



Brenchley and Matfield Tennis Club

Chairman's Report 2024

Dear Members

I would like to begin my 2024 Chairman's Report by extending my gratitude to our members, our committee, our coaching team, and all the volunteers who have generously contributed their time and effort to the club this year. Your ongoing support has allowed us to continue thriving as a club, offering people of all ages and abilities a friendly and welcoming experience and enabled us to improve and maintain our facilities to the high standard needed to retain and attract new members.

At the end of 2023 the committee decided to hold membership fees for 2024. With our members experiencing tough external factors, such as high inflation and cost of living rises, we felt our tennis club should be the one part of peoples lives not to add further stress to finances and instead remain the place people could rely on for their health, wellbeing, fitness and friendships and ensure the club remains the social hub for the local area that it has been for many years.

This membership fee freeze wasn't without its challenges, instead pushing the burden to our committee and volunteers who worked very hard this year to not only grow our social activities and maintain our grounds and facilities, but to do so while pushing for cost savings and additional revenues to protect our clubs' sinking funds for the future.

When finances are tight it is important not to let this hold a club back when it comes to health and safety, general maintenance and improvements. Existing members need to feel that the club is being well maintained and their money well spent, and potential members need to see the club at its best when considering joining us.

With this in mind we pushed ahead with all the maintenance and improvements planned for 2024 which included a new mat entry to courts 1&2, repainting the practice wall on court 3, upgrading the clubhouse distribution board and installing new RCD protection, installing new lighting around the club and toilet path, repairing the clubhouse window sills and beading and adding new drainage borders around the tennis courts which should also limit weeds encroaching on the court surfaces.

The above were in addition to our usual maintenance schedules and so our finances have certainly experienced a hit this year, however we will benefit from these improvements for many years to come.



Moving on to club sessions and social events, it was great to see so many activities on offer this year. These included a very successful quiz night in February, a golf day out in August, a 50th anniversary special Bedford cup competition in September and a very well attended Christmas get together in Matfield's cricket pavilion in December.

These events take a lot of time and effort to organise, advertise, set up and manage, so reminding everyone that we function on volunteers only, I would like to add another special thanks to our committee and volunteers who give up their time in order to make these events and ultimately our club so successful.

These events offered a great extension to our standard sessions and internal annual tournament which again this year all proved very successful with more active members attending sessions in 2024 than I can remember for many years.

We hope this trend continues and we plan on repeating for 2025, with the extra hope of reinstating the summer party which the club hasn't seen for a long time.

To assist with social events and gaining extra revenue for the club, we continue to improve our website and events page and have added card payment options for future use.

We hope this helps attract new members to the club as well as the ability to raise additional revenue in the future.

To confirm this year's committee movements, we were pleased to gain two new committee members in 2024, Jane Turner and William Saunders. Both very active members of the club. Their fresh ideas and perspectives have been a great addition to the team. Thank you both again for your contributions this year.

A sad departure from our committee and club at the very end of 2024 was our long serving safeguarding officer Graeme Dalton. Graeme has been at our club for many years and has always been a very active member and a strong club team member. He will be missed but we hope this is just a temporary rest from tennis and that he will be back with us very soon in the future.

As well as safeguarding trained coaches at our venue, it is also essential to have a main safeguarding officer at our club and on our committee. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce that Sally Overy has agreed to take on the role of safeguarding officer and pending voting this evening, join us on the committee to ensure that safeguarding training and policies continue to be adhered to at the highest standards going forward.

Onto membership, I have highlighted the key numbers for 2024 below:



Clubspark Statistics	2019 Packages	2020 Packages	2021 Packages	2022 Packages	2023 Packages	2024 Packages	2024 Total Members
Adults Individual	48	63	56	57	60	52	52
Family	41	34	33	40	43	44	140
Juniors (including under 5)	117	120	132	125	88	93	93
Seniors	14	12	15	13	14	15	15
Students	5	6	3	2	7	9	9
Total	225	235	239	237	212	199	309

The above figures confirm that we are showing a very slight decline in adult membership numbers but are starting to recover the previous reduction in junior members. To improve membership numbers in 2025, we will continue focusing on social sessions, events, and league team entries to attract new members in the area.

Please find below the proposed committee for 2025 pending approval this evening:

Officers:

Chair & Membership Secretary – Carl Allcorn

Club Secretary – Trevor Hogan

Treasurer – Will Izzard

Committee:

Sally Overy (Safeguarding Officer)

Aaron Carr

Ali Pettitt

David Izzard

Jane Turner

Keely Carter

Mike Hughes

Rona Hogan

William Saunders

Carl Allcorn

Chairman

Brenchley and Matfield LTC

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