



Brenchley and Matfield Tennis Club

Chairman's Report 2020

I would like to begin this report by thanking everyone for their time this evening.

With the current Covid19 lockdown still in place and the fact that we did not hold the AGM meeting in March 2020, we felt it was important and also necessary to move ahead with the planned meeting this year via a remote video link.

With much of life being put on hold over the last year I suspect this report will likely be a little shorter than usual and secretly I am attempting to avoid the infamous 40 minute Zoom cut off that I am sure many of you have experienced several times over the last year.

Whilst tennis has been one of the lucky ones during this pandemic, being a sport that can operate with social distancing in mind, we have still seen many restrictions in play applied, coached classes and camps reduced, all league matches cancelled, our annual club tournament cancelled and our social sessions heavily impacted.

This has been a tough year for everyone but I would like to thank all members for their understanding and patience during this period.

Led primarily by the Government and LTA guidelines, we have done everything possible to keep the club open for play and with fingers crossed I am hoping we can now start the process of transitioning back into normal play over the coming weeks and months.

'Covid19 Return to Play' documents will be issued in the usual way as we progress.

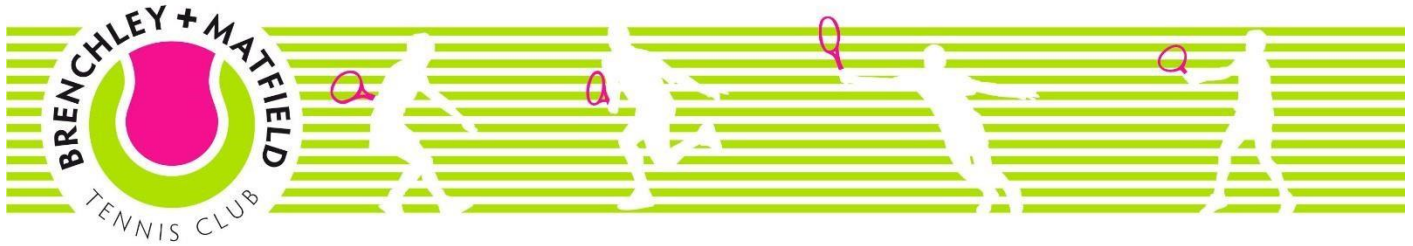
Without going into details and stealing the treasurers report content, it is safe to say that the clubs income was adversely effected this year.

We were also not eligible for any government or local council support packages of any kind.

This being noted, we very early on adopted the stance that this is a members club, not a for profit organisation.

As a result we have continued to pay maintenance, repair and improvement costs throughout the year, not allowing the reduction in income to affect our ethos of constantly driving the club forward.

We have remained diligent throughout of course and attempted to minimise outgoings where it didn't compromise on quality and service, but felt our focus had to be on supporting our members and coaching



teams and ensuring that the club was in the best condition possible at all times, pushing constant improvements for our members club wherever we can.

To highlight a few improvements completed in the year, we have added orange ball tennis courts lines to the hard courts which are a great addition for the junior members, junior teams and coaching sessions; We added a new safety hand rail to the lower courts as well as tidying up paths, steps and removing old fences; We added a shoe brush outside the clay courts in order to reduce clay migration.

Due to the failure of one of our floodlights this year, we also decided in 2020 to push the button on the replacement of our aging and soon to be obsolete floodlights with state of the art LED replacements. As well as future proofing and ensuring courts are not threatened with the potential of failing floodlights, we feel this move offers a list of great benefits for the club and its members. That is just a teaser for this report as although we implemented the switch in 2020 the install completion was February 2021 so full details will undoubtedly feature quite highly in the 2021 Chairman report.

I would also like to tease the refurbishment of our clubhouse internals which you should notice very soon, just to reaffirm our commitment to continued improvement.

Moving on to the committee, the coaching team and club volunteers, I would like to as always complement the amazing work that they do for us so that we are all able to play and enjoy our time at the club to the fullest. I am hugely appreciative of the time donated all year round in order to complete the daily tasks and challenges it takes to run our tennis club.

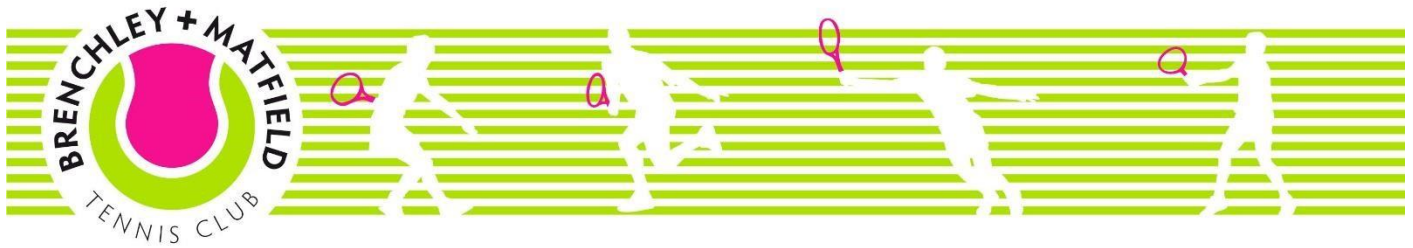
This year especially has been really tough, throwing us a multitude of curve balls in order to deal with the pandemic, but I feel every challenge has been met and completed to a very high standard throughout despite the pressures we have been facing both on and off the tennis courts this year.

Moving on to committee movements, I have the unfortunate news that Tony Lewis will be standing down as treasurer.

Tony very kindly stepped in last year to take over from Karen but his role was always intended to be a temporary one in order to help out the club with the transition.

Having already served as treasurer for us in the past for many years and knowing a younger treasurer will have far more stamina in driving the club forward, Tony has spent this year updating, streamlining and improving our current system leaving it perfectly placed for his successor to take over.

It has been a pleasure working with Tony this year and he will be missed in the role, however he will not be going anywhere and has very kindly confirmed he will be available for support going forward if required.



Another departure to announce is Steve Doyle who has recently exchanged contracts on a move to Devon. Steve has been a very active member for many years during which time he has stood on the committee for over 8 years and has also managed and created some of our club teams.

Losing a committee member is always painful but saying goodbye to a long term volunteer and active member who has always made himself available to help others is a sad occasion and he will be missed. Leaving very much on a high as our current men’s doubles champion, we wish Steve all the best for the future and hope he can pop along to a social session whenever he is back in the area.

Onto the positive signings, we will be proposing this evening for Will Izzard to take over the role of treasurer.

Famous for his youth and stamina he ticks all of the boxes recommended by Tony and being a hugely active member I know Will is the perfect candidate to help manage and push the club forward for the future. Pending approval this evening, the transition will start immediately with Will and Tony working together on handover, training and arranging bank authorisations.

A net loss of one committee member this year with all other members thankfully happy to carry on. If anyone would like to volunteer to fill this space on our committee, either this evening, or after some thought, please let me know.

Moving onto membership, I have highlighted the key numbers for 2020 below:

Clubspark Statistics	2019 Packages Sold	2020 Packages Sold	2020 Total Members
Adults Individual	48	63	63
Family	41	34	130
Juniors (including under 5)	117	120	120
Seniors	14	12	12
Students	5	6	6
Total	225	235	331

Our Clubspark venue management system continues to add value on membership renewals, statistics and revenue forecasts allowing membership numbers to be monitored closely and compared year on year with ease going forward.

This allows 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 2021 pending approval this evening:

Officers:

Chair - Carl Allcorn

Secretary - Jo Boyman

Treasurer – Will Izzard

Committee: Mike Hughes, David Izzard, Trevor Hogan, Rob

Kenney, Ali Pettitt, Keely Carter, Tara Bromley, Graeme Dalton & Corin Fiddaman

Carl Allcorn

Chairman

Brenchley and Matfield LTC