

Brenchley and Matfield Tennis Club

Chairman's Report 2019

I would like to start this report by addressing the current situation with Coronavirus (COVID-19) as following government advice regarding meetings and social gatherings, we have decided to cancel our AGM.

We understand the importance of holding the meeting and appreciate that certain protocols will be missed, however, these are unprecedented times and the community and NHS have to be our first priority. As postponing the AGM to an unknown future date would only create more uncertainty and also as the club administration and development has to carry on, we chose to cancel rather than delay and will be moving ahead with the below assumptions:

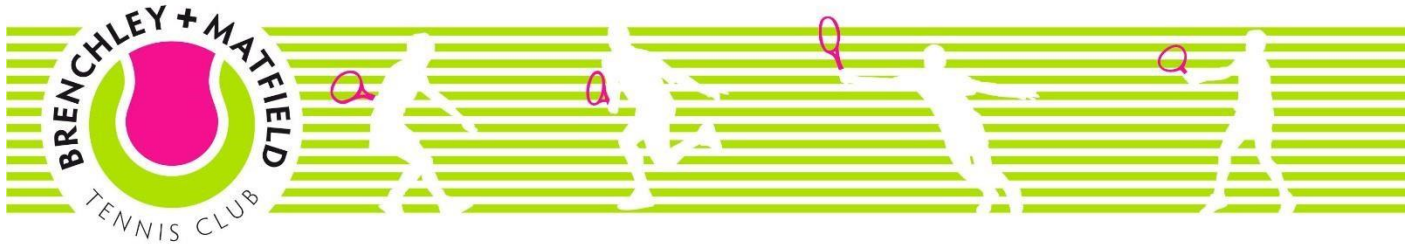
1. The minutes published on our website for the previous AGM held on Tuesday 26th February 2019 are accepted as a true record of the 2019 meeting.
2. The Treasurers report and audited accounts will be made available on request and also issued to the committee. Upon review these accounts will be adopted for the year ending 31st December 2019. Tony De Guingand has kindly agreed to carry on as auditor for 2020.
3. The Election of officers and committee members for 2020 will be assumed as accepted. This committee proposed and seconded list will be confirmed at the end of this report.

The LTA has now officially suspended organised activity and Kent tennis has also followed suit. As a result we can confirm that all Kent inter club summer league matches are suspended. We suspect Maidstone league matches and Combi league matches will follow suit soon. Your team captains will confirm these decisions as and when they come in.

We have also reluctantly taken the decision to cancel our club annual tournaments. If conditions or recommendations change as the year progresses we will look to organise something later on in the year.

Evolution tennis have emailed directly with process changes regarding tennis coaching which can currently remain in place. We will continue to work closely together and follow guidance provided by the LTA and the Government.

While the LTA has suspended its organised activity, the Government have currently indicated that recreational exercise that takes place at a safe distance from others and in safe exercise environments is something that can continue during this period.



Club nights can continue but during these sessions adequate social distancing should be adopted. The use of the courts and clubhouse for private sessions is unaffected but we ask you all to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to avoid catching it by following public health England, NHS guidelines and government advice.

Moving on to the general report, I would like to begin by thanking all the members who have emailed over the last year offering their thoughts, ideas, thanks and support.

It is this help and support received that makes our club the success it is.

My next note, which will always feature highly on these reports, is to thank the amazing committee, coaching team, team captains and volunteers who give their time (and in some cases blood, sweat and tears) all year round in order to complete the daily tasks and challenges it takes to run and continually improve our tennis club.

Staying on the subject of the amazing committee and the daily challenges we face, I have a couple of movements to confirm in 2019:

Sadly Steve Jones stepped down from the committee in August 2019. We have also lost Steve from the club entirely as he has moved west. Steve offered his best wishes and felt certain he was leaving a club destined to thrive and develop.

Also, and very reluctantly, I have to confirm that after 6 years in the role, in November 2019 Karen announced she would be stepping down as treasurer and also leaving the club.

In last year's report I commented on how hard Karen worked and how much time she donated to the club, completing not only her treasurer duties but also maintenance tasks on and around the tennis courts.

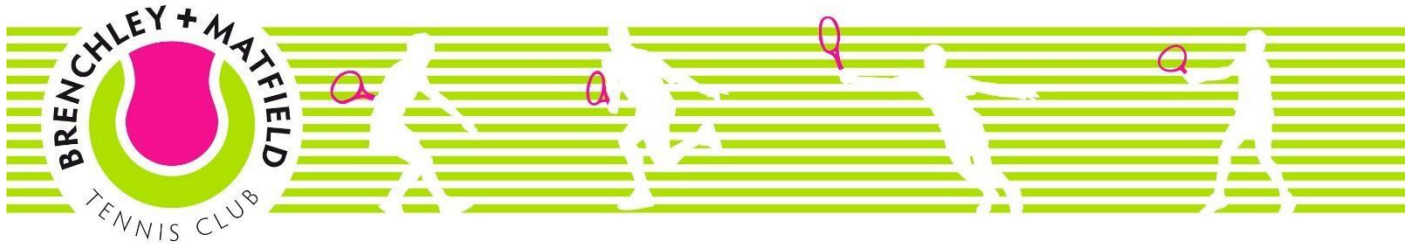
Karen will be hugely missed both personally and also as the committed volunteer and treasurer that she has been for many years.

Karen very kindly agreed to carry on with the treasurer role until today despite her officially leaving as a member at the end of 2019.

Karen's replacement will have some big shoes to fill (the humour in this comment will become clear later on in this report).

Negative movements out of the way, I am very pleased to announce that Tony Lewis has very kindly agreed to take over the role as club treasurer.

Tony took a little convincing, suggesting a younger model might be better suited to drive the club forward, although he always maintained from the start that he would step in if I insisted, with him being a huge supporter of the club.



When I finally explained the size of the shoes needing to be filled and that he had the largest feet I could think of, he had no choice but to accept.

Tony has been working closely with Karen, Jo and myself over the last few months to ensure a smooth transition. I know Tony will be great signing for the role and help us continue to drive the club forward.

Moving onto club achievements in 2019, I would like to start with some very note worth junior news: Our under 9 team won their winter division and subsequently went on to win the Kent county tournament for the winter season.

We also had one of our red ball players at the age of 6 selected for the Kent 8 & under squad which finished first place in the winter national county tour.

Some very impressive accomplishments and a credit to Evolution Tennis and the team who continue to provide second to none coaching programmes at our club, for which we are very appreciative.

The coaching programs available not only attract new members but also ensure we are part of a busy and thriving club of all ages.

One of the largest club achievements this year is the reform of the club venue management system as we implemented and transitioned our complete membership management and booking system over to Clubspark.

As well as a cost saving to the club, the benefits have been huge and to name a few: have enabled us to implement online membership payments; operate a far superior court booking system; administer a GDPR compliant contact management system; improve club cashflow with smarter renewal procedures; and these benefits go on.

We do appreciate that a few members have experienced teething problems with some areas of the new system, however the general feedback has been very positive. It is not yet a completed project so bugs, developments and improvements will continue to be worked on in 2020.

I am very pleased at how well this very large change has been adopted so far and for this would like to single out Jo Boyman, who has been integral to the implementation, donating huge amounts of her time and effort.

Other improvements to mention around the club this year are the clubhouse doors, tables and chairs which are a very smart addition. We plan on continuing this clubhouse facelift with at least a fresh coat of interior paint later in the year.

We also have, sadly, a new bench overlooking court number two. For those not aware, we lost Ron Sweetman in 2019. It was nice to see his memorial bench in use regularly immediately following its installation, something we are sure Ron would be very happy about.



We will continue with the push to add improvements where we can and are currently working on improvements to paths and stairs, the addition of foot brushes to reduce clay migration, blue baselines for junior members and are also at the early stages on LED floodlight replacements.

Membership numbers for 2019 are shown below:

	Packages Sold	Total Members
Adults Individual	50	50
Family	41	155
Juniors (including under 5)	117	117
Seniors	14	14
Students	5	5
Total	227	341

The new Clubspark venue management system has the added value of membership statistics and revenue forecasts so the above membership numbers can be monitored closely and compared year on year with ease going forward.

This will allow us to plan club spending and to take initiatives to attract certain membership types if and when required.

Please find below the proposed committee for 2020:

Officers:

Chair - Carl Allcorn

Secretary - Jo Boyman

Treasurer - Tony Lewis

Committee: Mike Hughes, David Izzard, Steve Doyle, Trevor Hogan , Rob Kenney, Ali Pettitt, Keely Carter, Tara Bromley, Graeme Dalton & Corin Fiddaman

Carl Allcorn

Chairman

Brenchley and Matfield LTC