



Lydney Tennis Club AGM
Monday 27th November 2023
Chair's Report

Welcome everyone to Lydney Tennis Club AGM. We started our year marking the celebration of our 70th Anniversary and welcoming our new President, Martin Godwin. We marked our anniversary launching a new logo for the club which has been displayed on a new sign, our website and on social media. These changes represent the Committees commitment to drive the club forward and evolve

We can celebrate another successful year for Lydney tennis club. We have continued to make great progress in developing the club and its facilities. A huge amount of time and effort has been made to secure funding to enable us to undertake projects to provide the best facilities for our members. Our aim of these projects has not just been to improve our facilities but to take responsibility for our environmental impact. We received a very generous grant from Enovert Community Trust which enabled us to replace our outdated floodlights with energy efficient LED lights and install solar panels with battery storage. The reduction in our energy bills will enable us to keep our costs affordable for our members whilst allowing us to take steps towards to becoming a greener and more eco-conscious club.

We have also completed other projects such as the extended decking, built a new shed for storage and improved the entrance with planting. It's incredible what we have been able to achieve over the last three years and testament to the commitment of the committee and the time and effort given. It's important to remember that the committee is made up of volunteers and generously give up their free time to make these projects happen. These projects are not without their challenges, but we've pulled together to overcome them. A special thank you must go to Cath who has worked tirelessly to deal with these challenges and for her hard work and perseverance to get the jobs done.

As well as the large projects undertaken, a great deal of time is given to the day to day running of the club. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those on the committee that do the less exciting tasks that keep our club running smoothly. A special thank you to Caroline who worked hard engage with a Safeguarding review in February and ensured the club passed with flying colours. This represents the club's commitment to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all our members.

The club has continued to go from strength to strength with its members. The engagement in the club is reflected by the success we have enjoyed in the county leagues, both summer and winter. Once again, we have entered 11 teams into the Summer league and 5 teams in the mixed winter league. We have also entered 2 ladies teams and a mixed team in the over 60's winter league. It's fantastic to see so many members playing competitive tennis and representing our club so well. Our Monday evening social night is well attended as well as the men's practice evening. We have also set court time aside for an over 50's social session on a Thursday and are experimenting

with another social session on a Sunday afternoon. We now have Pay and Play set up for the club and have set aside court time on courts 3 and 4 for non-members to book. This provides the club with some additional income and opens up our courts for the wider community.

Our coaching team led by Rachel has continued to work hard to provide us with a great coaching programme for adults and juniors. The women's doubles coaching run by Rach and Cath has continued to grow with a new beginner's session introducing more women and girls to tennis. Rach has also expanded the team with a new coach, Mark, who has started a men's doubles coaching group which is proving very popular. Rach has supported our young coaches with their development with both Jess and Rachel achieving their level 1 coaching qualification and working towards their level 2. Expanding the team and developing their skills has enabled Rach to meet the increasing demands for one to one coaching. Cardio tennis also continues to be a bit hit both on a Tuesday morning and Sunday afternoon. Rachel continues to do a great job of posting on social media to raise the club profile and engage all our members in our tennis community.

We've enjoyed some great social tennis events this year, including a Coronation Triples tournament and a ladies' social with a tennis clothing pop-up shop. We've also held a number of tournaments, including the Deirdre Maguire Toombs tournament, organised by Jan and Dave and the newly named Maisie Hoggard Tournament, organised by Barb and Lisa. We also had a successful Club Champs tournament, organised by Jason. A huge thank you for those who gave up their time to organise these events and all those who took part.

We have had a couple of our committee members step down which has opened two spaces. We're delighted that Ellie James and Neil Denison have stepped up to join the committee and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them and thank them for joining the team.

As we enter the new year, we will be developing a new action plan to identify how we can continue to improve and maintain the Club. We will be sending out a Members Survey so that we can ensure the needs and expectations of the members are being met. This can provide us with valuable input into our planning process.

In conclusion 2023 was another successful year for the Club both on and off the courts! We have developed a club that we can be proud of. This is reflected in the positive comments we get from visiting teams.

We look forward to seeing what we can achieve in 2024!

Karen Geelhoed

Chair