



Brenchley and Matfield Tennis Club

Chairman's Report 2021

With the year starting off in the worst possible way for report content, a Covid-19 lockdown, we decided to make the most out of the situation and press on with the LED light conversion quoted back in December 2020.

The downtime in play took all the pressure off of the installation and so the transition from the old to new lighting went without issue and disruption to play.

With the move to the lower energy lighting and the convenience of turning LED's off and on at the literal flick of a switch (without warm up and cool down periods), we also decided to ditch the dated token system and make the lighting an included perk of membership at our club, saving members the cost and hassle of obtaining tokens as well as being an attractive benefit to prospective new members.

Thanks to the work of our committee and treasurer at the time Tony Lewis, the club was also able to obtain an interest free loan from Kent Tennis, allowing us to spread a large portion of the LED installation cost over 5 years. With the saving in running costs, the removal of expensive repair costs on old lighting systems and the reduced hit to our cash reserve we feel this project has hugely benefitted the club whilst maintaining a sensible safety net for court resurfacing and replacement when the time comes.

A special thank you goes to Corin Fiddaman who made the initial introduction to Armadillo lighting in the first instance.

With the LED lighting project completed in late February 2021, we were pleased to see the Covid-19 lockdown lifted for several tennis activities in March, allowing some normality to return to our club and for social sessions to once again restart, although we did unfortunately have to cancel our annual club tournament for the second year in a row.

The government and LTA roadmap continued leading us to a full Covid-19 restriction release in mid-July and thankfully that lasted throughout the remainder of 2021, allowing us to restart the Bedford Cup, a very welcome return to internal competitions.

As the year progressed, we continued our push to maintain and modernise the club and facilities. Focusing heavily on the clubhouse this year, we completed a full internal redecoration including the installation of new hardwearing vinyl flooring and the repair and repainting of the external walls.

With the replacement of some old furniture and the installation of a new fence leading to the clubhouse finishing the job, we feel the building now offers a lovely base for players, spectators, visiting teams and



social sessions. We hope these improvements lead to the clubhouse use being increased as much as possible, bringing more life and social gatherings to our club, both on and off the court.

As well as planned improvements this year, we were dealt a few maintenance curve balls with two fence repairs and then a sink hole appearing worryingly close to our clay courts.

Special thanks go to Malcolm Butler for his assistance, analysis and advice dealing with the sink hole and also to Mike Hughes for his assistance in making good the area within a very modest budget.

Moving on to committee movements, we completed the handover in 2021 of the treasurer role, with Tony Lewis stepping down and Will Izzard stepping up in what was a very smooth transition. A thank you to Tony for his assistance during this handover period and to Will for all the work he has put in this year finding his feet very quickly in what can be a very challenging role.

A second of our officer roles unfortunately took a hit in 2021 with Jo Scholtz, our club and membership secretary, leaving us for a new life in Madrid in August after volunteering in the role for 16 years. After such a long service period, the loss of Jo's experience and the time she would always dedicate to the club was a very daunting thought.

Thankfully Jo had been putting in extra time working closely with us over the last few years, implementing new membership management systems. Without that extra work to improve our systems and streamline our processes there would have been no way we could have coped without a severe hit to our service. Jo donated her time right up to her departure, hosting a handover meeting at her house surrounded by packed boxes. I still receive emails from Jo to this day as she continues to forward personally addressed emails and requests. From those forwarded emails we are happy to report that Jo's new life in Madrid is going very well.

Our final committee member departure was Corin Fiddaman who was a very positive addition to both the committee and our club social sessions. He unfortunately moved west out of our area but we hope at some point in the future his work brings him back our way. As mentioned previously, Corin was instrumental in starting the move to LED lighting which will be a benefit to the club for years to come.

If anyone would like to volunteer to fill the spaces on our committee or take on the role of club secretary, please let me know. Whilst we have a good team in place, it is important to always take on new members who bring new ideas and initiatives to the table and help keep the club moving forward.



Moving onto membership, I have highlighted the key numbers for 2021 below:

Clubspark Statistics	2019 Packages Sold	2020 Packages Sold	2021 Packages Sold	2021 Total Members
Adults Individual	48	63	56	56
Family	41	34	33	120
Juniors (including under 5)	117	120	132	132
Seniors	14	12	15	15
Students	5	6	3	3
Total	225	235	239	326

The above statistics are provided by our Clubspark venue management system which continues to add value on membership renewals, statistics and revenue forecasts allowing numbers to be monitored closely and compared year on year with ease.

The above figures confirm that we are in a good and stable place with membership numbers and more importantly have seen a very welcome shift in 2021 towards more active members attending social sessions.

Whilst the social sessions have been very well attended, I should note that due to the loss of a few key members to injury or moving away, plus the uncertainty of Covid-19 restrictions, we have struggled to field teams this year for interclub matches, forcing us to reduce our club team entries.

We are hoping this is a temporary dip and the new active members soon start to take places in our teams as we strive to offer as much tennis as possible for everyone who is keen.

Please find below the proposed committee for 2022 pending approval this evening:

Officers:

Chair - Carl Allcorn

Club & Membership Secretary – Carl Allcorn (temporary)

Treasurer – Will Izzard

Committee: Mike Hughes, David Izzard, Trevor Hogan, Rob Kenney, Ali Pettitt, Keely Carter, Tara Bromley, Graeme Dalton (Safeguarding Officer)

Carl Allcorn

Chairman

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E: info@brenchleyandmatfieldtennis.co.uk

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