

Martin Zinkin personal statement

I've been a member of Coolhurst for about 15 years – I think – including two years as tennis secretary, and last year as a tennis member on the GMC. I think what most members want from the club is simple: to be able to play their sport on great courts, with friends and opponents at whatever level they choose, and to relax afterwards in a great clubhouse and friendly atmosphere.

To do that, we need to maintain and invest in our facilities and make sure the club generates enough revenue to do this while also reducing our debt. In my view, the current GMC has done this very effectively. We have greatly improved the tennis facilities (following the previous investment in squash) while at the same time significantly reducing the outstanding debt, and even more importantly for the long-term viability of the club, we have also more than doubled the cash surplus by exploiting new and existing revenue streams, increasing membership, and running the club more efficiently.

Because of this stronger and more diverse revenue base the club is now in a good position: we can easily afford to improve facilities while continuing to service and pay down the debt. The surplus more than seven times the cost of debt servicing, and we will have reduced the debt by £70k this year even allowing for the major capital cost of the grass court upgrades.

Much of this progress has been achieved during Gerald Barrett's tenure as chair, and I think we all owe him a vote of thanks for his hard work over the past three years – as well as other members of the GMC, staff, and club members who have contributed their time and effort.

Facilities upgrades include new artificial clay courts, replacement of the grass courts with an all weather surface, LED lighting on the artificial grass courts, upgrades to LED squash lighting, a complete upgrade of the kitchen, clubhouse recarpeting and many minor upgrades.

Factors improving the revenue and cost position of the club include the installation of general manager, increased membership, a new website generating hundreds of enquiries, new tennis and squash coaches contracts, rent reviews for physios and stringers, development of adult tennis coaching program, a sponsorship agreement with George Astbury, a move to gym direct debits, kitchen outsourcing (resulting in bar and kitchen above break even for the first time), and greatly reduced losses from PSL and squash coaching.

I do not know many of the new candidates for GMC posts well, so my recommendation is no reflection on them, but I do not think a change of direction is necessary or wise. I therefore support the nominations of Charlie Logan, Paul Adderley, Peter Hilton and Bob Taylor. I also support Tsvetelina Dimitrova as tennis member.