



Brenchley and Matfield Tennis Club

Chairman's Report 2023

Dear Members

I'd like to start my chairman's report by thanking our members, the committee, our coaching team and all volunteers who have donated their time at our club.

Their support and dedication has allowed us to complete another successful year whilst dealing with some external challenges in the form of inflation and cost of living rises.

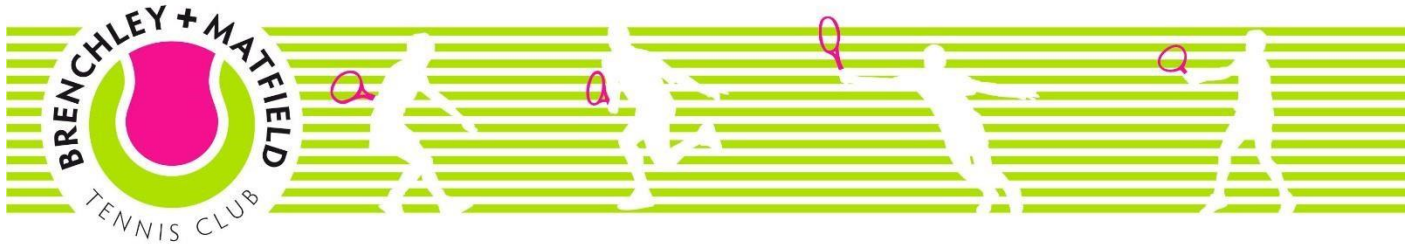
Despite these external factors increasing our overheads and maintenance costs, we decided to apply a very modest membership fee increase in January 2023 and held the junior membership fee at the 2022 level. It would have been easy to hike costs along with most other clubs and suppliers, however the committee decided to not let the tennis club be another burden on the pocket of our members but rather an attractive escape to their day-to-day challenges.

This squeeze on our cashflow did not mean a hold on improvements as we continued to keep the clubhouse, courts and grounds at the high standard we have come to expect. This meant negotiating with suppliers and accepting donations from members in the form of their time and goods to protect our membership funds.

To highlight some of the improvements and maintenance tasks completed in 2023; We renewed the tennis club BBQ which serves our Friday BBQ social sessions and other club events; We treated and repainted the tennis court fence posts; We added a table tennis table (donated by David Izzard) for use by our members; We completed maintenance on the cherry tree by court 1; We removed the bushes between the clubhouse and courts 1&2 and replaced with lawn.

For 2024 the maintenance tasks will continue as we plan on addressing the mat entry to courts 1&2, repainting the practice wall on court 3, installing new lighting around the club and toilet path and repairing the clubhouse window sills and beading.

These proposed club improvements will be completed with the same cost saving methods and negotiations as always as the committee agreed to hold membership fees for 2024 with no increase from the 2023 prices across all membership plans.



Moving on to club sessions, we have seen a noticeable increase in active member participation which not only makes the club a much more enjoyable place for all current members, but also makes us a far more attractive option for all new prospective members that come and try us out.

We are pleased to have reintroduced the ladies coaching session on Thursday evenings thanks to Evolution tennis and specifically Aaron Carr who has done an amazing job integrating within our clubs coaching offering this year.

We were also very pleased with our social events in 2023, which included a very well attended quiz night in March, a very successful golf day out at Holtye in August and an amazingly well hosted Xmas party in Matfield pavilion in December.

We plan on repeating all these successful events in 2024, with the aid of some website improvements which now allow us to receive card payments for membership plans and events as well as online registration for events and our annual club tournaments.

Our website continues to receive updates and improvements as we seek to find new ways to improve efficiency for our membership plans, court bookings, tournament entries and social events. Our website should be seen as a valuable tool to attract new members as well as keeping our current members informed of club events.

We received a club safeguarding audit by the LTA in June this year, which we passed with flying colours, where our website was also noted as offering great access to our club policies.

To confirm this year's committee movements, Tara Bromley stepped down, having been on the committee since 2018. We thank her for all her help and the time she has donated to the club over the years.

We have had good interest from members wanting to join our committee this year which is great for the club. We look forward to welcoming these new additions pending election at the AGM.

Onto membership, I have highlighted the key numbers for 2023 below:

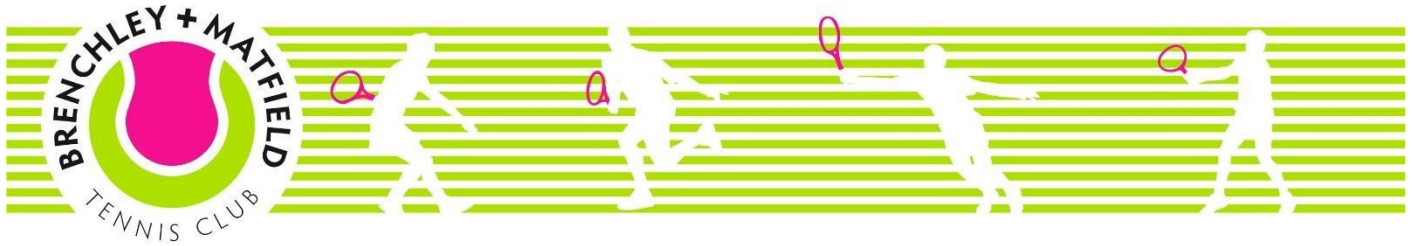
Clubspark Statistics	2019 Packages	2020 Packages	2021 Packages	2022 Packages	2023 Packages	2023 Total Members
Adults Individual	48	63	56	57	60	60
Family	41	34	33	40	43	137
Juniors (including under 5)	117	120	132	125	88	88
Seniors	14	12	15	13	14	14

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Students	5	6	3	2	7	7
Total	225	235	239	237	212	306

These statistics are provided by Clubspark our venue management system which handles 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 adult membership numbers and we experienced a small reduction in junior members. We will look to recover the junior member numbers in 2024 and maintain these high adult numbers by continuing our push on social sessions, events and league team entries, to attract potential members in the area.

Please find below the proposed committee for 2024 pending approval this evening:

Officers:

Chair & Membership Secretary – Carl Allcorn

Club Secretary – Trevor Hogan

Treasurer – Will Izzard

Committee:

Graeme Dalton (Safeguarding Officer)

Aaron Carr

Ali Pettitt

David Izzard

Jane Turner

Keely Carter

Mike Hughes

Rona Hogan

William Saunders

Carl Allcorn

Chairman

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