**CHAIR’S REPORT 2021-22**

I would like to welcome you all to the AGM and thank you for coming. It is so lovely to see the club so vibrant and flourishing after the challenges of the last couple of years. The report we are going to present to you covers the financial period of 2021 and period of activity for the club from May 2021 to May 2022.

***Staff Changes***

You will all be aware that Cheryl Doshi left her role as club manager at the end of 2021. The Management Committee would like to thank her for the 11 years of service to the club and the many changes and improvements implemented during this time. This change allowed the Management Committee to evaluate this role and understand what the club really needs moving forward following the growth and facility improvements we have seen over the past years and recruit accordingly.

We were pleased with the response we got to the advert, and we spoke to over 15 possible candidates and final interviewed four, two of which were very strong. We appointed Sara French to the role, and we are delighted with what she has achieved since stepping up from her previous position.

This meant there was a vacancy which also provided us with the opportunity to change the roles in the office and introduce an assistant manager role (rather than a purely marketing role) to support the club manager more directly with day-to-day duties. Charlotte Morley started before Easter and has settled in wonderfully. Please do take the time to stick your head into the office and say a quick hello if you haven’t done so already.

The plan is to have the office open more time during the day and also have some face-to-face drop-in sessions on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings to answer member queries, so keep an eye on communications for when these are happening.

***Club Finances and Membership***

Dan Bradbury had to step down from his role as club treasurer just after Christmas due to other commitments and so Dan Cale as acting treasurer, will present the detail of the accounts and membership. Even with everything that has happened we are in a very strong position to move forward and continue with significant investments and improvements to our facilities. We have a new five-year plan in place which is continuously being updated as we become aware of new priorities, such as the squash boiler and sauna.

Dan will provide the specifics, but our membership numbers are at record levels to the point that we have now capped the levels. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone who has joined in the last 12 months, it is fantastic to see the club buzzing and I am enjoying getting to know lots of new faces and playing them on court.

***Development / Maintenance of Facilities***

We continued to be cautious over the last 12 months about any significant spend on the facilities with the main investment being the completion of the exterior decoration of the old part of the building, replacing the glass back on squash court five and new benches and clay brushes for the tennis courts. With the five-year plan in place, we have a clear list of priorities with several projects planned, with the biggest priority, the boiler replacement, starting next week.

***Charity of the Year***

2021 was the first year that the club had a designated charity of the year. Following a member vote, the South Warwickshire Welfare Trust was selected. They are dedicated to helping people in need living in the Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Southam and Warwick areas. In 2021 they provided 65 grants, typically up to £500 and pay for items, services or facilities not available from other sources.

The hope was to raise money at our social events, which were sadly curtailed for much of 2021, but we are delighted to have raised just over £1350, primarily through the popular quizzes and Will Wykes Tournament.

The SWWT Chairman commented “I want to thank you and members of the Leamington Lawn Tennis and Squash Club for the very generous donation to our funds. Your sponsorship is very much appreciated - both for the impressive grant and for the confidence your organisation has shown in SWWT and that it can make a difference.”

For 2022 the Management Committee took the decision to appoint South Warwickshire and Worcestershire Mind as our Charity of the Year. This decision was made following both the loss of Will Wykes and the potential impact of the last couple of years on our wider community’s mental health. We will return to member proposals and vote for 2023.

***Sections***

**Squash**

It is almost a year to date since the squash section were able to get back on court without restrictions and what a year it has been! Far too much has happened for the full report so there are some separate pages to get the full picture, but here are some edited highlights:

* In September, the squash committee organised the Nick Matthew and Daryl Selby Exhibition with masterclasses which was an entertaining sell-out.
* Three separate events for Women’s Squash Week 19-26 September - 101 females of all ages and abilities enjoying squash on our courts.
* The Squash Club Championships were a great success in December 2021 and May 2022 (it will be in May going forward) with fantastic food and a band on finals night.
* The Empower Squash Foundation, in conjunction with LLTSC, and run on a volunteer basis by Squash Chair, Ginny Lee, is going from strength to strength. We host and help fund this weekly programme with 12 girls from Lillington Primary School. The charity provides a free integrated squash, education and nutrition programme to empower disadvantaged girls with life skills and promote their overall physical and mental well-being.
* We hosted several prestigious England Squash events - such as the Warwickshire Junior County Close, the Warwickshire Squash Championships, the Junior Warwick University Silver Event and the Master Intercounty Championships.

We continue to offer many ways for our members to meet new people and get involved in squash and racketball through our mix-ins sessions, the Club Championships and Internal Team Leagues. Our MIMOSA monthly ladies mix-in event - devised and run by Ginny Lee - has played an important role increasing our female membership.

The continued growth in our overall membership suggests that members enjoy what we offer, but we are always looking for feedback to improve our members’ experiences.

On court performances have been exceptional:

* Warwickshire Squash Team Leagues and Racketball Team Leagues 2021/22 Winter Season - ladies 1st team and the racketball team where crowned champions; the Men’s 3rd team 1st in division 3; Men’s 4th team 1st in division 5 and Men’s 6th team 1st in division 6.
* Warwickshire County Close 2022 – Sam Cross Bu13 runner up; James Lee BU15 and BU17 runner up; Joel Cleaver BU19 runner up.
* The West 2022 Midlands Regional Finals - Sam Cross BU13 runner up and James Lee as the BU17 runner up.
* The Warwickshire Intercounty Championships 2022 - 9 juniors took part across different age groups with the Warwickshire BU13 team in 1st with Sam Cross and GU17 team 2nd with Izzy Beynon-Cobb.
* Last weekend Izzy Beynon-Cobb played for Wales U17 team in the ESF European Mixed Team U17 Squash Championships 2022
* Warwickshire Squash Championships 2021 - 5 winners and 2 runners up in 6 different categories
* Leonie Holt was runner up in the British National Master Championships 2022
* Warwickshire Racketball Championships 2022 - Jason Pike (Head Squash Coach) as Men’s A runner up, David Boothroyd Men’s O40 winner
* Men’s O35 Derbyshire County Champs – winner Dan Busby
* British Open Masters Squash Championships 2022 - Nick Staunton Men’s O45 champion
* Jason and the Warwickshire Men’s Team won the Squash Intercounty Championships 2022
* An all-star cast of LLTSC members - Jason Pike, Howard Lancashire, Dan Busby, Pete Ash and Alex Wood won the Men’s O35 Master Intercounty Championship Finals 2022
* Last weekend, Jason Pike was part of the Men’s O35 England Team that won the Home Counties Internationals 2022

Jason Pike’s junior coaching programme is proving more popular than ever, with 80+ juniors receiving group or individual coaching each week. In addition there are also the pupils from Arnold Lodge, Kingsley and a selection of local primary school, who also receive weekly group coaching during term time.

The number of adult members having regular coaching sessions is also on the increase, including Jason’s ever-popular ladies-only racketball and squash coaching sessions on Tuesday and Friday mornings, which regularly attract 18 female players each week.

In a bid to encourage youngsters to learn new skills, Jason also runs a junior apprenticeship coaching scheme, with 10 members between the age of 11-19 currently working towards their Level 2 coaching qualification. These youngsters assist Jason with the junior coaching programme, initially on a volunteer basis, however, once they’ve accrued enough hours of experience, are paid for their time.

**Tennis**

The tennis section is flourishing with so many new players. More people than ever want to get involved, with the ladders peaking at 30 different leagues, teams having more players than they know what to do with and clubnights proving very popular. The courts are also being used much more beyond the normal peak times. The club championships once again proved successful with the new September date for finals being a better option. There is also the introduction of the Sunday League which includes 80 players in eight teams of mixed ability where one Sunday a month they play matches against players of similar ability for their team.

There have been many successes through the year but here is a summary:

* Warwickshire National League Summer 2021 - 17 teams and an amazing 76 players represented the club. This resulted in wins for the 10U Mixed Division 2 and 12U Boys Division 2 teams
* Warwickshire National League Winter 2022 - 10 teams and 38 players involved with victories in 11U Girls Division 1, 12U Boys Division 1, 16U Boys Division 1, 18U Girls Division 1
* The grade 3, Regional Summer Open was able to return in Aug 2021 with 259 players from across the country entered across 30 events. We had success in 11U & 12U Boys’ Doubles runner-up Rehan Redza, 14U Girls’ Doubles winner Holly Jaques, 16U Boys’ Doubles winners Ferran Redza and Dylan Pillinger and 16U Boys’ Singles runner-up Ferran Redza
* We also were invited to host Warwickshire County Closed Open and Mini tennis events and in a phenomenal achievement, Lucie Butler took the Ladies’ Singles County title.
* The grade 4, Easter Open 2022 - 257 players entered across 22 events (the average entries for a grade 4 is around 100 so showing the popularity for tournaments at our club) - 14U Boys’ Singles Rehan Redza won & William Ellis runner-up, Men’s Singles winner Ferran Redza and Men’s Doubles winners Miguel Espada and Ben Franklin
* The summer 2021 season one of the most successful in the club’s history. The Ladies’ 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams all won their respective divisions and the Men’s 2nd team got promoted to the premier division.
* The Winter 21/22 season continued this success with Ladies vets winning the 1st division and the Ladies B, C and E team all earning promotion. The men’s B team were promoted to the top division.
* Sara Butler represented England in the prestigious Four Nations Champions with her team coming out on top.
* At the WALTA Awards Lucie Butler received ‘adult player of the year’, the ladies’ squad ‘team of the year’ and the President’s Award 2021 went to Sara Butler for stepping in as Covid Officer to enable the Senior Tennis GB circuit to continue.

The coaching programme goes from strength to strength with group lessons and 1 to 1 sessions proving very popular. We currently see around 300 different children a week across our club and school coaching programme.

Carl Gallagher is stepping back from the coaching programme in 2022 to pursue his photography work which we wish him every success with. We have two new additions to the team, both well-liked and long-standing members of the club - Jamie Taylor (level 4) and Ed Aveyard (level 3).

The tennis committee are currently investigating ways in which to the keep the clay courts watered to avoid them getting so dusty and continue to consider the best solutions for the installation of LED lights across the courts.

**Gym**

Membership numbers for the gym continue to creep up and we have now allocated additional hours to Kevin Pillinger for the management of this facility. Budget has been assigned to continue to make improvements both to the space and the equipment over the next year.

***The Hidden Gem***

The Hidden Gem has been a wonderful space for our members to enjoy over the past year and thanks must go to Kevin Pillinger and his team for making it so welcoming. The social calendar is starting to fill, and it is great to see that many of our members are using the space for their private parties too. The Monday night quizzes have been an immense success, so thanks to the different members who have run one of these. We also enjoyed a wonderful evening of music provided by Simon Ballard. Unfortunately, the Christmas event was thwarted by Covid but the social committee have a few dates in the diary including the return of the beer festival. We will inevitably need additional members to volunteer when it comes to organising larger events such as parties, beer festivals and celebratory dinners - so please come forward and make yourself known if you are willing to help organise an event.

***1872***

I just want to touch on this briefly as some of you may be wondering why we are not celebrating 150 years since we were founded. Following a visit to the museum at Wimbledon, some doubt was cast that this is the true date of when we were founded. Myself, and in particular Paul Carter, have done some digging. It now seems there is little doubt that 1872 is the wrong date and in fact 1874 is the true date. 1872 is uncorroborated and simply the claim of one person in a magazine some years afterwards, whereas 1874 appears to have strong evidence from historical records such as local newspapers. More detail will be circulated out to everyone about this, but for now the celebration plans are on hold, but don’t worry there will be a big party sometime soon!

I hope you agree that being a member of LLTSC is a wonderful experience with a great welcoming atmosphere alongside the fantastic sporting opportunities. This is due in a large part to the various committees, volunteers and staff at the club who go that extra mile. I just want to close my review by saying a particular thank-you to three people who have really gone above and beyond in the last twelve months.

John Pritchard and Ted Carron both stepped in to run the office when there was no club manager and put in a huge number of hours behind the scenes and in fact implemented several new processes along the way. And Rob Pelter whose HR expertise has been invaluable throughout this process, volunteering many hours to ensure we are in the position we are today. Thank-you!

I have a great feeling about the next year and there some exciting plans on the horizon that we can’t wait to share with you.

Many thanks

***Janette George (LLTSC Chair)***

***18 May 2022***