

**Weybridge Lawn Tennis Club AGM Chairman's Report.**

**17th March 2019**

Welcome to our 2019 WLTC AGM and a big “thank you” to you all for sparing your valuable time in attending today. We very much appreciate your support for what has been another progressive year for the club.

Our excellent treasurer John Barlow will follow me today to run through last year's accounts and confirm the 2019/20 subscription rates etc. I must also add our appreciation to Stephen Parish for scrutinising and approving these accounts. Over the last few years we have done our best to keep subscription rate increases to either zero or in line or below inflation but with a number of expensive outgoings last year we are going to have to raise most categories by a marginal amount this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank in particular Paul Buckingham and Andy Pepper for their meticulous negotiations with Trevor May the successful contractors whom carried out the substantial renovations on courts 1 and 2. Geoff Mullens is also still busy negotiating with Elmbridge Borough Council to try and obtain a potential lease for the club – a thankless task and no mean feat - believe me!

Paul Buckingham managed to do all of this despite his partner Nina being very ill and our thoughts and prayers are with them both for her to make a full recovery. I am also delighted to see Nigel Swain is back in full swing after a nasty cancer scare.

We continue to successfully recruit new members to replace those who leave the area or hang up their racquets for good. We want to continue to attract these new members via Open Days and other marketing techniques and if you do see people visiting the club please do approach them and educate them on the benefits of the club and show them what a friendly club we really are.

Now we have our excellent new artificial clay show courts we are ready to unveil them at our official Grand Opening on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm to be attended by Councillor Shweta Kapadia, Mayor of Elmbridge. This ceremony will be combined with our first Open Day of the year and you are all encouraged and are welcome to attend for what we hope will be a fun event with free refreshments and hopefully gain a number of new recruits.

After a very successful Christmas Party back in December your committee decided to implement a proper WLTC Calendar of Events for 2019. Alison Wade has kindly produced a spreadsheet of exciting events scheduled for this year which will be released shortly for all to ensure these events are diarised and successfully supported and enjoyed.

We continue to try and improve our communication with our members via email newsletters and our website [www.weybrigeltc.com](http://www.weybrigeltc.com) but as ever good content is hard to come by so please if you have any items for inclusion please drop a line to Mike McNulty/Richard Kottler or any other committee member and we will ensure it is posted.

An enormous amount of work goes on to ensure the clubhouse and grounds stay up to scratch. Tim Jones started as our groundsman back in April 2016 and visited the club several times each week to carry out his duties. He has now taken on a new role outside of the area and has been replaced by Peter Oakes who has continued to do excellent work. In addition to this, every year the new clay courts will be serviced and maintained by a specialist firm to keep them in tip top condition. However members are always required to use the necessary drag brushes and line brushes after play to ensure the courts are in ideal condition for the next players.

These and a lot of other work behind the scenes contributed to WLTC once again meeting the five minimum standards as part of the British Tennis Venue Registration which replaces the "Tennis/Club mark" status from the LTA - again a very difficult task and thanks in particular must go to Alison Wade in ensuring we achieved this.

I am as ever particularly proud of our continued progress with the juniors - almost half the members of this club are under 18 years old and I urge you all to take away with you Adrian Joly's excellent summary of his programme and achievements in this area which I will read out to you all a little later. Adrian has ensured this section thrives with a wonderful variety of competitions/events and activities as well as his excellent programme to recruit more junior members by him working closely with local primary schools. The club is also delighted to welcome the tennis franchise "Teddy Tennis" whom demonstrate how tennis combined with music, pictures and Teddy Bear characters create a totally interactive learning adventure that young children love.

The club continues to have pretty good success in our league matches and huge thanks must go to Brian Chubb and the respective team captains in ensuring we continue to fare well for a club of our size. Brian will kindly follow later with an overview of our performances. We will also, as ever, shortly be announcing the winner of the clubs MIP (most improved player) of the year award.

Thanks must also go to Martha Hearl for being our superb "ball queen" ensuring new "mix-in" and match balls are always available. What you might not know is that Andy Pepper recently confirmed that he has re-negotiated a 25 pence per ball (from 20p) rebate to the club for all used balls to be re-cycled. I therefore urge that all members be aware of the value of these used balls and to retrieve them at all times and not to be profligate with them which we do regrettably witness too much.

I must also thank Cath Wallace for all her efforts and input on the committee since she joined a few years back but sadly have to announce that she will now be standing down. The good news is she is doing this because her travel company is taking off and she needs to commit all her time to this new venture. I am delighted though that the lovely Hana Pavlicova has agreed to replace her and I know she will be a huge addition to our committee and the club.

We really are a wonderful and successful club, and I am very proud to be Chairman of it. I truly believe that we provide tennis and social activities for all needs and levels. We have achieved an awful lot over the last year and we as a committee will endeavour to continue this.

We do however always require more help - so if anyone has a little spare time or has a specialist skill that would help us, please let us know as it will always be greatly appreciated.

Please forgive me if I have inadvertently omitted anyone for their contribution and finally a huge "thanks" to the rest of our Committee and the support team who ensure that WLTC has such an excellent and varied calendar of events. It takes a huge amount of time and effort behind the scenes to make sure our club has something to offer for everyone and do remember those involved give their time freely for the benefit of the club, so I really do urge you to show your appreciation by making an effort to get involved with as many activities as possible throughout 2019/2020.

Patrick Gibbon.  
Chairman WLTC