

Stirling Lawn Tennis and Squash Club Annual Report 2022

Presidents Report (Lesley Greenaway)

For me, 2022/23 has been a good year for seeing continued growth in our membership, increased use of the courts, expansion of our coaching programme including a successful schools' programme, Tennis Festival and Open Day, and our squash membership has continued to expand. We continue to meet and go beyond the LTA safeguarding and club registration requirements. And the high quality of our courts continues to be one of our star assets along with being a very friendly and welcoming club.

It has also been a challenging year. We have had to revisit our plans for the proposed clubhouse refurbishment, costs have become prohibitively high and finding a contractor has been difficult. In addition, we have been experiencing high maintenance costs as our building ages.

We aim to be financially prudent, with money put aside to cover most eventualities, but we are subject to the increases in utility costs which will put pressure on our finances.

Committee members have provided a more detailed summary of club activities below and we look forward to discussing the detail with members.

I would like to thank all the Committee Members, without their goodwill, time and support the club could not operate. We are optimistic for 2023, we are looking forward to seeing our plans for the clubhouse come to fruition and we are looking forward to another action-packed year.

We welcome members ideas and offers to support and contribute to the club. Do not be shy in offering your services 😊.

Treasurer's Report (Moyra McKeand)

Annual Accounts will be distributed at the meeting.

The key points are:

- Subscription Income is up to just over £22k reflecting a growth in membership
- Coaching income is down reflecting our migration to Mark Walker tennis - we do however expect FY22/23 income to recover to previous year's levels.
- Fees associated with the club house refurbishment project (£2k) have been held on the balance sheet as with Fixed Assets as Work in Progress and the cost will be depreciated once the Project is completed.
- Utility costs have increased to over £5k - our fixed rate period will shortly end so we can expect utility costs to rise further in FY 22/23
- Repairs and maintenance costs have increased significantly to over £5k - this reflects the lack of investment in our buildings. Additionally, since the Year end, we have had additional costs relating to water and drainage issues and a further roof leakage.
- As a result of these additional costs, we made a small profit of £1800 with our cash balance increasing to just under £90k.

We are required to hold a courts replacement sinking fund which now sits at £45k - this will be increased to £50k at the end of FY 22/23 which is the expected replacement cost - however we would not expect to have to replace the courts for another 3-4 years which will delay the cash expenditure.

Finally, we have been in conversation with the Spittal Trust, through whom we lease the Grounds for our club. The good news is that they are offering a further 25 years extension to our lease, when

the existing lease runs out in 2025. However, we will also see a 25% rent increase every 5 years during this period. Whilst this feels substantive, we believe this is still substantially below a true market rent. Final discussions are ongoing.

Our accounts therefore set the scene for the discussion later in our AGM on fee setting and income generation for the club house refurbishment project. Costs for the club are increasing and as we know inflation is running at around 10%. These facts must be considered within this year's fee setting proposal.

Clubhouse Renovations (Paul Barnes)

We have not been able to progress our plans as quickly as we would like, in the main due to contractor availability and for the estimate we received, the costs were significantly higher than anticipated.

In addition to this, we have also made the decision that our refurbishment must address issues with the core fabric of the club to mitigate some of the repairs and maintenance costs we are seeing and to improve our energy usage and efficiency.

As such, we have updated our plans as follows (and these are now with Stirling Council for building warrant approval):

Phase 1

- Replacement / upgrade of the Flat Roof above the clubhouse
- Replacement of our boiler and upgrade to the heating system (to one singular system) including updating where necessary radiators
- Internal upgrade to the main club house area as previously outlined although there will now be only 1 patio door exit to the courts with the other window replaced. The Committee room emergency door will also be replaced to enable better disabled access to the club house.

Phase 2 (which may be done in conjunction with Phase 1 if funds allow)

- Replacing the concrete slabs from the entry gate to the end of the club house with a new safety surface including the installation of a new drainage system

Phase 3 (which at this point is not included within our plans submission)

- the creation of the externally accessed disabled changing room, toilet and shower area

Possible future phases

- development of the BBQ / picnic area to the RHS of the club house including additional safety surface

None of the work in Phase 2 or 3 hinders or would require any re-work once we are able to fund Phases 2 and 3.

At this point we have a maximum budget of between £35 and £40k - we can increase this if we dip into tennis court replacement fund if we feel appropriate (assuming we believe we will continue to deliver future positive cash inflows); look at fundraising and/or Sponsorship opportunities; consider a further LTA loan and continue to look for and apply for grants.

In terms of timelines, JNI expects to have updated our schedule of work by the time of the AGM and go out for tenders. We do have enough recommended contractors. It is still very hard to say when work may commence.

Secretary's Report (Scott McMillan)

2022 Membership numbers in line with 2021/22 season.

Category	2022/23	2021/22	Difference
2022 Adult Combined	19	16	3
2022 Adult Squash	23	17	6
2022 ADULT TENNIS	31	29	2
2022 Associate	10	18	-8
2022 Family Combined	18	14	4
2022 Honorary	15	13	2
2022 Junior Primary School	42	45	-3
2022 Junior Secondary School	19	20	-1
2022 Senior Combined	2	1	1
2022 Senior Squash	2	1	1
2022 Senior Tennis*	38	12	26
2022 Student / Unwaged	12	20	-8
2022 Young Adult Combined	7	4	3
2022 Young Adult Squash	1	1	0
2022 Young Adult Tennis	3	3	0
Other (corporate, country, restricted)		24	-24
Grand Total	242	238	4

*Increased senior offset removal of restricted/ country categories.

2023 fees

Whilst membership numbers remain healthy, the increase in our cost base is now running well ahead of subscription income. Utility costs are up by c£1500 (44%) year on year (our fixed rate deal ends in mid-2023); Rent and Insurance is up almost £800 (23%) and our spend on repairs and maintenance is over £3000 up on last year - and whilst our proposals to refurbish the club house should help us reduce this cost, we expect repair and maintenance to continue to increase due to the age and construction of the building.

The committee believes the club offers fantastic value but in order to ensure we have a positive funds in-flow, a 10% increase in fees across all categories is proposed. The committee will also be looking to develop new sources of income through potential sponsorship opportunities and other fund-raising activities.

Category	2022	2023
2022 Adult Combined	198	218
2022 Adult Squash	156	172
2022 ADULT TENNIS	188	207
2022 Associate	42	47
2022 Family Combined	396	436
2022 Honorary	0	0
2022 Junior Primary School	42	47
2022 Junior Secondary School	42	47
2022 Senior Combined	144	159
2022 Senior Squash	112	124
2022 Senior Tennis	135	149
2022 Student / Unwaged	62	69
2022 Young Adult Combined	99	109
2022 Young Adult Squash	79	87
2022 Young Adult Tennis	94	104

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

It has been another year of growth for the tennis section this year with a full schedule completed following the Covid interrupted years which was great to see. It was also the first full year of having Mark Walker and team leading our coaching and we are already starting to see some fantastic progress with some of our junior members playing in the Senior teams which is great to see.

Starting with the coaching programme, we now have a wide-ranging schedule covering pre-school, beginners, intermediate and match coaching. The programme continues to grow from strength to strength and we are very excited for what this year brings. Mark and team have brought brilliant energy to the club, best epitomised by the highly successful open day we had back in May last year – it was the best attended open day in recent memory and it was lovely to see the courts jam packed full of juniors for the whole afternoon. A big thank you to Mark for everything he has done so far. If you are interested in joining one of the coaching classes or private lessons, please reach out to Mark directly.

Secondly, we had another successful Club Championships. It was great to see the level of usage on the courts throughout the summer months. Finals day was on the 11th September. Thank you to everyone who took part and those that came along on finals days to assist. Results were:

Competiton	Winner	Runner Up
Boys Under 14 Final	Dillon Graham	Eliot Graham
Boys Under 18 Final	Hector Fisher Wingate	Zach Coffee
Girls Under 14 Final	Isla Speirs	Juliette Bray
Girls Under 18 Final	Olivia Ashworth	Juliette Bray
Mens Plate	Vitaly Peresada	Danny Maxwell
Ladies Plate	Moyra McKeand	Fiona Platt
Mens Final	Jamie McDonald	Alex Machray
Ladies Final	Wendy Hamlet	Olivia Ashworth
Mens Doubles Final	Joe Shaughnessey & Stuart Law	Jamie McDonald & Danny Maxwell
Ladies Doubles Final	Wendy Hamlet & Moira Paterson	Moyra Mckeand & Maureen Hemphill
Mixed Doubles Final	Moyra McKeand & Stuart Law	Wendy Hamlet & Duncan Scott

This was the first time we had boys and girls under 14s and under 18s competitions – again a sign of the junior development starting to come through.

In the Summer leagues, we had four Gents teams (3 Doubles, 1 Singles), two Ladies Teams, two Junior Teams and an Over 55s team. It was a mixed season in terms of results, but what was really promising was the number of available players, and signs are good this year that we are even better placed to have a successful season in the leagues. Thanks to all those that played and all the captains that helped organise all the matches.

Over the autumn and winter, we have had teams in the mixed doubles leagues and continued to run ladders for both men's and ladies – thanks to the captains and Ally for arranging these.

The O55s continue to grow and grow, and we currently have an extremely strong and active group who gather in significant numbers on a Monday/Wednesday (and now sometimes Fridays I believe!!) and greatly enjoy the physical and social benefits they get.

Social tennis has also been a massive success this year. Both Men's and Ladies nights continue to be full to the rafters – another indication of a thriving tennis section!!

Finally, as we look forward to 2023, 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 – Judith Graham

In terms of Club Championships. Entries will open at the start of April with matches commencing in May. Finals day provisional date is Sunday 10th September.

As for juniors – Judith and Mark will be running a Friday afternoon social time for Juniors from April onwards – watch out for more details on this!!

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

That's it from me – another great year and a lot to look forward to in 2023!!

Squash/Racketball Convenor's Report (Donald Rodger)

The annual Racketball tournament was held between October-December 22. The plate tournament was won by Ian Bray beating Andrew Elliott 3-2. The final was won by Chris Speirs, beating Donald Rodger 3-0.

Last year's annual squash tournament was held between January - March 22, but the finals were not played until April, after the AGM. The plate final was won by Andrew Elliott, beating Rodney Allan 3-2. This was an epic game with Andrew winning (15-13, 16-18, 15-9, 15-10). The Championship was won by Sid Treanor, with Lee Masson having to concede in the final due to having Covid.

This year's annual squash tournament is continuing, with us currently being at the semi-final stages.

The club has continued to play a team in the Crieff and District Squash Leagues this year. I have also attended the AGM for this league. We are currently 6th out of 9 teams in the league. This is a huge improvement from several years ago, when we were winning about one match a season if we were lucky. We have a large number of players to choose from for the team.

The club leagues continue to run and are run by Andrew Elliott.

The court heaters have now been fitted on court 1 as well, so both courts have heaters, which has been of great benefit to members. There have also been positive comments from visiting teams compared to how cold the courts used to be.

Welfare Officer's Report (Dominic Gillen)

All venues registered with the LTA must appoint a Welfare Officer. The Welfare Officer should be a member of and report to the Committee.

Essentially the Welfare Officer should ensure compliance with the LTA Safeguarding Standards and promote Safeguarding and Inclusion in the club.

The Safeguarding and Inclusion policies are on the website and in a prominent position. All coaches must be approved and registered with the LTA. This requires them to be members of the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Scheme and to have completed Safeguarding training. Any volunteers are members of the PVG Scheme and are issued with the Code of Practice in Working with Children in Tennis.

As Welfare Officer I am a member of the PVG Scheme; completed and updated Safeguarding Training with Tennis Scotland; participated in the national Safeguarding Conference; attend local fora on Safeguarding. Following these I have updated our policies and overseen the implementation of these.

The Committee has also completed Safeguarding training using the LTA pack for this but crucially using the material to make it venue specific. I understand that we are one of the first clubs in Scotland to complete this training demonstrating our commitment to this.

Actions for 23/24:

- Complete and Update PVG checks as required. Liaise with Mark Walker on Safeguarding regularly.
- Attend training and Welfare Officer fora with Tennis Scotland and LTA Update policies and procedures as required.
- Attend committee meetings and ensure Safeguarding and Inclusion issues are addressed.

Dominic Gillen Welfare Officer SLTSC 01.03.202

Ground's Convenor's Report (Mark Worsley)

The tennis court surface is now 10 years old and has a predicted useful life of another 3 years. It remains in good condition following regular care and maintenance, so it is likely to achieve this lifespan. Hopefully the leaning net posts will last as long as the courts and can be repaired at the same time. The club's position would be to replace the courts with a similar artificial sand filled grass surface, and a sinking fund is set aside to pay for this.

The roots of the large pine were starting to raise the ground adjacent to court 3 so it was taken down. In the coming year the back wall would benefit from pointing. I would appreciate some help with this.

Many thanks to Billy Monteith, Colin Hynes, Jim Brown and Chris Pearson for their assistance with various jobs, and to members for slackening the nets after play.

Mark Worsley Grounds Convenor

House Convenor's Report (Billy Monteith)

We've had a few issues this year as regards House Maintenance.

We've had the electrician in a couple of times to fit a new light in the lane, a timer switch in the Gents changing room and we still have a problem with the security lights at the front door.

There is also an ongoing problem with water coming through the Ladies changing room ceiling which we're still working on.

The boiler was serviced last year, and a couple of problems were found. One part was replaced but the boiler is coming to the end of its working life (10-15 years, we've had ours for 13 years). We think it should be replaced at a cost of £3,246.15.

We've had a problem with squash court number 2's floor as it started warping and coming loose from its fixings. We got a floor specialist in and his findings were that we had damp coming in from the lane so we had to put in a field drain around the lane side of the squash courts which was done just before Christmas at a cost of £2,026.92. We also have to replace the floor at £9,844.50.

Social Convenor's Report (Fiona Paterson)

During the summer months the club ran a couple of American Tournaments. Once again thanks to Graham Eadie for his understated organisation and to all those whose arms I twisted for donations of home baking!

The Club Championships in September were well supported by club members with some very exciting tennis on display. Thanks again to all those who provided sandwiches and goodies - all monetary donations were gratefully accepted.

In December we held our Christmas Club Dinner in The Gallery Restaurant at Forth Valley College. It was a great success with 70 members attending and excellent value for money. We had sole use of the restaurant with student trainees looking after our varied requests.

The committee has set up a joint social and fundraising group, mixing fund raising with some fun social events. Plans for 2023 include:

- A 100-Club – details to follow
- Quiz Night – date TBC
- Wine Tasting Evening on Saturday 24th June (mid-summer evening)
- Ceilidh – date TBC

All suggestions for events happily welcome!