 Juniors and 35 Parents to come to the Club. Of those, 15 Juniors and 8 parents subsequently joined the Club for the rest of the season.

We recently carried out a membership check one Friday during Junior Night, and found 9 players who were not members. Most of these subsequently joined the Club, several did not realise that their memberships had expired. We are hoping to carry out further checks during the season as with memberships declining, we need to ensure that everyone using the courts is encouraged to join.

Ann Witter
Membership Secretary
27/10/23

Coaching Report AGM 2023

- **Junior & Mini tennis programme:** We have had a positive year in the last 12 months. We've been able to run all squads and camps over the last year, with a retention of 90% of players within the programme & a group of 8, 8 & under players who are starting their competition journey, whilst also trying out for the Bucks 8 & Under County Team. We have also seen an increase in our yellow group players who are playing recreationally, with more than half of the capacity of this grouping being female players.
- **Adult coaching:** Adult coaching has been as popular as ever. We have seen a good uptake on the Saturday morning sessions & Monday morning advanced doubles sessions. We've also seen the Tuesday evening Improvers session & Rusty rackets sessions be well attended with coach Adam Chambers. From these sessions we have seen more players becoming members and joining club play & team tennis.
- **Open Tournament:** The Open Tournament LTA Grade 3 event was a great success with another fantastic display of competitive tennis from all ages. A special thanks to our wonderful Referees, Ann Dewick and Janet Jamieson, for all their hard work throughout the week and during the run-up to the event, as well as a big thank you to Nicola Magrath for all the help with running the kitchen. Special note must go to Theo Whibley, who won the 9 & Under event, and Charlotte Dobby, who made the semi-finals of the 12 & Under girl's event.
- **Schools programme:** The programme has maintained the great work from the previous year. This year, we were linked with Heatherton House School (curriculum time), Elangeni School (After School), & St Mary's C of E School (After School).
- **Performance Programme:** Our performance programme continues to produce young junior players at county, regional and national levels. Notably, our junior program is part of the Buckinghamshire County set-up with players in multiple age categories. We also have players on the Regional & National Performance pathway aged 10-14 years, with those players receiving funding and access to the RPDC venue - Bisham Abbey.
We have also had a number of our players representing Buckinghamshire County in inter-county events. Also to Harry Cornhill, who continues to compete in Tennis Europe events & has reached No. 314 - U14 Boys in the Tennis Europe rankings & UK no.10 for 14 & Under.
- Finally, a huge thank you to the team of coaches and assistants who have worked extremely hard over the last 12 months. Adam Chambers has taken over Mens 4th Team Captain alongside his coaching. Kate Turton has been her ever-encouraging and welcoming self. Gedz Christo has settled well into the coaching team and is awaiting the results of his Level 2.

Ladies and Mixed round up of the year – 2022/2023

It has been another good season for the ladies and mixed competitive teams at the club. In fact with a number of high quality ladies recently joining us, one of our challenges has been around the logistics of managing multiple teams in the top division and to balance the needs of lots of good standard players wanting competitive tennis whilst providing opportunities for all.

To try to give everyone the chance to play matches, we experimented with several new competitions this year:

- The ladies enjoyed their first season in the elite level “National Premier League” winter doubles competition. This threw up some extremely challenging opponents and we did well to retain our place in the league with a win over Warwick. There were some big journeys but it was felt that the level of tennis was worth it and we remain committed for at least one further year.
- The summer mixed medley has proven to be a very popular format and we will look forward to continuing there (we have 3 teams entered)
- For the first time, we did not field a team in the 3-pair bucks shield competition as the majority of our players felt that they did not want to commit to such a long day when playing matches; we replaced it with an additional team in the top league of the 2-pair. This team comfortably won the league so we look forward to the 2 and 3-pair leagues joining up when we will once more get the most challenging opponents (This is rumoured to be in one year’s time, but still under discussion)

Overall, there continue to be a very large number of teams and leagues offering different formats, age groups and playing standards. (please see table below for a summary of teams and last season’s results – there are 38 separate teams listed!) We continue to be hugely grateful to all the volunteer captains who coordinate and organise this. To all who enjoy competitive tennis: please do remember that it doesn’t happen by itself; please be constructive, flexible and helpful and remember that in order to keep all these teams going, at some point you may need to step up and be captain yourself.

Team Training – this continued to be split into two groups to ease court pressure. It was well supported even through some very wintry conditions and certainly seemed to deliver benefit / food for thought. Thanks to Matt for continuing to deliver excellent content and keep us warm in the snow!

Team Dinner will be reinstated in early 2024 following a couple of years off after COVID. Exact details are to be finalised but capacity is likely to be limited so watch this space!

The club championships 2023 went well with a large number of participants; and nearly 60 people involved on finals day itself in both the main draw and plate competitions. Together with the generously provided cakes and the open bar there was a nice atmosphere for watching some extremely competitive matches. One slight disappointment was that two of the finals could not be completed on the day itself (due to a combination of unavoidable scheduling constraints and the extremely competitive nature of some of the earlier matches) – we will address this in future years by the simple measure of holding finals day on a Saturday when floodlights are permitted. One additional change for the future will be to slightly delay the start of the events so that people do not have to renew their membership midway through ; which this year left us with the possibility of non members in the competitions. Thanks to Peter Henry for his excellent photos and write up which are available here [Tennis Finals 2023 – Chesham BOIS Lawn Tennis & Squash Club \(cbltsc.com\)](https://www.cbltsc.com)

Results from 2022/2023 season

Summer Leagues				
Captain		Team	Division	outcome
Louise	Dobby	NCL Ladies Regional	Regional Level - South West (East)	5th of 6 - we await confirmation if we will remain
Louise	Dobby	A&D Summer Ladies 1st	A&D Division 1	2nd
Viv	Windsor	A&D Summer Ladies 2nd	A&D Division 1	4th
Alison	Williams	A&D Summer Ladies 3rd	A&D Division 3	winners (promoted to div 2)
Liz	Slater	A&D Summer Ladies 4th	A&D Division 6	winners (promoted to div 5)
Sarah	Skepper	A&D Summer Mixed 1st	A&D Division 1	3rd
Anais	Reding	A&D Summer Mixed 2nd	A&D Division 1	4th
Karen	Flanagan	A&D Summer Mixed 3rd	A&D Division 5	2nd (promoted to div 4)
Paul	Vicary	A&D Mixed knockout	A&D Summer Mixed Senior knock out	runners up to Halton
Louise	Dobby	Bucks Shield 2-pair 1st	Bucks Shield Division 1	winners (stay in league 1)
Yanjie	Wang	Bucks Shield 2-pair 2nd	Bucks Shield Division 3	winners (promoted to div 2)
Kim	Todd	Bucks Shield 2-pair 3rd	Bucks Shield Division 6	7th (relegated to div 7)
Sarah	Skepper	Bucks Shield Mixed Medley 1	Bucks Mixed Division 1	4th
Heather	Pentney	Bucks Shield Mixed Medley 2	Bucks Mixed Division 3	winners (promoted to div 2)
Ann	Witter	Bucks Shield Mixed Medley 3	Bucks Mixed Division 5	winners (promoted to div 4)
Winter Leagues				
Louise	Dobby	National Premier League	South East (North)	7th - stay in division
Louise	Dobby	A&D Winter Ladies 1st	A&D Division 1	3rd
Viv	Windsor	A&D Winter Ladies 2nd	A&D Division 2	winners (promoted to div 1)
Karen	Gloyne	A&D Winter Ladies 3rd	A&D Division 4	winners (promoted to div 3)
Jude	Howton	A&D Winter Ladies 4th	A&D Division 7	3rd
Alison	Williams	Bucks Ladies Vets 1	Bucks Shield Vets Div 3	3rd
Kim	Todd	Bucks Ladies vets 2	Bucks Shield Vets Div 6	4th
Sarah	Skepper	A&D Winter floodlit 1st	A&D Division 1	2nd
Anais	Reding	A&D Winter floodlit 2nd	A&D Division 2	2nd (Promoted to div 1)
Karen	Flanagan	A&D Winter floodlit 3rd	A&D Division 5	winners(promoted to div 4)
Liz	Slater	A&D winter floodlit 4th	A&D Division 5	5th (stay in div 5)
Sharon	Gurney	Bucks Vets mixed	Bucks Shield Vets div 2	3rd (stay in div 2)
Kathy	Hale	Bucks Vets mixed 2	Bucks Shield Vets div 4	2nd (promoted to div 3)
Midweek leagues				
Emily	McCarter	Hatch End 2023	Hatch End Div 2	winners (promoted to div 1)
Christine	Harvey	Hatch End 2023	Hatch End div 2	bottom 2 (down to div 3)
Amelia	Rooke	Hatch End 2023	Hatch End Div 3	joint 4th (stay in div 3)
Ann	Witter	David Lloyd 2022-2023	DL Div 1	winners (by 1 set!!)
Christine	Harvey	David Lloyd 2022-2023	DL Div 3	winners (promoted to div 2)
Amelia	Rooke	David Lloyd 2022-2023	DL Div 4	4th (stay in div 4)
Ann	Witter	Bucks Supavets	Bucks Shield W50 div 1	5th (stay in div 1)
Hilary	Linton	Bucks Supa-Supavets	Bucks Shield W60 div 1	2nd (stay in div 1)
John	Bleakley	Bucks Vets Midweek Medley	Bucks Shield midweek medley div 1	2nd (stay in div 1)
Marilyn	Mitchell	Bucks Vets Midweek Medley	Bucks Shield midweek medley div 2	3rd (stay in div 2)

Men's Team Tennis Report – 2022/23

The Mens' teams have had a mixed year. Over the Winter we had x4 teams in the Aylesbury and District leagues (A&D), x4 Winter Vets teams (over 45) and two over 60s teams (one extra this year). Over the Summer we had x4 teams in the Bucks Shield and x3 teams in the A&D midweek league. We dropped the Summer x3 pair team due to a lack of enthusiasm for this format.

Captain's list

Winter 2022/3 (vets is only Winter) – all A&D

Mens' 1 (capt Jonathan Grant)

Mens' 2 (capt Geoff Green)

Mens' 3 (capt Eric Price)

Mens' 4 (development/youth team - capt Matt Reid / now Adam Chambers)

Vets 1 (capt Fergal Davern / Paul Vicary)

Vets 2 (capt Rob Clarke)

Vets 3 (capt Andy Pearce / now Paul Matthews)

Vets 4 (capt Dave Orton)

Summer 2023

Bucks Shield (weekends)

Mens' 1 (capt Jonathan Grant)

Mens' 2 (capt Geoff Green)

Mens' 3 (capt Andy Pearce)

Mens' 4 (capt Shaun Aherne)

Mens' 5 (development / youth team - capt Matt Reid)

Aylesbury & District (weekdays)

Mens' 1 (capt Jonathan Grant)

Mens' 2 (capt Geoff Green)

Mens' 3 (capt Rob Clarke)

Over 60s 1 (capt Alec Spooner)

Over 60s 2 (capt Russell Cooper)

Highlights

The highlight of the year was the Bucks Shield Vets Over 60s 1st team winning division 1! Congratulations to the champions mainly consisting of Alec Spooner, Roy Coffey, Geoff Green, Geoff Williams, Andy Pearce & Paul Clarke. And the O60s 2s captained by Russell Cooper were gallant runners up.

Mens' Vets 3 won promotion into division 1 whilst in the Summer, Mens' 3 won division 4 of the Bucks Shield.

Elsewhere, it was mostly a story of striving to stay in divisions. Our 1s fell out of division 1 of the Summer Bucks Shield but stayed in the summer A&D division 1 and Vets' 1 managed to stay up in division 1. Most of our other teams held their places in their divisions.

Matt's development team held their own in Summer and Winter – bleeding youngsters including Declan O Kelly, Ed & Ollie Bloore & Daniel Dobby.

Summary

In summary, it was a mixed year. We remained competitive across all of the teams but our strength in depth is at second and third level. The development of younger players in particular looks promising for the future with Christian Grant breaking into 1s and Callum Hughes into 2s (for now).

Looking to the Winter ahead there is plenty to be positive about as we hope to build. It's clear we're short at the top level so we're hoping to strengthen here through our younger players.

Vets 1 and 2 will be playing together in division 1 this winter which can be a struggle as it's a very competitive league – such is the fate of our 1s, 2s & 3s in general – we're weak in div 1 and strong in div 2. Classic yoyo complex!

I want to say a big thank you to all captains – past, present and future – for all your hard work and commitment. Welcome to our new captains Dave Orton (newish), Russell Cooper, Paul Matthews and Adam Chambers.

Volunteer captains allow so many of us to play team tennis – we could not play matches without you. If anyone would like to be considered for a captain's role, please contact me.

Also feel free to get in touch if you would like to play team tennis. Our fundamental aim is to be friendly, open and inclusive. Whilst team tennis is competitive, there's always room for new players – we are not a closed shop at any level. If you're not sure of your own level I'll always be happy to have a quick hit with you so that we can find an appropriate team.

I would also like to thank Sharon Gurney for working hard to put together the fixtures for all the teams which is a particularly challenging job.

Adam Reid

Tennis Junior Committee Report for 2022-2023

Introduction:

In the past year, the Tennis Junior Committee has seen positive changes, largely attributed to the enthusiastic contributions of Gemma Osborne and Stephen Whibley. Their active involvement has had a profound and positive impact on the activities organized by the Junior Committee (JC).

The year in review

1. Friday Junior Night

Friday night junior sessions have thrived, with red ball sessions held on two courts instead of one due to overwhelming attendance. Coaching assistant Callum Hughes and Christian Grant have been doing a fantastic job having fun on court with the kids. Yellow ball sessions, though historically under-attended, saw improvement, ensuring their continuation. The kitchen, open every Friday, facilitated socialising among parents while kids playing on courts, fostering community spirit. Special events like the summer BBQ Halloween-themed nights and junior disco were successful, with a Christmas disco planned.

2. Champs Race

The monthly Champs Race sessions have gone well, emphasized participation over winning, fostering a positive atmosphere. The integration of the junior box league with Champs Race engaged older siblings and encouraged social interaction among parents.

3. Junior Club Championships

The finals day, shared with adults, added grandeur to the event. The family doubles event remained popular.

Club Championships Junior 2023 winners

	Winner	Renner-up
8U Mixed singles	Krishi Koya	Joe Reid

9U Boys Singles	Theo Whibley	Max Whibley
10U Boys Singles	Theo Whibley	Max Whibley
11U Boys Singles	Felix Stera	Oliver Watson
Mixed Doubles	Oliver Osborn/Dillon Ranauta	Luca Moran/ Henry Pearson
Family Doubles	Charlotte Dobby/ Louise Dobby	Henry Pearson/ Pippa Pearson

4. Junior Box league and Family Doubles Box League

Both leagues resumed in October following the Club Championships, welcoming a fresh influx of new players this season. This natural progression, with older juniors transitioning into the adult leagues, highlights the club's commitment to player development. The seamless integration of juniors into adult teams underscores our dedication to nurturing talent, and we anticipate more capable juniors joining the senior top teams in the upcoming year."

5. Junior membership breakdown

AGE GROUP	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	NEW AGE GROUP	18/19	19/20	Oct-20	Oct-21	Oct-22	May-23
Age 12-19	96	77	71	64	18&U	22	21	17	22	22	21
Age 10-12	55	62	58	55	14&U	62	65	58	57	63	42
Age 9-10	44	35	33	27	11&U	26	27	22	6	6	15
10&Under	29	29	30	36	10&U	56	44	28	39	43	41
Under 8	92	92	92	62	8&U	62	62	60	62	86	81
Total	316	295	284	244	Total	228	219	185	186	220	200

It's fantastic to see a strong contingent of red ball players in our club. The introduction of 'Junior Bite Size ... it's a £10 taster!', a new initiative aimed at attracting more children to the

tennis club, worked wonders! Special thanks to Adam Reid for spearheading this impactful initiative."

6. Team Tennis

The participation of six teams this year, with notable achievements in various divisions, highlighted the success of team tennis. Special recognition to Charlotte Dobby and Anna Wibley for their 14&U league victory.

7. Play Your Way to Wimbledon

The prestigious 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon' tournament, offers 14U players a pathway to compete at Wimbledon. In 2019, one of our players had a memorable experience there. In 2022, Oliver Osborn secured the second position in the county tournament, earning an invitation to a Coaching Clinic led by tennis legends Tim Henman and AELTC's Head Coach Dan Bloxham. This year, Oliver clinched the county tournament title and cherished the opportunity to compete at the historic Wimbledon grounds, a testament to his hard work.

8. Junior County players at the club

Over the years, our club has been proud to have several players representing Buckinghamshire County. Among them, Harry Cornhill and Oliver Osborn represented Buckinghamshire in the 14&U category at the national finals, securing an impressive 3rd position in the country. Dillon Ranauta has consistently been part of the county squads since his red ball days.

Charlotte Dobby showcased her talent in various competitions, representing Bucks in the Lionel Cox and 12 counties competitions, and most recently excelling in the 12&U county cup.

Max and Theo Whibley represented Buckinghamshire in the '12 Counties' competition, finishing a commendable 2nd in their division.

In addition to these, Joe Reid and Matilda Osborne have both earned spots in the Buckinghamshire U8 county squads for the upcoming year.

Looking Ahead

The negative Net Promoter Score (NPS -16) feedback in 2022 led to proactive changes. We enhanced communication channels through WhatsApp groups and expanded social activities. The Junior Committee (JC) remains dedicated to continuous improvement with the Tennis Committee's support in areas highlighted by our members, ensuring their concerns are addressed effectively.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Gemma Osborne and Stephen Whibley for their invaluable dedication. Their tireless efforts have played a crucial role in the success of our events. Their commitment is deeply appreciated.

For those interested in joining the Junior Committee or sharing ideas and suggestions to further enhance our initiatives, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Yanjie Wang

Tennis Junior Committee