**Tennis section report 2026**

We've had another very productive year. We currently have 173 tennis members, comprising a healthy mix of junior and adult players ( 41 members are 18 or under)
The gender balance is relatively even, with 88 male members and 85 female members. Overall, these figures demonstrate a broad membership base across age groups, with a balanced gender representation and a strong foundation for continued participation and development at the club.

**Pay and Play** is bringing in a small but steady income with the proceeds paying for coaching for community groups- currently our coach, James Kilpatrick (JK) is working with MENCAP but intends to offer coaching to other groups.

**Club Play**
Hugely popular and perhaps a bit **too** busy on Sundays (victims of our own success) but even if you have to wait a bit to get on court, it's a very social way to play tennis.
We now have 4 regular club play sessions to try and ease congestion. Sunday 10 am. Wednesday 5.30. Friday afternoon 2.30 and Friday Nights from 5.30. We also have Saturday mornings from 10- 12 but not many takers so far for this one. Hopefully the Saturday morning session will become more popular in the dark winter months… it's much nicer playing in daylight!

**Coaching**
We are incredibly lucky to have a coach who only works with our club.
- 90 Juniors on the kids coaching programme.
- Varied coaching sessions weekly for all adult members and all levels
- One to one coaching sessions available
- Community link with Oaklands School (SEN) has been established. JK delivered first taster session at the school and hopes to work with them on a regular basis
- Mencap receiving coaching once a month funded by the pay and play court.

Anyone wishing to know more about coaching opportunities please contact JK direct at **jkilpatrick@jktennis.com**

**League teams**
**NDLTA teams:**
Total of 2 winter teams last season which has increased to 3 for this winter
Summer had 8 teams comprising 3 mens, 3 ladies and 2 mixed.
**Berkshire league summer teams:**
Increased this summer from 1 mixed team to 2 mixed and 1 ladies

Overall, an increased opportunity for competitive tennis against other clubs (although we did have some teams in the same division having to play each other!) With the increased teams there were more members playing than ever before, although exact numbers not available as the NDLTA website was slow to update players names. A

pretty successful season for most teams and Hungerford hospitality and home spectator crowds, as ever, drew favourable comment.

**Club competitions**
As with last year Michael Hradill has run 2 very successful competitions, **The Road to Wimbledon** mixed doubles competition and **The Hradill Cup**- Mens and Ladies doubles. Both competitions were well received and over subscribed. These raised £320 for the tennis sinking fund. Michael also runs a singles ladder and has just started a doubles ladder too. Anyone interested in joining please message Michael direct on 07490 253687

**Social Events/Fundraising**
We've had less fundraising events this year but we did take part in the Hungerford Carnival again- no prizes this time tho. Thanks to the Lardners and the Barnetts for making this happen ( yet again) and thanks to the members who joined the procession. See below for other events and money raised. Thanks to everyone who helped make these happen.

Burns Night Supper- £528.35
Plant sale - £539.49
Pay & Play- £931.48
Easy Fundraising (Since last AGM Nov 25) £1045.09
Tennis Ball Recycling £81.84

**Beer Festival**
The Pimm's and Prosecco stall was back with a bang… expanded to sell lager and soft drinks. This helped alleviate queuing at the main bar which was efficiently managed by Debbie and Jane- the speed at which they could serve people was amazing. The BBQ was, as ever, expertly run by SJ and her band of helpers. Big shout out to Bella who did a great job in serving up the burgers with total focus and professionalism. This year the BBQ, Pimms & Prosecco stall took nearly 6k (gross) for main club funds. Thanks again to SJ, Rich and Zuzi for all the planning and setting up that makes this so successful. And thanks to Gary W, and Rhian for sorting the electrics, the sound system and many other things that happen behind the scenes. I know it was a load of work, but the beer festival is very popular and very successful but only because of the efforts of **all** involved, so thank you to all the tennis members who helped over that weekend. It just couldn't run without your support and hard work. (Special mention goes to Laurie Dornan who when he wasn't running around helping, managed to eat twice his own body weight in burgers and sausages!)

**Refurbishment of bar area**
In the summer a group of tennis members ( and Alan!) started the refurbishment of the bar area. We achieved a lot in a few days giving the club a fresh, more modern look. Many thanks to all of you who took time off work and gave your services for nothing. It was hard work but fun (mostly!) Apologies for being a control freak!

The bench seating has now been sanded and reupholstered and looks great.  Many thanks to Jen Goss ( upholstery) and Julian Todd  ( sanding) for their hard work.
We still have more to do which hopefully will be completed in the next couple of months

**Upgrading/extending the court lights**

We desperately need to upgrade our existing lighting as the lamps began to blow regularly and the cost to replace one lamp is around £500 plus, in order to change them, we need to hire a scaffolding tower every time. This is throwing money way.

Our plan is to upgrade existing lights to LED and install new LED lights on court 2 and ideally court 1 too. This is not an easy project. Securing planning permission will be tricky but we are determined to try. It seems a no brainer to me to replace existing lights with LED which would allow for less and more focused light spillage, be better for the environment and would be much more cost effective. Marius Tataru has volunteered to project mange this ( thank you Marius) and we have engaged a third party to help with the planning application. None of this will be quick so bear with us on this one.

I think we have had another great year and look forward to doing even more next year. Thanks to every member ( well maybe not *every* member…) for making this such a lovely club to be part of.

Claire Ward
Chair- Tennis Section

















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