

Bearsden Lawn Tennis Club - Secretary's Report 2016

With another year in our history nearly over, it is time to present the Secretary's Report - summarising the Club's activities over the past year and to invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8th November. Please support your committee in their efforts to manage the Club with both the members' and Club's best interests at heart.

Clubhouse Extension: Obviously, the big event of our year was the completion of our much-discussed and long-planned clubhouse extension. Work started in late February and the clubhouse was operational again for the league matches that started in early April. In my opinion, it has transformed the club already and it gives us opportunities to use the new space for social events, table tennis, indoor coaching, etc., etc. What a change from the old clubhouse! Huge thanks go to Paul Thomson for all his hard work and efforts steering the project through over the past three years. Also to the fundraising committee for their endeavours over the last year (the Buy-a-Brick campaign, the tournaments, BBQs and raffles).

Membership: At end of September 2016, our membership was standing at a healthy 260 – a decrease on last year, but income from subscriptions overall has been maintained. Once again, the committee would like to thank our Membership Secretary Keith Wright for all his hard work over the year (and for performing the role of Treasurer during the year also).

Coaching: Our Club Head Coach Gordon Wilson (along with his team of assistants and helpers) continues to develop and encourage the junior and senior membership. Gordon has provided an extensive junior coaching programme throughout the whole year, with summer, Easter and October camps running during holiday periods too. There are also popular Drills Nights for senior players taking place on Tuesday and Thursday during the winter now. As always, the feedback from participants in Gordon's coaching is full of praise for his expertise, advice, and enthusiasm.

Teams: The Club entered 39 teams in the Tennis West of Scotland leagues and competitions this year. We had 9 junior teams participating in the AEGON junior leagues and the Club is represented in nearly all age groups.

On the Junior side, there were division wins for our Under 14 Boys and Under 12 Boys teams, plus runner-up places for some other teams. Congratulations to them and to our other teams - who all performed well – despite sometimes being up against some much larger clubs. And a special mention must go to the parents who take on team captain roles and drive juniors to away matches.

Our Mens 1st team had a great year winning Division 2A, and then triumphing in the Division 2 championship play-off match in September, whilst the Mens 2nd team won Division 4A. The Ladies 1st team finished mid-table in Division 1/2 and won their play-off match convincingly. The other Senior teams had mixed fortunes, with some pushing for promotion, some maintaining "mid-table respectability" and others having "tough" campaigns!

Tournaments: The 40th hosting of the annual **Invitation Tournament** took place on a lovely sunny day in early June. Once again, Josie Beeley was the organisational dynamo behind this popular event. Bishopbriggs won the men's event and Thorn Park the ladies, with the trophies being presented by John Shemilt, President of Tennis West of Scotland.

The **Summer Series Tournament** (this was its 27th year!) was run in early August, and was once again sponsored by Doe Sport (North). As is the norm, the event was very popular (more than 120 competitors across all the different categories) with highly-rated players attracted from near and far. The committee would like to express their thanks to Josie Beeley for the considerable commitment,

time and effort spent organising and running these events. They undoubtedly boost the profile of Bearsden LTC within the Scottish tennis scene.

The recent **Drumchapel Inter-Club Tournament** culminated in an exciting finals day with lots of BLTC players involved. We retained the Junior Shield for the seventh year in a row, and the Senior Shield for the second year.

Other Events: The Club continues to enjoy social tennis on Saturday afternoons and Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Weather permitting, these sessions are usually well attended and our thanks go to those members who participate regularly.

We held a **Fund Raising Mixed Doubles tournament** on Saturday 27th August – a handicap format with playing partners drawn from a hat. It was a hugely enjoyable afternoon of tennis with a raffle, followed by an evening where lots of members enjoyed the barbecue and many refreshments. The winners of the J. Black Mixed Doubles cup were Esther Morgan and Harry Leitch. Thanks to Phil Waterfield for his hard work organising this event, and for his lead role in arranging the **Awards Dinner** social event that was held on Friday October 28th at Bearsden Golf Club.

Championships: The Club Championships took place on September 10th, with Joanne Quirk in charge – making sure all the ties were played on time! Umpires Josie Beeley, Phil Waterfield, Paul Thomson, Andy Gordon and Joanne helped out on the day, and Fiona Quirk, Pauline Hughes and others kept the supplies of tea, sandwiches and cakes flowing from the kitchen. Once again, the standard of tennis was very high. Congratulations to our 2016 champions:

Juniors

8 & Under (Red)	James Alexander
9 & Under (Orange)	Michael Mazoyer
10 & Under (Green)	Craig Christie
U12 Boys	Jack Deveney
U14 Boys	Luke Turnbull
U14 Girls	Lucy Taylor
U16 Boys	Luke Turnbull
U16 Girls	Rachel Taylor

Seniors

U21 Gents	Scott Waterfield
U21 Ladies	Rachel Taylor
Gents Singles	Kafui Akpo-Young
Ladies Singles	Emma Wright
Gents Doubles	Phil Waterfield and Scott Waterfield
Ladies Doubles	Joanne Quirk and Emma Wright
Mixed Doubles	Karen Christie and Phil Waterfield

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all members for their continued support and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on the Tuesday 8th November.

Andy Gordon
Secretary