

# Stirling Lawn Tennis and Squash Club Annual Report 2022

## Presidents Report (Lesley Greenaway)

As the club has emerged from Covid we find that we are in a good place.

The membership has held up well and indeed has increased, including seeing a rise in the number of squash members. I would like to thank our membership who have supported the club through the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

I would also like to thank all the committee members, without their goodwill, time and support the club could not operate. We are looking forward to some exciting developments over the next year and would welcome members to consider how they can help the club.

Committee members have provided a more detailed summary of club activities below. I would like to draw attention to some key developments from the year: some are already seen and felt, and others are in the making:

- The introduction of the new gate has meant that members have easier access to the club and there is increased security as the gate closes automatically. The new gate has also enabled us to take the steps to becoming more available for public use through pay-and-play. This is not only a source of income for the future, but also opens up the potential for new members and community use.
- The development of plans to refurbish the clubhouse are taking shape, and hopefully we will see practical progress towards the end of the year.
- The start of a new relationship with Mark Walker Tennis to provide a coaching programme for children, young people and adults. This is a very exciting development for the club and for members.
- The continuing requirements for the club to ensure that we comply with and have good safeguarding practice. This is no small task, and we are fortunate to have the services of Dominic to keep us straight.
- And of course, the continued maintenance of the courts to such a high standard.

## Secretary's Report (Scott McMillan)

During the year the committee has been reviewing membership categories, membership payment, and fees for 2022 and make the following proposals:

### 2022 Membership Categories

- Reduce number of membership categories from 22 to 14 in 2022
- Remove Corporate, Country (x3) and Restricted categories (x3); Combine Student and Unwaged
- Reduce Senior combined and tennis to offset removal of Restricted; increase Senior Squash as currently out of line with other squash to tennis rate differences – aligned with Adult Squash to Adult Tennis % increase.

### 2022 Membership payments

- Allow membership renewals via GoCardless. Cost is 1.8% + 20p per transaction (capped to a maximum of £4.00).
- Allow direct debit/standing order payments over 12 months (currently 6 months).
- Propose a membership increase of 2% for 2022.

### **Membership categories 2022 – see next page**

Category	Detail	2021 #	2021 Cost	Comment	Fee > of 2%	2022 Cost
2021 Adult Combined	Tennis and squash, age 26 - 64	16	194		+3.88	198
2021 Adult Squash	Squash only, age 26 - 64	21	153		+3.06	156
2021 ADULT TENNIS	Tennis only, age 26 - 64	29	184		+3.68	188
2021 Associate	Non- member hitting partner	18	41		+0.82	42
2021 Corporate	Group membership from same company	2	122	Remove corporate	-	
2021 Country Tennis	Tennis only, residing more than 25 miles from the Club	2	112	Remove country categories	-	
2021 Family Combined	Family membership includes tennis & squash	14	388		+7.76	396
2021 Honorary	Free membership/ coaches	16	0		0	
2021 Junior Primary School	Junior member still at Primary school	47	41		+0.82	42
2021 Junior Secondary School	Junior member still at Secondary school	20	41		+0.82	42
2021 Restricted Squash		2	102	Remove all restricted	-	
2021 Restricted Tennis		18	112		-	
2021 Senior Combined	Tennis and squash, Age 65+	1	173	Reduce to offset restricted removal	-29	144
2021 Senior Squash	Squash only, age 65+	1	102	Adjust so same proportionate difference as adult.	+10	112
2021 Senior Tennis	Tennis only, 65+	12	163	Reduce to offset restricted removal	-28	135
2021 Student	Full time student	12	61	Combine	1.22	62
2021 Unwaged	Unemployed	8	61			
2021 Young Adult Combined	Tennis and squash, age 18 - 25	4	97		1.94	99
2021 Young Adult Squash	Squash only, age 18 - 25	1	77		1.54	79
2021 Young Adult Tennis	Tennis only, age 18 - 25	4	92		1.84	94
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>248</b>				

## Treasurer's Report (Moyra McKeand)

Annual accounts will be distributed for agreement at the meeting.

### Clubhouse Renovations (Paul Barnes)

2021 saw the Committee considering options for upgrading the clubhouse. The committee is working in partnership with Jane Nelson Interiors (JNI) and created an initial list of potential options to improve club-house facilities. An initial best estimated high-level costing was produced that has allowed the committee to consider the funding required.

At a members' meeting in November in the clubhouse draft plans and a potential budget were outlined.

Based on the (draft) accounts for 2020/21 the following funding was proposed:

Proposed use of Club Funds	Allocation of future cash surplus (£)*					Total	Narrative
	30/11/2021	Nov-22	Nov-23	Nov-24	Nov-24		
<b>Funding area</b>							
Courts replacement	40,000	4000				44,000	Expected replacement cost is £44k - funding would be in place at least 3 years before courts expected to be replaced
Flat Roof Fund	7,000	2000	2000	2000	2000	15,000	Build of fund
Emergency Repairs	10,000					10,000	Maintain emergency fund
Club-house refurb	30,000	2000	6000	6000	6000	50,000	This money would be spent over the next 4 years
Balance of expected surplus						-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>119,000</b>	If we spent the full club house refurb budget of £50k, we would expect our bank balance at the end of November 2024 to be c£69k
*Future cash surplus limited to £8k pa (prudent approach) - this is after all normal club spend including the usual repairs and maintenance costs							

JNI has engaged a local architect on behalf of the club to produce formal drawing / plans for final agreement and which will be used for the necessary planning permissions and warrants.

There will likely be 3 tranches of work:

Tranche 1 – focussing on internal club house renovations including amalgamating the main club-house room and the committee room; new kitchen; complete redecoration and new flooring; new UPVC double patio doors replacing one of the windows in the main club house room; moving and upgrading the radiators; a new (wider access) UPVC door to replace the current emergency exit door from the committee room

Tranche 2 – external focus including replacement of slabs to the front and side of the club house with a new safety rubberised surface and the potential creation of a small canopy across the front of the club house

Tranche 3 – the creation of a new (likely externally accessed) disabled access changing room, shower and toilet

The committee will seek a number of estimates for this work based on the formal plans and a work requirement document that will be created by JNI. These estimates will then determine the speed at which the work can be completed based on the funds allocated. We would hope that work can start later in 2022 dependent on the availability of tradesmen.

The committee is actively seeking out grants or funding opportunities and will shortly also consider sponsorship options.

## Tennis Convenor's report including coaching update (Chris Speirs)

It was another stop start year however all things considered a lot of tennis was played with a full club championship and league matches completed. The biggest and most exciting development was the appointment of our new coach – Mark Walker

Starting with this new appointment, Mark Walker and his team joined us at the end of last year having been instrumental in the development of a great coaching programme at Dunblane. We are very excited by what the future holds, and we have already seen great strides being made in the short time he has been involved despite the time of year. There will be an abundance of coaching available through the upcoming year for all ages and levels – if interested please reach out to Mark directly.

Secondly, we had a great Club Championships with the biggest entry list for years. It was great to see the level of usage on the courts throughout the summer months. Final's day was on the 12<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you to everyone who took part and those that came along on finals days to assist (within restrictions obviously!). Results were:

Club Champs 2021	Winner (s)	Runner (s) Up
Ladies Singles	Janet Brown	Gill Young
Ladies Doubles	Jan Hill and Fiona Dempster	Adrienne Cioarec and Wendy Hamlet
Ladies Plate	Adrienne Cioarec	Anna Duff
Mixed Doubles	Ian Carmichael & Wendy Hamlet	Alistair Paterson and Fiona Dempster
Mens Singles	Alex Machray	Ewan McMurray
Mens Doubles	Duncan Scott and Andy Hendry	Ryan McCurry and Chris Speirs
Mens Plate	Scott McMillan	Gordon Campbell
Under 18s	Dylan Graham	Elliot Graham
Under 13s	Hector Fisher-Wingate	Tom MacKay

A special mention must go to Ian Carmichael, who by winning the Mixed Doubles meant he has now won a trophy in 6 different decades – remarkable – watch out for him in the 2030 tournament!!

In the leagues, we had two Gents team, a Ladies Team, two Junior Teams. It wasn't the usual leagues so there was no promotion or relegation, but it was just great to get playing inter club matches again and a lot of fun was had by all. We also had two Autumn Leagues in the summer. Thanks to all those that played and all the Captains that helped organise all the matches.

Over the winter we have continued to run ladders for both men's and ladies and mixed doubles as well – thanks to Ally for arranging these.

The O55s continue to flourish, and we currently have an extremely strong and active group who gather in significant numbers on a Monday/Wednesday and greatly enjoy the physical and mental lift they get. We had 22 down one morning a couple of weeks ago with numbers averaging around 15 on most days.

Finally, as we look forward to 2022, I just wanted to share a snapshot of what to look forward to. We will be entering teams into the leagues with the captains as per below – if you are interested in playing, please let the captains know

Gents 1 – Chris Speirs

Gents 2 – Scott McMillan

Gents 3 – Ian Bray

Gents Singles – Chris Speirs

Ladies 1 – Fiona Horne

Ladies 2 – Anna Duff

Over 55s – Moira Paterson

Junior U16s – Graham Melville

In terms of Club Championships. Entries will open at the start of April with matches commencing in May. Final's day provisional date is Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Finally, we will be hosting an open day at some point in the spring – please look out for that as be great to see as many of you there as possible

That's it from me – has been a really good year with lots of encouraging progress and am very excited for 2022 especially with Mark now on board.

### **Squash/Racketball Convenor's Report (Donald Rodger)**

The club has seen a few new squash members this year, which has been really encouraging, especially given covid restrictions

Squash and racketball has continued to be restricted by Covid over the year, but we have hopefully seen the back of it now.

We did manage to play our 2021 -22 Racketball Tournament in October and November. Ian Bray won the plate competition beating Ewen Logan. Chris Speirs won the Championship beating Lee Masson. We had 12 entrants in the tournament.

Because of a restriction in playing after Christmas and over the month of January, the Annual Squash Tournament was delayed. We are now in the quarter-final stages and hope to have the tournament finished by the end of March. We had 18 entrants in the tournament.

The club continues to have a team playing in the Crieff and District League. We are bottom of the league only having won one match this season. We have many keen players willing to play and always manage to give our opponents a game. Getting our top team out is a rarity due to people's availability.

For the first time in many years, we ran a Racqueton tournament. Racqueton consists of table tennis, squash (or racketball), and tennis. Each player plays every other player at each sport, the winner being the player with the highest cumulative score. For the first time ever, we ran a ladies event. It was very successful and a fun afternoon. Runner up in ladies' event was Fiona Horne, and winner was Wendy Hamlet. Runner up in gents was Luke Harvey, and winner was Rob Ainsley. We hope to repeat the event in May

### **Welfare Officer's Report (Dominic Gillen)**

In order to be an LTA registered venue SLTSC must appoint a Welfare Officer and comply with the Safeguarding Standards of the LTA.

In 2021 we were the subject of a safeguarding audit by Tennis Scotland. This involved a review of our safeguarding policies and, more importantly, practice. It also involved a survey of members and thanks to those who contributed to that. We passed the audit in August 2021.

The Welfare Officer must undertake regular Safeguarding training. I am up to date with this. I also participate in Welfare Officer fora, and I am a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme.

Our Safeguarding policy requires all coaches at the club to be LTA approved. This requires them to have completed Safeguarding training and to comply with the LTA Code of Practice in Working with Children. I regularly independently check that the coaches are registered and liaise with Mark Walker Tennis on this.

Beyond formal checks and policies, the role requires the Welfare Officer to raise wider safeguarding issues and awareness of these. There is a Safeguarding section on the website and my contact details are on the noticeboard.

The design of the clubhouse, especially the location of the male toilets, is far from ideal. We have discussed this at length at committee and have put in place some mitigating measures such as shower curtains. The proposed refurbishment should address this further.

#### **Actions for 2022/23:**

- Attend training and Welfare Officer fora
- Update policies and procedures as required
- Update PVG membership as required and ensure volunteers are part of this Scheme and are aware of and follow the LTA Code of Practice.
- Continue to liaise with Mark Walker Tennis on safeguarding matters as detailed above
- Attend committee meetings to report on Safeguarding matters and ensure that Safeguarding is considered in all relevant areas of the Club's activity

#### **Ground's Convenor's Report (Mark Worsley)**

The tennis court surface will be 9 years old this year so has 4 more years predicted lifespan. Following regular maintenance, the surface remains in good condition with minimal wear and moss infiltration around the periphery is under control. The contractor who does 6 monthly 'deep maintenance' provides an inspection report at each visit which remains satisfactory.

As the projected replacement approaches, the club's position remains that it should be re-laid with another artificial grass surface when the time comes.

The net poles continue to lean in, so the cooperation of players who slacken the nets after play is appreciated. As long as there is no dramatic deterioration the plan is to have this repaired when the carpet is re-laid.

The sinking fund for court replacement should be maintained as the anticipated cost (including net post repair) will be around £43000 + VAT.

Many thanks to those who have given me valued assistance over the past year, particularly Chris Pearson, Dominic Gillen, Jim Brown & George Machray.

#### **Social Convenor's Report (Fiona Paterson)**

Over the past year club social events have been outdoor with limited access to the clubhouse.

In July our first social event was an American Tournament followed by a Barbecue. Graham's organisational skills came to the fore matching up the pairs of players with some very advantageous handicaps! Mark donned his chef's hat cooking the burgers to perfection while club members produced delicious salads. All this took place in beautiful sunshine!

After the success of the American Tournament in July, Graham was called upon again in early September to organise another American Tournament with afternoon tea on offer throughout the afternoon. Club members provided sandwiches and home baking - always a hit!

The Club Championships in September were well supported by club members, and we were treated to some very exciting tennis. Club members provided home bakes and all attendees were persuaded to part with a donation for indulging in the goodies.

A huge thanks to everyone who has supported these events in whatever way!