

## **Chairman's report**

### **Woodbridge Tennis Club AGM – 2nd March 2017 The Pavilion, Kingston Fields – 7.15 pm**

Hard to believe that it is a year since I last wrote an annual report but another year has passed and once again it is time to welcome all our members to the club's AGM. Jeremy has again kindly allowed us to hold the event in the Pavilion Café and we thank him for that and for his support to the club throughout the year.

Your Committee have been busy off the court throughout the year and as always there is a lot going on at the club some of which will not be immediately apparent to members.

As previously reported we have been in negotiations for some time with Woodbridge Town Council concerning the renewal of our lease of the courts to secure the Club's long term future. We agreed terms with the Council last year and are currently dealing with the legal aspects of agreeing the wording of our new lease so that we can get this completed and registered. In essence we are taking a similar long term lease to that which we held before but updated to reflect more modern legal practices as the previous lease was granted in the 1980's. The initial rent under the new lease will be the same that we were previously paying. Woodbridge Town Council have been very helpful in this process and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for all their assistance in getting to this point and their continuing support of the club.

We also have an exciting project underway to replace the lamps on the floodlights. This will give us increased and more reliable lighting but with less light pollution outside the courts. The new lamp heads are more efficient and therefore will also cost us less to run. We have been very lucky to obtain in principle some interest-free finance from the LTA to assist with part of the cost. Estimates have been sought and a preferred supplier agreed. The project will proceed just as soon as we have been able to finalise and complete the new lease and at that time we will be able to give members better information as to when the works will take place. It is hoped to achieve this with minimal disruption to the use of the courts.

For the third year running we hosted a round of the Aegon Under 10 County Cup and were once again privileged to see some of what I am sure are the tennis stars of the future playing on our courts. Some of our own junior stars continue to excel and we have been proud to be able to again offer some of them minor financial support to assist in their progress. This year's highlights include:-

#### **Harper Mills**

Harper has progressed well this year with his rating going up to 5.1. Harper qualified for his first National level tournament in Bolton this December which was an excellent experience for him to take his game to the next level. Harper has been competing at in the U16 age group taking quarters and semi's of numerous events (he is U14) and was crowned County Champion for the U14 boys age group in August 2016. Harper also represents the club in the men's first team and won another G3 event in Felixstowe during the summer.

#### **Harriet Petley**

A transitional year for Harriet as she has moved into the U16 age group, which for girls means she will also play a lot of U18 and senior tennis. Her rating has risen to 3.2. Harriet won the consolation event at the David Lloyd Grade 3 ladies event in December, as well as Winning the British Tour Fast 4 event at

Easton in October. In the summer Harriet was a semi finalist in the Ladies G3 event at Felixstowe and was runner-up in the consolation draw of the U14 National in Nottingham. Harriet was also a semi finalist in the Road to Wimbledon event played at Wimbledon in August and reprised Suffolk ladies in the summer and winter county cups.

As always we continue to have a creditable number of teams in both the summer and winter leagues. Congratulations to all those who play in those teams, those who support them and in particular to the team captains who organise and arrange the fixtures and cajole and encourage their teams throughout the season.

My thanks to Jon Mansfield and all the coaching team who continue to bring along and inspire both the adult members of the club and also the next generation of young players. We are a community as a club and Jon is a massive part of growing that community and spreading it.

After 5 years in the role I have now decided to stand down as your Chairman and to let someone else take on the role and to bring their own ideas to the Club. I am sure that you will support whoever you choose as your next Chairman of this vibrant club and that it will be in safe hands. They will also have the benefit of the supportive and hard working committee that I have been privileged to have had work with me over these last 5 years.

Finally my thanks to you the members of the club for supporting me and the Committee in everything that we do. I wish the Club the very best for the future.

Kurt Goddard  
Chairman