**Park Langley Tennis AGM**

**Sunday 2st April 2024
Chair's Report**

Sadly we have lost a number of members this year and those who passed and those who knew them well are also  in our thoughts as they adjust to changes whether they be family, friends  or fellow  playing members of our club.

**OLD DUNSTONIANS**

Undoubtedly the biggest news of the year, certainly off the court, was an agreed lease for use of Old Dunstonians for a further 15 years . I would like to thank, and I am sure all of you do, Jacqui Bance and Ian Hunt for rescuing a dire situation and reviving negotiations with Old Dunstonians from a point where we had been given notice to quit. The loss of the Old Dunstonians would have had a profoundly negative impact across our coaching programme, team play and as an additional facility for members to book courts for play.  Well done Jacqui and Ian -- a great result.

**FINALS DAY**

Finals Day proved a great success again with plenty of great tennis being played on all the courts and members enjoying plenty of refreshments. I would recommend it as an event for all members to come down, watch a match, and meet other members over a drink or three.

As ever thanks to Susie Reeve and her helpers who organise the day and to all  the volunteer umpires  who supervised a match.

**MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2023**

The committee voted for Roy Savage as our member of the year this year. Roy is a regular attendee at the Wednesday club session and despite giving the opposition quite a few years still knows his way around a court. Roy also has a vast recollection of tennis yesteryears and I expect enough anecdotes to fill a book.

**CLUB SESSIONS**

It would be fair to say that attendance at club sessions has been variable. Attendance seems sharply aligned with the seasons. Good weather and lighter evenings bringing more members out than would attend on a dark January evening or afternoon. Consequently, we have been tweaking court availability over the evening winter sessions to reflect broadly the attendance numbers. This is likely to become common practice in autumn and winter as rather than leave unused lighted courts vacant they will be changed to bookable courts for members' individual use.

**NEW SATURDAY SINGLES CLUB AND NEW BOX LEAGUES**

New additions for members have been the introduction of a Saturday Singles Club, a short first to 4 and then change  format which Nikolay Ivin has been instrumental in pioneering and promoting ,Thanks Nikolay--well done .

Thanks also to Catherine Lee -Saunders who has introduced a mixed doubles, ladies and men's box league via the LTA competition website which is also proving popular.

We also have an existing singles ladder that has run for some years now which is still ticking over nicely for those wishing to play singles matches.

**TEAM TENNIS**

My thanks to Sandra Webster as our Club Captain for reporting in on the achievements of our teams and in addition making time to support many of our teams in person during their matches.

A big thank you to Glenda who somehow managed to juggle all the requirements to complete our fixtures by providing courts for us all and frequently when rain intervenes somehow still getting all this done.

SUMMER 2023

Kent

Ladies      1 Div 2A.            2nd

                2  Div 5B.            4th

                3  Div 6B.            5th

Men's.        Div 2B.             4th

Mixed 1.     Div 3B.             4th

           2.     Div 6A.             4th

Kent National League Men's Division 3 North.             3rd

North Kent

Ladies   1.   Div B.              2nd

              2.   Div C.              1st

              3.   Div D.              6th

              4.   Div G.              1st

Ladies Vets.  Div A.        4th

Men's.    1.   Div A.               4th

              2.   Div F.                2nd

Midweek Men's Over 60s 1. Div A.            3rd

                                         2. Div B.            5th

                            Over 70s.  Div A.            1st

Men's Vets   1. Div A.            3rd

                    2. Div C.            1st

                    3. Div D.            2nd

Midweek Mixed Vets Div A.  3rd

Congratulations to all those teams who topped their divisions and gained promotion. A special mention goes to Gordon’s over 70s team who continue to win their division over many of the seasons-you must share your warmup routines with us all!

WINTER 2023

**KENT LEAGUE**

                                 Division.                  Standing.

Men's 1.                         2B.                              3

Men's Vets 1.                1A.                              3

                    2.                2A.                              1

                    3.               2B.                               3

Over 60s midweek   1.   1 North.                      5

                                 2.   4 North.                      2

Over 70s midweek   1.     1 North.                    1

                                 2.          “                           4

Ladies      1.                     2B.                            3

                 2.                     6B.                           2

                 3.                     8B.                           2

Ladies vets.                    2A.                            5

Mixed.     1.                      2A.                           2

                2.                     5B.                            4

**NORTH KENT LEAGUE**

                                      Division.              Standing.

Men's 1.                          1B.                           1

          2.                           4A.                           6

Ladies     1.                    1A.                           3

                2.                    1B.                           4

                3.                    3A.                           5

                4.                    3B.                           4

Midweek mixed vets.      1.                             3

Special mentions to:

Gordon's over 70's beating Margate way in their final

The Men's Vets 2 finishing first in their group

**JUNIOR TENNIS -AN OVERVIEW**

**T**he Parklangley Club is a 10U Performance Centre, our challenge is to cater predominantly for this age group and produce successful players at county and national level who can when older move up the LTA infrastructure.

At Parklangley we currently offer group coaching with focused player ratios, strength and conditioning, one-to-ones (indoor where possible), tournament support and parental support in the form of parent’s meetings once per term. The majority of this is carried out on our two indoor courts.

According to the LTA, we are one of the most successful 10U programmes in the country and this was underlined in the latest grade 1 event in Sheffield where we had 3 players in the boy’s event finish inside the top 10, these 3 boys also have a great chance of making the Regional Long List which is published in April/May. These numbers are impressive. We also had 1 player in the girl’s event plus another 2 who just missed out.

Parklangley as a programme have committed to this age group and over the last few years have done well.

**T**ommy Cuomo, Alex Mirrington, Nate De Mariveles, Robbie Taylor and Advaith Prabhu have all made great progress, Mark Ruffle took them under his wing, and they all competed in the National League and did themselves very proud, they also did well in the grade 1 and 2 domestic events as well as Tennis Europe level.

We also have Liv Zingg who reached number 1 at 11U and 12U, winning every grades 1 and 2 event with the exception of the winter addition in October where she has played up an age group each year but she still reached the semis on both occasions.

Myles Keily, Tony Keohane, Kate Murray, and Papaya Douvall are also examples of players we have retained, great players who are on the regional long list and have competed for Great Britain.

It is easy to overlook when we see many youngsters populating our courts just how successful the Junior programme is and all of us should be proud of that achievement. We receive no funding at all from the LTA which makes the club's success even more outstanding.

**TENNIS MEMBERSHIP**

Tennis Membership has been frozen for the last 12 months as we awaited the outcome of our negotiations with Old Dunstonians .Now this has been concluded we shall be reviewing whether  to open for new members and also how many we can accept .

**COURTS**

Many thanks to Mick Profitt, the Club’s groundsman, for all his hard work producing the excellent grass courts and maintaining the clay courts and surrounds.

We hope to open the grass courts on Saturday 4th of May but this, as ever will be weather dependent. We have had a particularly wet winter and spring, and the courts may still need further tine and a good dry spell before being open for play.

On Saturday June 2nd we will be holding the second Peter Stotesbury Tournament for full club members on the grass courts. This will be during the Club session, and it will be an American doubles format.

Following a review of last year’s usage and booking system the committee has elected to make four courts bookable this year with two remaining as walk on's.

Mick will manage court usage and will be able to maintain, treat and rest them as needed day by day.

Turning to the indoor courts the new revised system has worked well and a satisfactory compromise reached between balancing the wishes of those preferring a guaranteed block booking in advance and those who favour some flexibility in when they wish to book. This system will continue for the 2024 autumn/winter season.

That concludes your Chair's report for this year. In ending may I thank the play- in team for their work throughout the year and my fellow committee members for the time they have given up in attending committee meetings and the additional work and time they have put in outside those meetings.

Finally may I wish you all a further happy year of playing tennis and socialising with fellow members and I hope our summer is much drier than our winter.

**Nick Nicol**

**Chair**