

STIRLING LAWN TENNIS AND
SQUASH CLUB
Annual Report 2024



Stirling Lawn Tennis and Squash Club Annual Report 2022

Presidents Report (Lesley Greenaway)

Most significantly, 2023/24 has seen the completion of the clubhouse refurbishment and new flat roof. It is great and receiving excellent feedback from members and visitors alike. An enormous thankyou to Paul for seeing us through the project and to Billy, who was at the clubhouse nearly everyday during the works. Thanks to Stewart Mathieson and his team for building us a clubhouse to be proud of and that will last us well into the future.

Alongside this, club activities continue to thrive. We benefit from high quality tennis coaching provided by Mark Walker and Mark Christie, who are also developing/training our young helpers, who are very committed and a positive addition to the team. Our squash members have also enjoyed the benefits of a top-class coach in Jane Martin. Strong, quality coaching is a key asset which will help us go forward in terms of match results, attracting new members and our ability to work with local communities. In social tennis, we have an established and growing over 55s section, which regularly draws in new members and is renowned for being welcoming and friendly.

Financially, we aim to be prudent with our management of the club funds, but unsurprisingly, this year we have made a significant investment in the clubhouse. To counter this, we have set up new income streams. Specifically, the Social and Fundraising group which raised approx. £4k, whilst establishing an annual programme of fun social events for members, their family and friends. We have also attracted our first sponsor which generates an extra £1k per annum and we aim for more to follow.

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.

I would like to thank all the Committee Members who have supported me during my tenure, without their goodwill, time and support the club could not operate. I have enjoyed my time as President of the club and feel confident that we can maintain our momentum going forward.

Committee members have provided a more detailed summary of club activities in the following report.

Treasurer's Report (Moyra McKeand)

See Annual Accounts distributed at the meeting.

Clubhouse Renovations – Final Update (Paul Barnes)

The FY 22/23 Accounts show we made a good cash surplus in the year of c£12k (tbc). Our cash in the bank however has significantly reduced primarily as a result of the clubhouse refurbishment work that was completed in December last year. The work came in on budget and we spent c£72,000. As a reminder, the work included a completely new roof (excluding above the squash courts); new boiler, new UPVC windows and door, new emergency exit door, a new kitchen area and the full refurbishment of the main clubhouse area including new flooring. I believe the work has been very well received by members.

It is now important that we focus on increasing our cash position to support any future plans we may have and the replacement of our tennis courts in a few years' time. I hope the new facility will both

help us to maintain and attract new membership and we can also look at new sources of funds from Sponsorship or other external use of our clubhouse for example,

In the short term, I have been liaising with Billy with some external support to look at options to help remedy the drainage / flooding we see after bad weather at the front of the club house and also new drainage on the squash courts external wall.

Membership Secretary's Report (Scott McMillan)

2023/24 Membership

Overall membership numbers down by 8 versus previous year.

Category	2022	2023	Difference
2022 Adult Combined	19	20	1
2022 Adult Squash	23	20	-3
2022 ADULT TENNIS	31	38	7
2022 Associate	10	8	-2
2022 Family Combined	18	15	-3
2022 Honorary	15	17	2
2022 Junior Primary School	42	34	-8
2022 Junior Secondary School	19	19	0
2022 Senior Combined	2	2	0
2022 Senior Squash	2	1	-1
2022 Senior Tennis*	38	41	3
2022 Student / Unwaged	12	13	1
2022 Young Adult Combined	7	2	-5
2022 Young Adult Squash	1	1	0
2022 Young Adult Tennis	3	3	0
Grand Total	242	234	-8

2024 fees

Whilst membership numbers remain healthy, we propose a further 5% increase for 2024 to offset higher utility, rent and insurance costs.

Category	2023 (£)	2024 proposed (£)	Difference (£)
2022 Adult Combined	218	229	11
2022 Adult Squash	172	181	9
2022 ADULT TENNIS	207	217	10
2022 Associate	47	49	2
2022 Family Combined	436	458	22
2022 Honorary	0	0	0
2022 Junior Primary School	47	49	2
2022 Junior Secondary School	47	49	2
2022 Senior Combined	159	167	8
2022 Senior Squash	124	130	6
2022 Senior Tennis	149	156	7
2022 Student / Unwaged	69	72	3
2022 Young Adult Combined	109	114	5

2022 Young Adult Squash	87	91	4
2022 Young Adult Tennis	104	109	5

Members paying monthly by Direct Debit will be required to do so over 9 months rather than 12 months for 2024 to align with financial year.

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

We have had another encouraging year in the Tennis section with good performances in the leagues by the teams, increased participation in all formats, great growth in the coaching and continued development in the Junior section.

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 10th September. Thank you to everyone who took part and those that came along on finals days to assist. Results were:

Event	Winner	Runner Up
Boys Under 14 Final	Dillon Graham	Rhys McMillan
Boys Under 18 Final	Cammy McRobbie	Finlay Platt
Girls Under 14 Final	To Be Played	
Girls Under 18 Final	Juliette Bray	Lilian Lang
Mens Plate	Steven Blackstock	Colin Hynes
Ladies Plate	Moyra McKeand	Fiona Platt
Mens Final	Mark Christie	Jamie McDonald
Ladies Final	Olivia Ashworth	Anna Duff
Mens Doubles Final	Hamish Lewis & Glenn Williamson	Nick Mackay & Michael Platt
Ladies Doubles Final	Moyra McKeand & Fiona Johnstone	Moira Paterson & Anna Duff
Mixed Doubles Final	Mark Christie & Moyra McKeand	Scott McMillan & Anna Duff

In the Summer leagues, we had four Gents teams (3 Doubles, 1 Singles), two Ladies Teams, one Junior Team and an Over 55s team. It was a good season in terms of results with all teams showing improvement year on year. We got some silverware too with the Men's 2nd Team winning their division. With the pool of players ever growing together with the junior strength from the coaching coming through the year ahead promises to be an exciting one with a number of the teams targeting promotion. 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 – 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 of a Monday/Wednesdays/ Fridays with now enough for two teams this season in the over 55s.

Social tennis has also been a massive success again this year across all areas. In the Junior section we introduced a Friday afternoon social session that has been brilliantly attended. It is so good to see the number of juniors involved and bringing their friends who are then getting involved in the coaching – a massive thank you to Judith, Lesley, Fiona, Olivia and Callum who have been instrumental in the success of this new addition to the club calendar.

Finally, as we look forward to 2024, I just wanted to share a brief view 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
Over 45 Ladies – Wendy Hamlet
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 8th 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 – another great year and a lot to look forward to in 2024!!

Coaching Report (Lynda Lamont, Lesley Greenaway)

A change in the coaching arrangements in August 2023 saw the club taking on the coaching course administration (advertising, booking and payments) through our Clubspark account. Thanks to Lynda Lamont for taking this on. The club now has control over the coaching bookings and can track and promote courses and membership directly to those involved. We have regular reviews and planning meetings with Mark W.

Mark and his team have continued to develop coaching at the club over the last year. There have been four blocks of coaching for juniors and adults since August with as many as 62 juniors and 32 adults participating. For the juniors there are 8 different age and ability groups weekly and for adults there is a beginners ladies' group, an improver's group and an intermediate/team player group for men and for women. The classes have been well attended with members and non-members alike. Already non-members have been intimating that they plan to join in the forthcoming year. Mark W and Mark C are well liked. They have encouraged Olivia Ashworth to take her Level 1 qualification and together with Olivia welcome help from other junior players, Callum, Ruairidh and Lillian, with the minis on a Saturday morning. Olivia and Callum are both involved in running the Junior Club Sessions every Friday for 10+ year-olds.

In 2023, we received grants from Tennis Scotland (£250) and Stirling Council (£250) which enabled us to deliver a schools' project involving 5 local primary schools and approx. 180 children, who participated in a Tennis Festival at the club.

We have established very good relationships with Active Stirling and Tennis Scotland and are now discussing/negotiating our involvement and use of the King's Park courts when they are opened (end of April).

Squash/Racketball Convenor's Report (Donald Rodger)

Racketball Annual tournament was won by Chris Speirs beating Donald Rodger 3 games to 2 (15-10, 12-15, 12-15, 15-9, 15-9). The plate tournament was won by Andrew Taylor beating Ian Bray 3-0

(16-14, 15-13, 15-8). This year's annual squash tournament is still taking place and is now in the knockout stages. A finals night will be arranged at the end of March.

The internal monthly box leagues continue to run.

The Team continues to compete in the Crieff and District League. We have no shortage of players for the team and are currently 6th in the league out of 8 teams. We reached the plate final of the Malcolm McLaren Bisque tournament, which is a bisque knockout tournament made up of all the teams in the Crieff and District Leagues. We were beaten by Crieff in the final.

This year has seen the club take on Jane Martin as squash coach. She has over 20 years experience as a coach, and 14 years as a professional, reaching a world ranking of number 8. Jane is a renowned coach in squash coaching in Scotland, and the club are extremely fortunate to have her. She is sharing her time at Stirling with other clubs. Amongst her classes, she has 4 junior girls who are undergoing coaching on a Wednesday. These are the first female juniors we have had at the club for a long time. Jane initially dedicated a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to coaching at the club. The demand however for this amount of her time was not forthcoming from the club. She now coaches on a Tuesday and Wednesday and has a total of 5 sessions, with a possible 6th session for ladies which is currently being explored.

The squash members have had 2 social events, having their usual curry night in the spring of 2023 at the end of the season, and at Christmas time. There will be another one arranged for the end of this season.

WEBSITE

The club continues to get a number of enquiries from non-members through the website. Evidence would show it is not somewhere members go to for information. We also have a presence on social media Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Welfare Officer's Report (Dominic Gillen)

It is a requirement of our LTA Venue Registration that SLTSC appoints a Welfare Officer. The Welfare Officer should be a member of the committee and promote Safeguarding and Inclusion at the club, with reference to the LTA Standards in respect of this. We are the subject of 'audit' by Tennis Scotland regarding this: policies, procedures and crucially, the implementation of these.

Key actions required:

- Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme membership:

Welfare Officer, coaches and volunteers – All these are in place.

- Coaches to be LTA Approved:

All our coaches are LTA Approved. Approval requires them to have PVG membership and to have completed Safeguarding training. I also check that their approval is up to date prior to all committee meetings and report this to the committee.

- Volunteers:

Mark Walker promotes the development of young people by involving them in coaching. I have ensured that they are PVG members but also meet with them for Safeguarding induction. This covers keeping themselves safe from allegations, especially the use of social media. I have been most impressed by the maturity of these young people.

- **Committee Safeguarding Training:**

The committee have completed Safeguarding training using a format from the LTA which allowed me to make it venue specific. This was well received by the committee and I understand that we were one of the first Scottish clubs to do this. Eddie was a great support with regards the IT aspect of this.

As Welfare Officer I regularly attend Welfare Officer fora and complete more formal training are required.

As I say every year: **It Is Everyone's Job To Make Sure I Am Alright.**

PVG membership is valuable but not a protection in itself. All adults must model positive behaviour: courtesy, use of language, conflict resolution, respect for others. All members must be inclusive and not only non-discriminatory but anti-discriminatory.

Finally, I thank Lesley and the Committee for their support in taking Safeguarding seriously thereby making SLTSC a safe and inclusive place to play tennis.

Dominic Gillen, Welfare Officer, March 2024

Ground's Convenor's Report (Mark Worsley)

The tennis courts remain in good condition following their regular schedule of maintenance and have also been topped up with 1.25 tons of sand which will improve playing conditions and aid longevity of the carpet. Players may have noticed extra sand on their shoes, a brush has been left in the clubhouse to sweep the new flooring. The courts are now 2 years short of their predicted lifespan, but it seems reasonable to expect they may last longer. We hope the leaning net posts will last as long. Please slacken them after every game. When the time does come to replace the carpet, my feeling is we should choose the same or similar surface as I am not aware of anything better becoming available.

Many thanks to Colin Hynes for maintaining the courts in my absence, and to Jim Brown, Billy Monteith and Dugald Glen for their invaluable assistance on various works.

Mark Worsley, Grounds Convenor

House Convenor's Report (Billy Monteith)

It's been a year of change. The vast majority of it a big plus, the new squash court floor and refurbishment of the lounge area which also included a new boiler and a new roof. It just means less maintenance problems.

There are still one or two things to do or consider. Painting of the ladies changing room ceiling after water ingress during the change over from the old roof to the new one and a thought about the lighting in the squash courts both of which have 1 set of lights not working. As they are fluorescent light bulbs which are no longer being made we might have to consider LED lighting which is much cheaper to run but would incur initial installation costs.

We have a new cleaner. Her name is Caroline Rutherford. She comes in twice a week on Tuesday and Friday mornings which is good and she seems quite happy with the job.

Social Convenor's Report (Fiona Paterson)

We are pleased to report a successful social and fundraising year. Overall, we raised approx. £4,000, after costs this was a profit of approx. £2,300.

We have set up our first 100-Club, which in 2023 enrolled 50 members. We aim to get closer to 100 members in 2024. Thanks to Eddy for his competent oversight to ensure the fair and correct delivery of the scheme.

Open Day in June: Very well attended and thanks to the use of our mobile payment facility some new members signed up there and then. Thanks for donations of goodies and help re clearing up.

The Wine Tasting at the end of June was a great success with Ken Moncrieff's amusing and light-hearted banter as those attending were transported merrily on a wine tour of the world. Thanks to Ken and helpers - looking forward to the next one.

Strawberries and cream with loads of delicious goodies plus tea served in fine bone china teacups set the scene for the Wimbledon themed American Tournament in July. Thanks to Graham for organising the handicaps and games and to all the helpers.

The club championships in September were well supported with the add-on of tea and cakes. Thanks to all those who helped with the catering.

The ceilidh at the end of October was well attended with Donald and his band encouraging lots of reeling and spinning! Stirling Golf Club was an ideal venue and the catering excellent value for money. Again, thanks to all who helped especially Helen and Eve for their persuasive powers selling raffle tickets!

We have now set up a set of regular social and fundraising activities for the future:

- Friday 22 March – Quiz
- End April – 1st 100-Club Draw of 2024
- Saturday 22 June – Wine Tasting
- Friday 25 October – Ceilidh

Thanks to everyone involved: Fiona Paterson, Eddy, June, Helen, Evelyn and Lesley.