

## CHAIR'S REPORT 2024-25

I would like to welcome you all to the AGM and thank you for coming. This past year has been a fantastic one for the club, the highlight of which was celebrating our 150 years. The report we are going to present to you covers the financial period of 2024 and period of activity for the club from May 2024 to May 2025.

### Staffing

Once again, the staff at the club have performed exceptionally and it is with great sadness that Sara is leaving the club manager role, but we will continue to see her around as she enjoys being a member. She has been at the heart of many of the improvements we have seen over the past few years, so we wish her luck in the new job. I am delighted that Charlotte is going to take over this role from the start of June, initially on a trial basis. I am sure you will all support and welcome her. Kevin Pillinger, our bar manager, has continued to ensure that the Hidden Gem is the social hub of the club and most evenings and mornings there is a wonderful atmosphere in the space. Thanks, must also go to his team of staff who ensure our members can enjoy the best bar in town.

Thanks also to Dave Frankton and our contract cleaners and gardeners who keep our facilities well maintained, clean and tidy.

Jan Randall continues as the Welfare and Safeguarding Officer and this year we have introduced our junior safeguarding representatives too.

I would also like to say thank you to the team of coaches from both tennis and squash. The strength of the coaching set-up at the club is one of the elements that sets us apart from other clubs locally.

### Club Finances and Membership

Dan Cale as treasurer, will present the specific detail of the accounts and membership. Following the same trend from recent years, he will once again report a record year with 12% growth income, although this is offset by 15% increase in costs. There is still a membership cap on full peak membership, but we have seen growth in off peak, social and gym. We continue to welcome bridge, chess and Regency Runners to the club.

This seems a good point to say thanks to our club sponsors – Smart Solar UK, Courtney Downing Estates, Bernard Rogers & Co, Ascent Financial Consulting, Leamington Spa Cleaning Services, The Leamington Kitchen Company, Peter Staunton Design Studio, C4 Logistics, The Coach House Gallery, Lexus Coventry and Tom Wolstenholme

Garden Design. Your sponsorship helps fund facility improvements, junior programmes, team kit, various activities and events.

## Development / Maintenance of Facilities

Within the year I am reporting on here, we have installed a new covered bike rack, shed and improved both the gym and The 1928 Clubroom with new lighting, furniture and decoration. We also have bought new outdoor tables for both the patio and balcony. Last year's major capital project – the new car park and gate – is a real success story as it is continuously full, providing some relief for people wishing to park on Guys Cliffe Avenue.

We now have an annual programme of maintenance for both the tennis and squash courts which have been carried out recently, so I thank you for your patience whilst the courts have been out of action.

## Charity of the Year

Our charity of the year for 2024 and in tandem with the 150th Anniversary celebration was Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire.

Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire is a local charity working in the community to support older people, their families and carers. The services on offer include befriending, counselling, dementia day care, support in the home and garden as well as their free, confidential quality accredited advisory service. Their help can make the difference between just managing and really loving later life. They receive some grants to help with their work and for some services there is a charge, but this is not enough, and the charity relies heavily on monetary donations. All donations are used exclusively in the local area.

LLTSC staged a range of events and sales in its 150th year raising an incredible £3856.30, which is the club's highest fundraising total yet. The full details of what was raised when can be found in the Appendix. We'd like to thank all our members for making this record-breaking total a possibility. Our fundraising efforts have gone from strength to strength over the years and we're very proud to be able to make a real difference to local charities.

The selection of the charity for 2025 was once again opened to you the members and you chose Helping Hands Community Project. They extend compassionate and practical support to those struggling with the causes and effects of homelessness and trauma. They offer a listening ear and qualified counselling from experienced advisors but believe very much in providing a 'hand up' not just a 'hand out.' Their mission is to empower everyone who goes to them to realise their full potential and create a brighter future.

## Sections

There are far too many things to report on individually for squash and tennis, so I have

included a full report for each section in appendices which will be circulated after the AGM. Below is a snapshot:

## Squash

- Membership survey issued in December 2024 revealed members were generally very satisfied with the member experience and the opportunities available
- We hosted various England Squash/UK Racketball sanctioned Events
- The Empower Squash Foundation Programme is now in its 4th year, providing access to squash for y5-6 girls who otherwise wouldn't get this opportunity.
- There are over 200 members in the box leagues which continue to grow – including > 20 juniors and > 20 females
- We held our first Junior Club Championships for many years (more than 40 entrants), doubling up with the annual Club Masters events
- We were National Club Champions for the first time and came 4th in the European Club Championship with the team including Jason Pike and Howard Lancashire; the junior team got silver in the National Club Championships with the team of Sam Cross, Harry Mander and Charlotte Pickering
- Leamington Royals have competed in the inaugural Optasia Squash Super League (SSL) – all matches are streamed live globally via Squash TV and these matches have brought world class squash to our club and the local community
- Here are some of highlights of individual performances:
  - o Leonie Holt won the 2024 WO35 British Open Masters Squash Championships
  - o Jason Pike, Howard Lancashire, Robbie Fortune and Tom Robinson helped Warwickshire win the 2024 O35 ICC Masters
  - o Sam Cross played for the Leamington Royals, participated in his first PSA graded tournaments, and won both BU17 and BU19 in the Warwickshire Junior Closed 2024
  - o Geoff Redfern (MO70) and Roger More (MO75) represented England at the 2025 Home Internationals
  - o Aimee McConnell represented Ireland at the European Team Championships
  - o Becky Symmons won the Ladies UK Racketball Series Finals
  - o Jon Chambers won the 2025 Warwickshire Closed County Championships (E Grade)
  - o Racketball team won their 3rd title in a row – 2 Winter leagues and a summer league

## Tennis

2024 was another active year for the tennis section. In addition to the regular activities, the tennis section has focused additional attention to the following areas:

- i) providing more competitive tennis opportunities for more members via additional teams - including a new men's Tennis 7th team and opportunities for Senior (over

- 55's) competitive tennis with other clubs in the West Midlands in a new league.
- ii) a more structured approach to court maintenance with annual deep clean programs which will help improve court playing surfaces and aid court longevity
- iii) deep dive analysis of court usage to understand booking behaviours and make informed adjustments where appropriate - c.a. 20% of peak time courts are cancelled on or near the day of play. The court booking restriction trial has been implemented to determine if this can reduce speculative booking behaviours. There will be more information about this in AOB.
- iv) The offer to our wider community to get involved with free sessions of walking tennis

Some highlights on the playing front include:

- o The ladies' 2nd and 4th teams won winning divisions last summer earning promotion.
- o The tennis ladder has moved to an online system and has 28 levels and involves 140+ players. This transition has also meant that Nick Seale has been able to step back from running the ladders after 25 years of brilliance.
- o Finally, a special mention should be given to Ferran Redza whose activities this year have been financially supported by the club. As a result of his British Juniors Doubles Championship win, he has secured a place at Wimbledon Junior Doubles and hopefully a place in the junior singles draw! Ferran has also achieved a sports scholarship place at a US University to continue his tennis journey. The whole club should feel proud of his accomplishments thus far in his fledgling career.

## Gym

The gym has been redecorated, and new lighting has been installed to improve the look and feel of the space. We have also replaced some of the ageing equipment and this has resulted in a growth in the membership. It is very rare you walk past the gym to see it empty at any time of the day.

## The Hidden Gem

Dan will provide more detail about the financial success of the bar, but you only need to visit most mornings and evenings to see many of you enjoy using this facility. Kevin has been looking to improve the drinks offering, particularly with the wine selection. It is very much run as a member benefit as we endeavour to keep the prices as competitive as possible. It is also fantastic to see so many of you using the space on Saturday and Sunday evenings for your own private parties.

## 150 Years of Tennis in Leamington Spa

Following on from reporting on the bar, now seems the appropriate time to review our

150-year celebrations. Throughout 2024, we hosted a whole series of events that celebrated the fact that

the first Lawn Tennis Club in the World, set-up for the sole purpose of playing lawn tennis, started life in 1874 at the Manor Hotel in Leamington Spa. The events included:

- o 150-year themed quiz

- o The return of the Arthur Wellesley Tomkins Trophy American Doubles
- o Family Fun Day – which was attended by over 400 members and VIP's which included descendants of the original club founders. This was also when we unveiled the history wall which highlights key events from our 150-year history

- o Whites & Woods Tournament – with players dressed in a collection of tennis whites from across the ages. This event attracted a lot of PR coverage.

- o GEM Fest – an evening of live music, food, casino and dancing

We also had celebratory merchandise including The 1874 Gin (which is still available to purchase from the bar) and T-shirts featuring Gemima our elephant. We also must thank Susan Hopcraft, who invested huge amounts of her time to write Leamington's Game – a history of Lawn Tennis in Leamington Spa. There are copies of this available from the bar and it is a really interesting read about tennis history, and some of the social history of Leamington.

## Indoor Facility

I will provide a brief overview as John Pritchard will deliver a more detailed report. As expected, a project of this magnitude—comprising 4 indoor padel courts and 4 indoor tennis courts—demands considerable time and effort. We must express our gratitude to John for taking on the lion's share of this work, along with Sara. A team has been working with our partners—Warwick Schools Foundation, The LTA, and the Leamington Tennis Court Company. Together, we have prepared funding proposals, community engagement and marketing plans, business strategies, and a comprehensive pre-planning application.

Fundamental to this project being successful is the financial support you, the members have pledged, for which the Management Committee are very grateful.

Our club maintains its welcoming and friendly reputation, thanks to the hard work of our committees, volunteers, and staff who ensure our members have access to these amazing facilities. There have been a few incidences over the past year when this has perhaps been forgotten, so please can I ask all members to remember the incredible work these people do which is so fundamental to the success of this club.

Many thanks

Janette George (LLTSC Chair)

15 May 2025

## APPENDIX 1 – FUNDRAISING DETAILS

|   |                                       |          |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 🎬 | Poker Night                           | £320.00  |
| 🎬 | Mince Pies                            | £18.80   |
| 🎬 | 150th Quiz                            | £287.90  |
| 🎬 | October Quiz                          | £174.00  |
| 🎬 | July Quiz                             | £126.90  |
| 🎬 | Alastair Hughes Midsummer Tournament  | £130.00  |
| 🎬 | Squash Handicap Tournament            | £800.00  |
| 🎬 | Cake Sale - 150th Family Fun Day      | £82.00   |
| 🎬 | Will Wykes Tournament                 | £508.00  |
| 🎬 | Bowen Bowl competition                | £500.00  |
| 🎬 | Christmas Club Night                  | £346.70  |
| 🎬 | 150th Anniversary Charity fundraising | £562.00  |
|   | TOTAL                                 | £3856.30 |

## APPENDIX 2 - FULL SQUASH REPORT

Set out below is a detailed update for the Squash section covering the period from May 2024 to April 2025. It has been a successful 12 months and there are many matters to celebrate both as a club and for some of our members individually.

### 1. Squash Committee

At the 2024 AGM, the Squash Committee welcomed Guy Mander, Steve Cross and Sam Blundell to its ranks. One of the first issues raised at the next Committee meeting was to understand the strategic objectives for the section for both the short and medium term. Over the following 6 months, a satisfaction survey was put together and was sent out at the beginning of December 2024.

Over 160 members responded; the overarching feedback was that members appear to be highly satisfied with their membership and what the squash section offers. The 2025 Squash Committee welcomed Lisa Nowak, Nick Sibly and Gordon Hayes to its membership and the Committee will continue to review the results of the survey and use the feedback to enhance our offering for the majority, and drive our strategy.

Squash Chair, Ginny Lee, stepped down from the Squash Committee at the 2025 AGM and the section thanks Ginny for her devoted service over many years on the Committee and the last 3 as Chair. Thanks also go to Alex Ross who stepped down during 2024. Guy Mander took over as Squash Chair at the Squash AGM.

## 2. Facilities

We are very proud of the facilities we have and during 2024/25 upgrades/maintenance include:

- All courts were subject to our annual maintenance week in April 2025 with:

- a. All existing floors sanded and relined
  - b. All play walls cleaned, with repairs to holes as necessary
- Extractor fans have been fixed, serviced and are in regular use to reduce condensation; the mould issue has been fixed; air flows are being deflected to courts 1 and 2 to balance the heat/humidity; going forward humidity sensors are being fixed around courts 1-4 to provide data points for any further corrective action
  - Squash corridor between courts 1-4 has been re-painted/decorated
  - Replastering/hole filling around doors/hinges
  - Formal cleaning rota including glass backs and the glass on the balcony
  - TV camera acquired for Court 6 so that events can live streamed
  - New sponsor branding has been affixed outside and on courts
  - New TV in the corridor, regularly showing slides of monthly communications, events and successes in the squash section
  - New Juniors board showcasing the fantastic progress made in the Junior Development Program over the last 12 months

## 3. Membership

We continue to adopt a waiting list for full adult membership, which is capped and follows a one in-one out system. The welcoming environment, members' successes, fantastic atmosphere, facilities, programmes, and activities attract and retain members. Off-peak and junior membership continues to be uncapped; when a junior ages up, we have now implemented a two-out system for prospective members on the waiting list, to ensure peak membership remains at the capped level.

At the 2025 Squash AGM, membership was reported at 687 (adult) and 426 (junior). The adult figure included 205 squash & tennis members. All juniors are members of both sections, with the majority having a tennis preference.

One of the key objectives in recent years has been to grow female membership. This grew 1% last year and is now at its highest-level post Covid, with opportunities including Mimosa and a variety of programmes for both new and more experienced players at both squash and racketball. This remains a core focus for the committee.

England Squash changed its membership model in late 2024 to a direct model with members individually; previously ES membership was arranged at club level. This has led to significant annual savings for the club. All team players and members/juniors who need ES membership for club representation and tournaments/competitions have signed up with ES directly following excellent internal communications.

We held our annual Squash Handicap tournament in November with Jason Pike overcoming Ross Harrison in the main final 3/2 and Luke Bloodworth beating Mat Holt in the Plate final 3/1 – the event raised £800 for the LLTSC Charity of the Year.

## 4. Events Hosted

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

- Warwickshire Junior Grand Prix, 19 May 2024

- PSA Foundation - Squash Tourism Charity Event, 7 June 2024
- ES Junior 7A Copper Open, 9 June 2024

- ES Aspire Regional Championships – June 2024
- 2024 Club Squash Championship Finals - 29 June 2024
- National Club Championship matches – 2024 and 2025
- Women's Squash Week Event, special guest Q&A with Sarah Jane Perry - 21 September 2024
- 2024 Club Racketball Champs - 19 October 2024
- 2024 Club Squash Handicap Tournament - 23 November 2024
- Internal Teams League Finals – November 2024
- Warwickshire Junior County Mini Grand Prix - 12 January 2025
- Optasia Squash Super League: Leamington Royals vs Bristol Buccaneers - 17 January 2025
- Optasia Squash Super League: Leamington Royals vs Coolhurst Cavaliers – March 2025
- ES Nationals School Championships- Stage 2 KS4 Boys - 30 January 2025
- 2025 Club Masters and Juniors Championships – March 2025; first club juniors champs for many years
  - Fire Service – annual champs 2025 Festival of Squash – March 2025
  - Masters ICC Squash Stage 1 – March 2025
- Empower Squash Foundation started 09/2022 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

## 5. Juniors Successes

- 1-2 June 2024 ES National Club Championships 2023-24, Sheffield – Well done to Sam Cross, Harry Mander and Charlotte Pickering who represented our junior team and finished runners up.
- 29 June Squash Club Championships 2024 – Ladies B Grade winner Heidi Cross; Open B grade runner up Sam Evans.
- 27-28 July Finchley Manor Open 2024, London – Sam Cross was winner of the A Grade event.
- 21-22 September 2024 Warwickshire Junior Championships, Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club – Sam Cross was winner of both the BU17 and BU19 titles.
- 10 November 2024 Harrow Bronze Junior Event, Harrow Squash Club – Heidi Cross was the GU15 winner.
- 16-17 November 2024-25 ES Junior Inter-County Championships- Stage 1- We had the following 12 juniors compete for our county in Stage 1: BU11 Team – Alden Hadfield; BU13 Team – Harris Kirtland; Oliver Tatham, Pavlov Kavouras, Joseph Gray; BU15 Team – Ethan Charsley; GU15 Team – Hannah Davis; BU17 Team – Sam Cross, Jonny Mothersdale; GU17 Team – Heidi Cross, Charlotte Pickering; BU19 Team - Harry Mander.
- ES National Schools Championships 2024-25 - KS3, KS4 and KS5 teams for North Leamington School entered the competition with 18 of our juniors. KS3 Div 2 only had one Stage on 29th January and NLS put out 2 teams of 3 with our juniors who won! KS4 and KS5 Div 1 teams each progressed to Stage 2 of the competition in January, but unfortunately did not make it to the finals this year. KS3 Teams in Div 2: Ethan Charsley, Tom Beart, Gabe Penton, Oliver Tatham, Finn O'Brien, Seb Wilding, Ben Dolan. KS4 Div 1 Boys Team: Sam Cross, Sam Evans, Dominic Keenan, Joseph Gray, Heidi Cross. KS5 Team: Sam Cross, Sam Evans, Daniel Stone, Charlotte Pickering, Tom Harper.
- 28 December 2024 ES Northants Junior Open Bronze Event, Daventry Squash Club – Heidi Cross was the GU15 winner.
- 16 February 2025 ES Bronze Junior Event, Racquets Centre, Thame – Harris Kirtland was BU13 winner and Heidi Cross was GU15 winner
  - Club Junior Championships March 2025 – congratulations to all our winners: Sam Cross (Open A; runner up Jacob Ellis), Charlotte Pickering (Girls; runner up Heidi Cross), Harris Kirtland and Josh Barnes (Open B), Harris Kirtland (Open C), Alden Hadfield (Open D), Margarita Makris (Girls B) and Georgia Makris (Girls C)



- ES Junior ICC March 2025 – congratulations to all those getting to Finals weekend: Harry Mander (BU19B – 5th), Sam Cross (BU17A – 2nd), Charlotte Pickering (GU17A - 3rd), Hannah Davies (GU15C – Plate 4th), Harris Kirtland and Joseph Gray (BU13A – 4th) and Alden Hadfield (BU11B – 6th)
- Congratulations to Sam Cross who took part in his first PSA graded tournaments and represented Leamington Royals as Club Hero vs Coolhurst Cavaliers (and will do against St George's Hill Knights) • We have also supported a new program driven by the Warwickshire Junior Coach to provide teams match play on certain Sundays for those starting their squash journey – we have sent teams over to support and participate in this program which dovetails with our own junior match play sessions in term time

## 6. Adult Successes

- 18-19 May 2024 Master ICC Finals, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club and Stourbridge Lawn Tennis & Squash Club– Well done to Jason Pike, Howard Lancashire, Robbie Fortune, Tom Robinson and the Men's O35 team who placed 1st
- 1-2 June 2024 ES National Club Championships 2023-24, Sheffield – Leamington were crowned national champions for the first time in the Men's final against Surbiton. The men's team included club coach Jason Pike and member Howard Lancashire; many thanks to Dan Bradbury for his sponsorship/support
- 5-9 June, The British Open Masters Squash Championships 2024, Birmingham – Congratulations to Leonie Holt who was the Women's O35 champion
- 29 June Squash Club Championships 2024 – Open A Grade – winner Howard Lancashire, runner up Dan Haggarty; Ladies A Grade - winner Becky Symmons, runner up Libby Corke; Ladies B Grade - winner Heidi Cross, runner up Elena Makris; Open B grade- winner Nichola Howell-Manning, runner up Sam Evans; Open C Grade - winner Oliver Went, runner up Avinash Mathapati; Open D grade – winner Nathan Seneviratne, runner up Mike Bridge
- 6 July 2024 UK Racketball Series Event 6 West of England Racketball Open, LLTSC – Congratulations to Ladies winner - Rebecca Symmons and A Grade runner up - Jason Pike.
- 20-21 July 2024 British Racketball National Championships, Edgbaston – Jason Pike placed runner up in the Men's O35
- 4-7 September 2024 European Club Championships, Roehampton Club, London – The team included coach Jason Pike and member Howard Lancashire and placed 4th overall out of 11 clubs playing in the Men's Teams. This was the first time our club played in the finals as winners of the National Club Championships; again, thanks for Dan Bradbury for his sponsorship
- 19 October, Club Racketball Championships 2024 –A Grade Final– winner Jason Pike, runner up Howard Lancashire; B Grade Final –winner David Boothroyd, runner up Courtney Downing; C Grade Final – winner Sam Blundell, runner up Tommy Arnold; Ladies A Grade Final – winner Rebecca Symmons, runner up Sophie Sawyer; Ladies B Grade Final – winner Zoe Ross, runner up Nicola Richard
- 30 November 2024 UK Racketball Series Finals and National Racketball Doubles, Stourbridge – Rebecca Symmons was crowned Ladies champion and also won the Open B Grade.
- 25-26 January 2025 Warwickshire Closed Squash Championships, Kenilworth Tennis, Squash and Croquet Club – Avinash Mathapati placed runner up in the D Grade; Jon Chambers was winner in the E Grade. • Irish National Championships – Feb 2025; Aimee McConnell finished 4th
- Master ICC Finals April 2025 – Warwickshire O35s placed 6th in the Finals - Howard Lancashire, Mat Holt, Tom Robinson participated; O45s placed 5th – Graham Stanford played; O50s Ladies placed 3rd – Ginny Lee played
- Club Masters Championships – March 2025; congratulations to our winners: Geoff Redfern (O65), Andy Whyte (O55), Graham Stanford (O45) and Jason Pike (O35)
- British National Masters (Feb 2025) - Nick Staunton placed ¾ in O50s; Geoff Redfern placed ¾ in O70s • ES Senior ICC March 2025 – Ladies Premier: Warwickshire 3rd with Leonie Holt and

- Home Internationals – congratulations to Geoff Redfern (England O70s) and Roger More (England O75s)
- European Team Championships – Wroclaw, Poland; many congratulations to Aimee McConnell who was part of Ireland's bronze medal winning team in Division
- In Men's Division 1, club players Owain Taylor and Rory Richmond represented Wales and Scotland respectively; Wales finished 8th (Owain played at #1 in the absence of Joel Makin) and Scotland finished 5th
- Rory Richmond also won Scottish U23 championships in 2025

- Winter League 2024/25 - was always going to be a tough year after multiple promotions last year and other clubs investing heavily in pros; once again we were the only club to put out 6 teams; the Racketball team were again crowned champions after a massive last match tussle with Cleaver; the 3s, 4s and 5s were all relegated whilst 6s just missed out on promotion
- Ladies Winter League 2024– The ladies 2nd team were champions in Division 2 and were promoted to Division 1. We are one of only two clubs in the county who have 2 teams entered in the league thanks to a great number of female players at our club
- Ladies Spring League 2025 – both teams played well achieving 2nd and 4th respectively

Team Summer League 2024 Winter League 2024/2025/Ladies 24 Spring Ladies 25

**Ladies' 2<sup>nd</sup> Team 1<sup>st</sup> (Div2) - champions/ 4<sup>th</sup> (Div 1)**  
**promoted**

Thank you to Sebastien Barth of C4 Logistics for providing the Team kit. This year marks a decade of support! Seb was presented with a Euro Clubs shirt as a gesture of our gratitude.

Mix-ins provide a great and inclusive opportunity for new and existing members of all abilities to meet, learn about the club, and socialise. Social squash is the lifeblood of our club, attracting and retaining 80-90% of our members. Our thriving membership and recent survey indicate very good overall satisfaction scores, but we continue to strive to improve the member experience for the majority.

- Leamington Box Leagues continue to grow with many females and juniors participating in the leagues. We currently have over 200 players in our boxes
- Continuation of popular and regular social mix-ins: Sunday Morning Mix-in from 10:30-12:00; Mon Morning Mix-in from 9:30-10:30; Wednesday Afternoon Racketball from 12:30-13:30; Friday Club Night Mix-in from 18:30-20:00; Saturday Racketball Afternoon Mix-in from 16:30-18:00

- Junior Match Play Sessions, 15:00-16:30 Sundays. These sessions help juniors get more experience and confidence when it comes to playing matches
- MIMOSAs/ Ladies Monthly Mix ins and Female Teen Monthly Mix ins - now merged into one MIMOSAs/Ladies Monthly Mix in session as all the female teens were participating in the adult sessions - these sessions play an important role in integrating our current and prospective female members into the club, and for continuing to grow our female membership
- Continuation of popular Internal Team Leagues – new format in 2025 being fortnightly from early June with a 7-week break for the summer holidays – sponsored this year by Courtney Downing Estates
- Club Masters Championships – this year was coupled with Club Junior Championships in March 2025
- Squash Club Championships –the finals will take place on 7 June with celebrations; sponsored by Leamington Spa Cleaning Services
- Club Racketball Championships – the finals are scheduled for 18 October
- Annual Squash Handicap tournament – finals scheduled for 22 November

## 9. Coaching

- Head Coach Jason Pike had a busy and successful year. Although we bade farewell to assistant coach Alex Davison, who is now pursuing music production and a master's degree in astrophysics, we welcomed Luke Halliwell from St. Ives, Cambridgeshire in September 2024. Luke has been a superb addition, helping to meet the high demand for adult and junior coaching
- The Junior Coaching Programme currently has >100 juniors, with more than 30 receiving regular individual coaching. There are > 20 juniors in the box leagues including a number of females, and 12 juniors in adult squash teams, with 4 females
- We maintain strong relationships with local schools like Brookhurst and Milverton Primary Schools and Arnold Lodge. We hosted North Leamington School National Schools Championship matches, with many of our juniors participating
- New groups like Squash Fit, Squash Tots, and Ladies beginner sessions have been introduced to meet our diverse community's needs and grow areas of our membership
- We have re-introduced a Performance Group for juniors aiming to play more regularly and compete in internal and external competitions, currently involving c10 players with plans to grow
- Sunday afternoons also sees the second year of our Junior Matchplay sessions designed to give those new to tournaments some matchplay experience

Thank you to our sponsor, Ascent Financial Consultants, for their continued sponsorship of the T-shirts for our entire Junior programme; these T-shirts inspire our juniors and make them proud to be part of our squash community.

## 10. Special Events 2024/25

The main event this year was joining the 2024-25 Optasia Squash Super League (SSL) in its inaugural season, bringing world class squash to local communities mainly on a Friday evening. The Leamington Royals are one of 6 teams in the SSL with the format being 6 pool games (3 home/3 away) with the top 2 teams going to Finals night on Friday 20 June at Winchester.

All matches are streamed live globally via Squash TV and tickets sold out very quickly for all 3 home games. At the time of writing the Leamington Royals sit 2nd in the table with a game in hand on Chichester Centurions, who have already qualified for Finals. The Royals are the only unbeaten team in the SSL and will reach Finals night, if they manage a 3-1 loss (or better) against St George's Hill Knights on 29 May.

Each game is made up of 4 matches Bo3, sudden death at 10 all – matches at Male Pro, Female Pro, U25 (flips between Male and Female) and Club Hero levels. The Leamington Royals have been/will be represented in the pool matches by:

- Male Pros – Victor Crouin (European Champion and Top 15) and Declan James

- Female Pros – Satomi Watanabe (Top 10) and Lucy Turmel
- U25 male – Sam Osborne-Wylde and Ben Smith
- U25 female – Mariam Eissa, Olivia Besant and Saran Nghiem
- Club heroes – Sam Cross, Owain Taylor, Rory Richmond and Ben Smith

This was a funded project; huge thanks go to our sponsors Napton Cidery (Jolyon Olivier) and Arrow Precision Engineering (Tommy Arnold) and to LLTSC for supporting the cost of annual software TV licence/maintenance fees and contributing towards the cost of food on home match nights.

All Royals players have been involved in coaching club members on home match nights and our 'nearest the Tee' fundraiser has been 'nicked' by other clubs!!

## 11. Sponsors

Huge thank you to all our sponsors over the past 12 months: Ascent Financial Consulting, Leamington Spa Cleaning Services, PB Forestry, Peter Staunton, C4 Logistics, Courtney Downing Estates, Leamington Kitchen Company, Dan Bradbury and (for SSL purposes) Napton Cidery and Arrow Precision Engineering. This sponsorship helps fund facility improvements, junior programmes, various activities and events, enabling us to deliver what members want, while keeping fees low. We look forward to our continued relationship.

Guy Mander (Squash Chair)  
On behalf of the Squash Committee

## APPENDIX 3 - FULL TENNIS REPORT

### Section Reports - Supporting Information

#### 1. Social Tennis (Ted Carron)

The major social events that the committee were involved with last year were:

Club nights - Introduced new balls every week which have greatly improved the experience. Attendance over the winter was surprisingly strong and has been maxing out the courts so far this summer. Things should be easier this summer than last as WBC are not using our courts to play their home matches.

Beer Tournament - This was as successful as always. We had 50 players and a BBQ. The coaches joined in. This year's event is currently in the planning stages.

Sunday League - We ran the league twice over the winter and have started the summer iteration this year. We have settled down to an attendance of around 40-60 people in the winter and 60-80 in the summer. This summer's iteration is unusual in that it will comprise 9 fixtures to encompass the whole of summer rather than the normal 6

Bowen Bowl - Leamington hosted in 2024 and won convincingly with two teams of 24.

#### 2. Teams (Jake Adams)

The winter season has just finished and we had another successful season. The ladies 4th and 5th team were promoted with the 4th winning their division. The Men's A Vets team won the premier division title with the victory coming down to the last game/rubber!

All the men's summer teams stayed in their respective divisions. This means we still have 4 teams across the top 2 divisions.

The ladies 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Summer teams won their divisions and were promoted. The ladies 1st, 3rd and 5th stayed in their divisions. We have 3 ladies teams across the top 3 divisions which is better than

any other club in the leagues.

The men's and ladies regional teams both stayed up and our Men's B team narrowly missed out on promotion in a playoff to the regional league.

We had a over 100 players attend our team trials including a record amount of juniors. The summer season has just begun and we now have 7 men's teams playing alongside our 5 ladies teams. The 7th team have entered the SWASS summer league and are playing their home matches on a Sunday morning. Hopefully we will have another successful summer

In addition to these teams, the club has entered a new regional Spring/Summer Seniors Over 55's competition. Matches will be played against many other clubs in the West Midlands - over 20 clubs expressed an interest in putting together teams.

### 3. Coaching (Tony Pillinger)

The programme still has over 300 children attending per week plus another 100 on our school linked club programme. Miguel's adult coaching programme is thriving too with huge demand for his beginner to advanced group sessions.

Ferran guaranteed a place at junior Wimbledon by winning the British Junior Doubles' title in April. He has accepted a place at a university in California which he will start in January 2026.

### 4. Club Championships

The club Championships attracted over 170 entrants. A detailed breakdown of winners can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19QP1TYcTz/>

Notable winners include Men's Singles - Ferran Redza and Ladies' Singles - Lucie Butler

Congratulations to winners (and losers..). Thanks to Tony for his effort in the smooth running of the event.

### 5. Facilities Maintenance

In order to improve court longevity and maintain a reasonable to good playing surface the club has begun a program of annual court remedial repairs and maintenance. Many other high-end clubs in the region, notably, Edgbaston have the same program of works - so we are in good company! The impact to court availability will be minimised as works will be performed in blocks during daytime hrs. It is hoped that in particular, the performance/clay courts will be greatly improved in time for the Grade 3 tournaments in the summer.

### 6. Ladders

A new, digital ladders' league platform was introduced this time last year. Our esteemed organiser (Nick Seale), requested the club implement a streamlined system to reduce his work load each month. This has been a success - 15 hrs per month has been reduced to about an hr a month of work. Nick, has finally decided to put away his paper and pen and pass the baton onto another! The tennis section and the club thanks Nick for his work over the past 20 years and we're delighted that he left the program in rude health AND easy to operate!!! We have found a replacement for Nick in Irene Marcias who we thank for taking this on and hope the workload continues to be 'light.'

### 7. Walking Tennis

The LTA is keen to get people back onto the court. Walking tennis is partly aimed at people with limited mobility (for example those returning from operations or with physical ailments that would otherwise preclude them from the standard game). Furthermore, for players needing a little more time getting used to a racquet, the sessions offer a gentle and social introduction to the game. Sessions are

currently advertised across the club. Our thanks to Susan Hopcroft for pushing this item through to implementation!

## 8. Court Bookings

The club is at maximum capacity: we are close to the maximum membership recommended by the LTA for a facility of our size (12 courts). As such, court pressure has become acute, particularly in the Spring and Summer season. The committee has undertaken a deep dive analysis of the court booking data to understand member booking behaviours;

Conclusion: across the year, c.a. 20% of all astro court bookings at peak day and evening times are cancelled within 72hrs of match time - the majority of these cancellations occur on the day of play. Many of these courts are empty at the allotted time. This is not limited to a few members - the data shows a significant number of members cancel multiple 'peak time courts' over the course of a year. Therefore, the committee took the decision to limit court bookings to 4 live bookings per player. The trial period started in April and is due for review at the end of May 2025. If the data from this trial period shows a marked decrease in late cancellations compared with this time 2024, the committee hope to be able to relax the court restrictions. We ask all members book considerately and reiterate the message in our communication - please do not book courts if you have not confirmed a time and day with your playing partner.

John Harper (Tennis Chair)  
On behalf of the Tennis Committee