**Tennis Secretary Report**

Dear members,

It is a pleasure to report on an outstanding year for tennis at Coolhurst. The facilities we offer, and the welcome offered by the clubhouse team and members have led to record numbers keen to play tennis at Coolhurst. The courts have never been so busy, and it is great to see all 14 courts being used so regularly. Whilst other clubs also benefitted from a lockdown-inspired drive towards more outdoor, daytime exercise, none that I have visited have such a vibrant tennis scene. That we had to introduce a waiting list and that the waiting list grew to over 300 people is testament to the club.

Our success has enabled us to invest significantly in our facilities and we are delighted with the transformation of our seven older courts. The new Astro on courts 12-14 and the previously unloved court 5 offer fast-paced, exciting tennis and the new clay courts are now bedded-down and playing beautifully. We thank members for their patience during the court works and apologise for being caught out by the council’s decision that planning permission was required – a lesson we will learn from in future. I hope you all agree that the wait has been worth it. I would also like to thank Adam de Winter and Jamie Morris for all their efforts in delivering the new courts.

On the tennis court, it was great to get back into competitive play in the Middlesex leagues with eight men’s and five women’s teams playing well. The women’s first team were particularly impressive, winning promotion to the Premier League in which they will compete this year – please come and support them if you can. In winter, the men’s 3rd to 8th teams trialled a new internal tournament that was successful in allowing teams to meet new members and play high-quality tennis. The move of the tournament to September given demand for courts was successful and will be repeated this year – many thanks to Tzvetelina Dimitrova for the herculean task of organising it all.

That the club is so busy does mean that it is more important than ever that we all show respect for our facilities and each other. Please continue to care for the courts – the new courts 6-8 remind us how clay courts should look and we must help the facilities team keep as much infill as possible on the playing surface, rather than at the back and sides of the court. We have also placed brushes on the new Astro courts and ask that members occasionally help sweep up leaf-litter to keep them clear. I have received a small but disappointing number of complaints over the year of members acting disrespectfully. Coolhurst is above all, a welcoming, friendly club and, to protect that, we will impose sanctions for breaches of our code of conduct.

Looking forward, the tennis committee recognises that is vital the club is responsibly managed for the benefit of its members and we are determined that our success results in continued investment in facilities that tennis members will benefit from. We welcome suggestions from members as to what improvements we can make, both to facilities and the atmosphere of the club.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow tennis committee members, Martin Zinkin, Tsvetelina Dimitrova and Jamie Morris for their constant support during my first year as tennis secretary.

See you on court

Subscriptions

The tennis committee recommended and the GMC accepted that tennis subscriptions should remain at their current level for another year. As the court upgrades have been completed from current resources, there was no case for any increase, and I recommend that the AGM endorse that decision.

Jonathan Stephens (on behalf of the Tennis Committee)