

GRANGE DYVOURS LTC

AGM 5 OCTOBER 2017

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am very pleased to report that the Tennis section continues to thrive and that we have had another very busy 12 months since our last AGM. We continue to offer first class grass and all weather courts and events for a wide range of abilities throughout the year including Social Tennis, Team play, Competitions, Mini-leagues, Social Events, Coaching and Junior Tennis.

We currently have 229 adult members (excluding Lifetime members) a net increase of 11 from the same time last year.

Social Tennis

At the beginning of the year we undertook a survey of all members seeking views on how Social Tennis is organised. As a consequence, slight changes were made to the timing and type of Social tournaments and the format of Social play.

A Spring social tournament was held in March and a Saturday mixed doubles tournament in July. Grass Court Social tournaments were held on the first Sunday of each month during May to September with differing formats giving fast moving fun events which were well received.

Our headline Social Tennis event is the Strawberry Cup held on the first Sunday in July. I was delighted that Ann Lanzl who donated the Strawberry Cup to the Club in 1982 was able to attend and present the Cup and prizes this year.

Attendance at Sunday Social Tennis varies week on week, often weather dependant which has been variable this year. The Committee is always open to ideas as to how to improve and promote Social Tennis for all members.

Sunday teas during the Grass Court season remain a feature of Social Tennis. Many thanks to all the volunteers who took time to prepare the teas each week and in particular to Patrick Tyler for overseeing the tea rota.

Team Tennis and Competitions

We entered 4 Men's and 4 Ladies teams in the ESLTA team leagues this year with 78 members participating. Particular mention should be made about the Ladies 1st team who won Division 3A and will play in Division 2 next year, The Men's 3rds who won Division 7A and the Men's 4ths who are promoted from Division 9A.

We also entered teams in the ESLTA Singles competitions and the ESLTA Summer Social league.

Many thanks to the individual team captains for organising the teams each week and to the overall Ladies and Men's team captains Jennifer McGill and Stephen Davey who oversee and organise our Team Tennis.

The Annual Club Championships ran from 24th July with Final's Day held on 26th August. 65 members took part this year. Many thanks to Stephen Davey for organising the draws across all the competitions.

Our singles Mini-leagues continue to run throughout the year and remain popular. Many thanks to Colin MacBrayne who took over running the leagues this year.

Social Events

Our Christmas meal held in December in the Long Room continues to be very popular with 38 attending last year.

The Grass Court opening evening and Wimbledon Ballot held in April was very well attended, with 21 pairs of Wimbledon tickets available in our Club ballot.

We celebrated our Team successes at the Team dinner in July and the Championship finalists at the Final's supper and presentation evening in August.

We have changed our caterers from last year and have received generally very favourable feedback in relation to both the suppers and dinners we held.

Grounds and Equipment

Many thanks to Neil Ross who continues to oversee all things relating to the Courts and our facilities.

We are very fortunate that our Grass courts are maintained to such a high standard by the Grange ground staff Kevin and Tom, making our Club unique. A big thank you to them.

During the year the all weather court, Court 8 was resurfaced bringing it up to standard with the newest court, Court 7 and 5 and 6 which were resurfaced two years ago.

A new storage hut for Junior tennis equipment has also been installed on Court 8.

Coaching

David Gibson continues to be our principal Tennis coach, focussing mainly on beginners and improvers.

His group coaching sessions have been well attended during the year with an increasing number of members taking individual lessons. David also provided coaching to the Ladies 3rd and 4th teams during team practices in February and March.

Junior Tennis

The Junior section continues to grow, with over 50 members currently. David Gibson runs weekly sessions for all ages as well as weekly camps during the Easter and Summer holidays.

Junior numbers have been boosted by pupils from Fettes College who have separate coaching lessons during term time.

Acknowledgements

In addition to those already thanked for their contribution, I would like to mention a few people who help in the background – Oli Wilson who sends out the welcome letter to all new members and arranges a hit with them if interested, Antonia Lee-Bapty who pulls the Newsletter together and distributes it to everyone and to Debbie O'Connor who maintains and updates our website.

And finally a big thank you to my fellow Committee members Mark Atkinson, Anne Bradbury, Lucy Manico, Neil Ross and Patrick Tyler who give their time and advice to make the Club what it is.

Dave Jones, Tennis President