

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022-23



I would like to welcome you all to the AGM and thank you for coming. We have had an amazing 12 months at the club and so I make no apologies for the length of this account. The report we are going to present to you covers the financial period of 2022 and period of activity for the club from May 2022 to May 2023.

Staffing

Both Sara French and Charlotte Morley have been in their current roles for over a year, and please join me in thanking them for doing such a fantastic job. Kevin Pillinger, our bar manager has also taken on additional responsibilities since Christmas, and I am sure you will agree that the bar is the best place to socialise in town.

Jan Randall took over as safeguarding officer at the start of 2022 and has since worked very hard at getting us shipshape. The intention is that she is much more visible around the club and that we have all the right processes in place to ensure the welfare of our members.

We have recently changed our cleaning contractor as we were not happy with the previous company. We have also introduced a contract gardening company to keep on top of the grounds, which we also plan to improve over the coming months.

Club Finances and Membership

Dan Cale as treasurer, will present the specific detail of the accounts and membership. Without stealing Dan's thunder this has been a record-breaking financial year and our membership numbers continue to be strong with the membership cap for full membership still in place. We are definitely the club that everyone is talking about in the area.

We also continue to include amongst our membership the Bridge Club on a Tuesday and the Spa Striders who use the facilities throughout the week, as well as the addition of the Chess Club who now use the meeting room on a Tuesday evening.

Development / Maintenance of Facilities

Having been very cautious through Covid times, this past year we have been able to significantly invest in our facilities. This has included our new exterior fence, refurbishment of the gents and disabled / multi use toilet along with the long-awaited men's changing room upgrade and new sauna. We also have new flooring for squash court 4 and in the off-court area and introduced a sound system to the bar which has significantly improved the ability to hear anything on the TV.

We have our wonderful new large clock on the outside of the squash court, and we must say a special thank-you to one of our longstanding members who helped fund this.

We been able to undertake many maintenance projects including refurbishing the other squash court floors, replacing the glass back on court 5, redecorated the entranceway, upstairs corridor and meeting room. We have invested in our aged boiler system, with several problems occurring across the year that required attention. Many thanks for your patience during this time as we tried to juggle the needs of the whole membership whilst we were without hot water across most of the clubhouse. These repairs have bought us some time, but moving forward we want to look to a more environmental and sustainable solution for the building.

We have just received the revised planning permission for the car park behind the clubhouse. This will now introduce 11 spaces for use by staff and members. Its requirement was part of our original planning approval for the clubhouse development completed in 2019. This space is currently not utilised and is not large enough for development for Padel.

The planning application and a grant application to help fund their cost has been submitted to the council for the LED lights with the phase 1 (courts 1-5) planned for August.

Charity of the Year

The club's chosen charity of the year in 2022 was South Warwickshire and Worcestershire Mind in memory of former club member and Safeguarding and Welfare Officer, Will Wykes. We worked closely with SWWM throughout the year to deliver health and wellbeing initiatives, including a Mind Mental Health Workshop in September which 20 members signed up to. The Mind team also attended several of our fundraising quizzes throughout the year and delivered their own quiz in January as a thank you to the club for the monies raised.

The fundraising total for the year was an incredible £1641, generated from club quizzes, the Alistair Hughes Tournament and The Will Wykes Memorial Trophy competition.

Our charity of the year for 2023 is Lillington Community Pantry (LCP) having been nominated and voted for by you, our members. LCP helps residents of Lillington and surrounding areas who are struggling to make ends meet by providing help with food and other essential items. The team is also on hand to signpost people to local support services and giving the necessary guidance required to overcome individual situations.

Sections

Squash

There is so many amazing things happening in squash to report on this year that I have included the section's full report as an appendix so you can read about everything. Here is a snapshot of a few highlights:

- LTTSC is very much bucking the trend of declining squash participants with our highest ever membership, including significant growth in both junior and female members, which is in no small part due to promotion of the MIMOSA events.
- The number of squash and racketball events we host at the club for the wider community including regional events and county matches meaning members can participate in and watch high quality squash on their doorstep.
- Both adult and junior players achieving success in squash and racketball competitions both regionally and nationally. There are so many outstanding results, but the highlight was at the Racketball National Championships where Jason Pike was placed runner up in the Men's O35 and Becky Symmons placed runner up in the Women's Open event.
- Social play has continued to grow with the introduction of new mix-in sessions, and this has been supported by our new assistant coach Alix Davison who support Jason across the whole squash programme.
- The Empower Squash Foundation sessions have continued which enables 12 girls from disadvantage backgrounds regular access to the sport as well as guidance on mental health and wellbeing.
- The men's 1st team won the Summer League 1st Division and our Women's 1st team recently won the Winter League 1st Division.

An item missing from Ginny's report, was that she was presented the Leisure and Sport volunteer of the Year at the 2022 CAVA awards, which I am sure you will agree is very deserved.

Tennis

Tennis membership has continued to flourish, and it is wonderful to see so many new faces at the club. Attached as an appendix is the full tennis report but here are some of the highlights:

- Last summer three of our men's teams (4th, 5th & 6th) all won their respective divisions positioning 6 men's teams for the 2023 season within the top 4 divisions.
- In the Warwickshire National League both Summer and Winter, we entered significantly more teams than any other club winning 5 titles in the summer (across both junior and adult levels) and 4 titles in the winter across various junior levels.
- The inaugural Bowen Bowl challenge between Warwick Boat Club and LLTSC was held at the club and proved to be a very successful day. It is Boat Club's turn to host in 2023.

- The Club Championships saw a record number of entries across the different open and handicap events, and it was wonderful to see some of the club juniors making a mark on this event.
- Ferran Redza reached the final of the LTA National Championships in the U16 doubles, knocking out the 2nd seeds along the way before losing to the very strong 1st seeds in the finals.
- There have been additional opportunities for social play with the introduction of the internal mixed ability team leagues and a Monday daytime mix-in.

Ted is stepping down as Tennis Chair and John Harper will be taking on the role until the tennis AGM later in the year. Thanks to Ted for his involvement over the past 3½ years and in particular his drive to get more social tennis at the club.

Gym

With the introduction of access to Michelle Clements as a personal trainer and the opportunity for free gym inductions for new members, along with some new equipment, membership numbers for the gym have gone from strength to strength. We are very keen to promote the use of the gym to all our members. This incurs a small additional monthly charge, but with the right program is a great way to support your racket sports as well as a facility to use for injury prevention and rehab.

Member's also have access to a physiotherapist at favourable rates who uses the meeting room as a treatment room. To find out more about both the PT and physio services, get in touch with the office.

The Hidden Gem

As I have been travelling around different clubs whilst playing matches, we are constantly receiving comments and compliments about The Hidden Gem, so thanks must go to Kevin Pillinger and his team for making it so welcoming. We have also introduced a limited food offering that seems to be growing in popularity with the cake going down a storm and the brie and bacon panini being a personal favourite.

Somebody reminded me the other day about a certain level of scepticism about investing so much of the club's fund in such a large space, believing it would never be used. But we really have proven the theory of 'If you build it, they will come' as the bar is very busy most evenings of the week and the calendar is packed with member bookings on Saturday and Sundays. But we have received a few complaints about a couple of very rowdy parties, so this is a request for those with bookings to remember we are located in a very built-up area and need to respect our neighbours.

This year we have also continued with Monday night quizzes which always prove popular and challenging, and we were once again treated to a wonderful evening of music provided by Simon Ballard and friends. The beer festival and beer tournament returned and once again proved popular. There also seem to be a growing number of more impromptu events, where members are using the facilities to gather and socialise. Long may it continue.

I love playing tennis at this club and everyone involved in running the club works hard to ensure that we maintain our reputation as a welcoming and friendly club that is keen to provide opportunities to play whatever your ability. Whether that is knocking about with your mates on sunny Sunday afternoon or striving to compete at a national level. This is due in a large part to the various committees, volunteers and staff at the club who go that extra mile. Thank-you to you all!

It has been a busy year and with lots more exciting plans on the horizon so I am really looking forward to the next 12-months.

Many thanks

Janette George (LLTSC Chair)

17 May 2023

APPENDIX 1 - FULL SQUASH REPORT

Since the last AGM meeting on 18th May 2022, there have been many successes to celebrate at our club and with our members.

Facilities

1. New boiler installed to heat squash section
2. New floor on court 4
3. Sanded and relined existing floors on courts 1-6; all play walls on all courts repaired and cleaned and door frames repaired.
4. New luxury vinyl tile flooring throughout the corridors of court 1-6; new carpet in viewing gallery and along balcony floor.

Membership

Squash at our club has bucked the trend and has increased its membership. We have peaked to 719 total squash subscriptions due to an inclusive and welcoming environment, great coaching and programmes, fantastic facilities and the many member successes. Our female and junior membership have significantly grown in this period, which was one of our key objectives for 2022. Subsequently, we have had to cap our full-time membership, with a one in, one out system. However, off-peak membership has not been capped, nor have junior memberships.

Events Hosted:

We work with England Squash to promote squash and racketball to the wider community and host regional events and county matches so members can participate in and watch high quality squash on their doorstep.

- ES Junior Aspire Regional Team Championships, 25 June 2022
- ES Junior U9, U11, U13, U15 Open Tournament, 10 July
- UK Racketball Series Event 7 West of England Racketball Open, 2 July 2022
- Mixed Ability Squash 57 Open Days, 16th July, 8th October 2022 and 22nd April 2023
- Women's Squash Week Event for women and girls in the community, 24th September 2022
- World Squash Day Event, 15th October 2022
- Warwickshire County Girls Team Squash, 13th November 2022
- ES Warwick University Junior Silver Event, 19-20 November 2022
- Warwickshire Squash Championships, 3-4 December 2022
- ES Leamington Junior Open Satellite Event, 18th December 2022
- ES Junior Inter-County Championship Finals for GU15, 25th-26th March 2023
- ES Leamington Junior Challenger Event, 12th March 2023
- Empower Squash Foundation started 09/2021 and is ongoing - LLTSC in conjunction with Empower Squash Foundation hosts this amazing programme every Monday with 12 girls from Lillington Primary School during school term. The Empower Squash Foundation is a charity that provides a free integrated squash, education, and nutrition programme to year 5/6 girls to empower disadvantaged girls with life skills and promote their overall physical and mental well-being.

Juniors Success

- **ES National Schools Championships 2022-23** – Two Key Stage 3 teams and one Key Stage 4 team for North Leamington School was made up from our junior members.
 - KS3 team 1: Sam Evans, Toby Ventress, Dominic Keenan, Hannah Davis and Anais Sahota; KS3 team 2: Sam Cross, Tom Harper, Will Ellis, Heidi Cross and Jenson Bradbury. Both KS3 teams went through to the plate. Team 2 placed third in the plate.
 - KS4 team: James Lee, Sam Cross, Sam Evans, Charlotte Pickering and Jacob Ellis went through to Stage 2 but faced fierce competition holding them back from going to the finals.
- **ES Junior Inter-County Championship Finals 2023** – Heidi Cross, GU13 B Team- plate 15th; Sam Cross, Johnny Mothersdale, BU15 A Team – 5th; Sam Evans, BU15 B Team – plate 3rd; Izzy Beynon-Cobb, GU17

team- Champions; James Lee, Harry Mander, Jacob Ellis, BU17 B Team – 8th; Charlotte Pickering, GU19 Team- plate 15th

Adult Success

- **11-12 June UK Racketball Series 2022 Inter-County Championships** – Jason Pike and Robbie Fortune were members of the winning team.
- **2 July UK Racketball Series Event 7 West of England Racketball Open** – Jason was runner up in the A open and Becky Symmons was runner up in the B Open.
- **16-17 July UK Racketball National Racketball Championships** – Jason Pike placed runner up in the Men's O35 and Becky Symmons placed runner up in the Women's Open.
- **26 September Warwickshire Racketball Championships 2022** – Howard Lancashire placed runner up in the Men's A Grade.
- **12 November 2022 Racketball Club Championships** – Ladies Final winner- Ginny Lee, RU- Jackie Lindsay; Open A Grade winner- Howard Lancashire, RU- Robbie Fortune; Open B Grade winner- Finlay Collison, RU – Dave Flanigan
- **24th November Internal Team League Championship 2022, sponsored by PB Forestry**– Winning team 'Saint Nicks': Dan Busby, Ryan McFall, Stefan Peters, Ali Bate and Johnny Mothersdale.
- **26th November Club Handicap Squash Event 2022**- organized by club member Tom Gold. Winner - David Boothroyd, RU- Ross Harrison. Tom raised £224 for the charity MIND through raffle tickets sold.
- **3-4 December Warwickshire Squash Championships 2022** – Leonie Holt was winner of the Ladies event; George Owen placed runner up in the A Grade; David Boothroyd was winner of the B Grade; Paul Robinson placed runner up in the D Grade; and Matt Le Grice placed runner up in the E Grade.
- **17 February Club Masters Championships 2023**- O65s Final winner- John Heather, RU Philip Shaw-Hamilton; O55s Final winner – Ray Batchelor, RU Geoff Redfern; O45s Final winner -Stephen Walter, RU Conor Mahoney; O35s Final winner – Howard Lancashire, RU Peter Ash; Ladies O35 Final winner- Ali Bate, RU Ginny Lee
- **15-16 April ES Masters Inter-County Championship Finals** – Warwickshire Men's O35 team crowned champions- with David Boothroyd, Mat Holt, Howard Lancashire, Jason Pike, Tom Robinson, Neil Staunton, Nick Staunton and Rob Staunton; Women's O50 team placed 2nd place – with Ali Bate and Ginny Lee.

Teams Squash

Summer League 2022- Good summer for the men's teams with 1st team winning Division 1 and crowned Champions of Warwickshire. Big thank you to Sebastien Barth of C4 Logistics for providing the Team kit over the past few years.

Team	Summer League 2022	Winter League 2022/23
1 st	1st in Div 1	4th in Div 1
2nd Team	2nd in Div 2 (promoted)	2nd in Div 2
3rd Team	5th in Div 2	9th in Div 2
4th team	3rd in Div 3	2nd in Div 4
5th Team	7th in Div 4	3rd in Div 5
6th Team	4th in Div 5	5th in Div 5
Ladies' 1st Team		1st in Div 1
Ladies' 2nd Team		1st in Div 2
Racketball Team	2nd in Div 1	3rd in Div 1

Social Squash

Mix-ins offer a great and inclusive opportunity for new and existing members of all abilities to meet other players, learn more about the club and what it has on offer and enjoy socialising with others. Social squash is the lifeblood of our club, it's what attracts 80-90% of our members and keeps them loyal to the club:

1. Saturday Monthly ladies and teen MIMOSA mix ins

2. Regular Mix-in sessions: Sunday Morning– 10:30-12:00; Thursday morning 9:30-11:00; Friday Club Night 18:30-20:00; Wed Lunchtime Racketball 12:30-13:30: Saturday Afternoon Racketball 16:30-18:00
3. Continuation of popular internal team leagues sponsored by PB Forestry that begins on 25th May with the finals on 30th November with celebrations.
4. Club Masters Championships – this year started 9th January with the finals on 17th February.
5. Squash Club Championships – this year the event started 3rd April and the finals will take place on 20th May with celebrations.
6. Club Racketball Championships – this year the finals are on 28th October.

Coaching

- Our highly valued and much in demand Head Coach Jason Pike, has enlisted the help of Assistant Coach Alex Davison, who has been a superb addition to the coaching team since last summer.
- The Junior Programme, run by Jason Pike, has been busier than ever with over 70 juniors signed up for weekly coaching as well as links with Arnold Lodge, Kingsley, Kings High, Brookhurst, Milverton and VLC.
- The Junior Apprenticeship Coaching Scheme that Jason runs, encourages youngsters to learn new skills as they assist the coaches with the junior coaching programmes, initially on a volunteer basis; however, once they gain enough hours of experience, they are paid for their time. This year 8 juniors were part of the programme, in addition to other helpers using squash coaching toward their Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Ladies group coaching for racketball on Tuesday mornings and squash on Thursday evenings and Friday mornings have proven popular and helped grow the female membership.

APPENDIX 2 - FULL TENNIS REPORT

The Sunday League mixed ability team event is running again very successfully. The inaugural Bowen Bowl competition went very well last year, and we won. The next one will be hosted by Warwick Boat Club this summer. The mixed doubles and singles ladder continues to be incredibly well attended.

Adult Team Tennis

Last summer the men's 4th, 5th and 6th teams all won their respective divisions positioning 6 men's teams for the 2023 season within the top 4 divisions. The ladies had a tough summer season partly due to the previous season's success with 3 teams moving up a division.

The tennis teams had some success over the winter season. The men's vets A team won the premier division and the ladies' Vet A finished 2nd. There were mixed results across the other ladies and men's divisions.

This Spring we introduced a new selection process for the summer tennis teams. The team trials were structured to test players skills under different game situations. We had a hugely successful couple of weekends with over a hundred players participating.

Tennis Coaching, Competitions & Junior Section Report

1. *Warwickshire National League Summer 2022*

We entered 14 teams and a County high 92 players represented the club. (The next biggest club was Beechwood who had 60 players represent their club).

We won the following 5 titles:

- 10U Mixed Div 2, 11U Boys Div 2, 14U Boys Div 1, Open Men B Div 2 (now have 2 teams in the top County division), Ladies Div 1 (promoted to the regional tier for summer 2023).

2. *Warwickshire National League Winter (Sep-Dec) 2022*

- We entered 11 teams and won leagues at 8U, 9U, 14U Girls and 16U Boys.

3. *Competitions at the Club*

Our grade 4 Easter Open took place in April 2022. 257 players entered and there was a lot of Leamington success: 14U Boys winner Rehan Redza, runner-up William Ellis; 16U Boys winner Denis Ivanov; 18U Boys winner Denis Ivanov; Men's singles winner Ferran Redza; Men's Doubles winners Miguel Espada & Ben Franklin; Ladies' Doubles runners-up Fiona Roche and Vicki Bickerton.

Our grade 3 regional summer open, that attracts high quality players from across the country had 253 players entered across 30 different categories.

In addition to our regular weekend LTA sanctioned competitions, Warwickshire LTA asked if the club would once again host the Warwickshire County Closed Open event in September 2022. We had runners-up in all 4 events: Men's singles Ed Aveyard; Ladies' singles Lucie Butler; Men's doubles Ferran Redza & Ed Aveyard; Ladies' doubles Lucie Butler & Sophia Espada.

4. *Coaching Programme*

We currently see around 300 children a week across our club and school coaching programme.

In terms of the coaching team, the addition of Jamie Taylor and Ed Aveyard has worked well, and they are great additions to the coaching offer the club provides to members.

Facilities

1. *Tennis Lights – Phase 1, replacement of lights on courts 1-5*

The lights in use at the club are old Metal Halide bulb technology. They suffer from three inherent problems:

- high power (6kW per court) - high energy usage

- Low light intensity
- high maintenance costs (estimated in the region of £500 per court per annum)

LED lights offer a solution to each of these problems:

- approx half the energy consumption
- approx double the light intensity
- Ten-year warranty on LED arrays - potentially no maintenance costs for 10years.

After 18 months of trialing systems at clubs around the Midlands and South of the UK, we have decided to award the installation to WISEMAN technologies. Selection criteria included but not limited to:

- meeting LTA standards for illumination of courts
- low glare (this affects both players and adjacent properties)
- low light spill such that we meet environmental standards for low pollution on adjacent properties to the club
- ability of vendor to demonstrate production solution on 6.4 m columns (the same as LLTSC)
- price (to a lesser extent)

In assessing the playing performance, we preferred the reflector technology as opposed to lens / focused light technology as players felt this produced significantly less glare. In addition to the technical specifications, WISEMAN were also able to offer a full planning service. Since we are in a residential area, we must be mindful of the effect of light spill on neighbouring properties. We are aware of several clubs that did not consider this aspect carefully and have not been able to use their new lights!

The status of the project is:

- submission of planning 17th April. We expect a decision within 8-12 weeks of this date
- Installation on courts 1-5 penciled for mid-August when the courts are in a 'quiet period'. The installation will be phased with two courts out at any one time and is expected to last for around two weeks.

We plan on replacing the lights on the remaining courts in the near future.

2. Clay courts

Sand will be distributed on the clay courts in May once the weather is better. We anticipate spreading approx 1 ton of sand per annum to protect the carpet underlay and provide a more authentic clay court playing experience.

3. Tennis Wall

In response to requests from many members for improved practice facilities, the committee have been investigating tennis walls. A suitable solution has been found that is aesthetically pleasing whilst offering a good practice experience. We are currently exploring both the financial and practical feasibility of this solution.

4. Replacement of court surfaces on 6-8

We identified deterioration of the court carpet in 2020. A tennis court contractor estimated a 3-5 year remaining life. At that time, it appeared the substructure was sound. Since 2020 members have noticed variation in ball bounce. This might mean deterioration of the subbase and therefore would require further investigation. Therefore, replacement of court surfaces will either be carpet replacement at approx 15K per court, or complete replacement of the courts- which is more expensive. Clearly, the decision of the PADEL project might have an impact on the upgrade of these surfaces.