

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CLUB AGM: Thursday 13th November 2025

This year has been challenging for the Club, marked by both significant achievements and notable difficulties. The highlight was the completion and opening of the refurbished Clubhouse on 3rd May. Conversely, the tennis coaching issue created division among members and led to several unprecedented resignations from the Club Committee. Whilst the coaching issue is primarily a matter for the tennis section, and which will be addressed at the Tennis AGM on 6th November, it has had an impact on the Club Committee and thus the Club as a whole. I'm pleased to say that the Club and Tennis Committees have worked together to try and resolve this issue, setting up a Sub-committee which in turn has worked hard to bring the issue to a resolution. This plan met with overwhelming support in a recent survey of the tennis membership. I am hopeful that it will be fully resolved by next Spring.

Geoff Williams also stood down as Club Chair in June, and so we have had the unusual situation of five Club Committee officers standing down during the course of the year. I think it is worth remembering that all committee members and team captains are volunteers, who give their time and effort to the Club for free and act for the good of the Club as a whole. It can often be a thankless task. Whilst in the past I have generally just thanked all our volunteers, I'd like to express specific thanks to Geoff for the work he did during his tenure as Chair, and to Paul Sweeney, Sarah Skepper, Jess Turner and Jenny Vaidya for their work on both the Tennis Committee and the Club Committee.

I'd also like to thank Kim Todd and Kevin Walshaw who stayed on the Club Committee at what was a very difficult time. Without them and Chris Greenwood, the Squash Chair, the Club could not have continued to function. I think it is worth recording that both Kim and Kevin have served on the Club Committee for in excess of 10 years and both had considered standing down earlier in the year. The fact that they stayed in office and helped steer the Club through what was a serious crisis deserves thanks from us all.

I am pleased to say that Peter Latham, a squash member, has volunteered his services as Club Treasurer. Similarly, Jeremy Sperling has volunteered to replace Kevin, who has now decided to stand down as Facilities Manager. Along with myself, they will be offering themselves for election at the AGM, although of course any member is entitled to nominate themselves for any of the Club Committee roles, save for the two ex officio members who are elected as Chairs of the tennis and squash committees.

As mentioned above, the refurbishment of the Clubhouse was completed in the spring. Prior to the opening celebrations on 3rd May, a team of volunteers spent a couple of weekends painting fences, sanding benches and sprucing up the gardens. It has been suggested that it might be a good idea to have annual clean up days.

The opening day was a great success with around 150 members enjoying social tennis, a BBQ, a free drink and a raffle with multiple prizes. Other successful social events included a discounted evening at Marlow Brewery, an informative session with Carter & George physios, and two Clubhouse quizzes.

Padel tennis remains popular among members, but due to space constraints, adding courts is not currently feasible without sacrificing existing facilities. The Committee does not consider this

a viable option at this time. However, discussions are ongoing with the Rugby Club regarding potential access to their proposed Padel courts.

Finally, John Woodbury is stepping down as Club groundsman after many years of service. We are in the process of finding a replacement and thank John for his work over the years.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Steve Ellis-Jones

Club Chair (co-opted)