

Southbourne Tennis Club
Chairpersons report for AGM 14 October 2019

Welcome to this years AGM of Southbourne Tennis Club Ltd and Southbourne Tennis Club. Thank you for coming along this evening to show your support for the club as well as your interest in what's been happening during the last year.

At the end of my report at last years AGM I shared with you what I felt our main focus should be for this year. So I thought I'd begin my report by letting you know how far we've got and what still needs to be done.

1. Lease with BCP council – pending

Our final offer was sent to the officers concerned on 20 March 2019. We await their response.

2. Completion of the Club Business Development Plan – achieved

Committee finally approved this document in January 2019. Without the sterling efforts of Colin Gilbey, Kelvin Medley Jones and Richard Dear, who endured my many requests for changes, we might still have been working on it. Richard subsequently produced the associated action plan and as a result of this several working groups were set up. I am very grateful to those of you who willingly gave your time to the membership group and the members experience group. Both these groups have made significant contributions to assist the Committee in its decision making processes. Inevitably not all the changes and recommendations that these groups have made have been approved by the Committee due in the main to limited financial resources.

3. Completion of decisions around building another court - on hold

This has been put on hold pending the outcome of our application to become a registered charity since the majority of the larger grant making and funding bodies are only open to organisations with charitable status.

4. Completion of the documentation for the application for charitable status - achieved

I am delighted to be able to inform you that we have been advised that we fully meet the requirements to be registered as a charity subject only to confirmation to both Companies House and the Charity Commission of the Company Directors and Charity Trustees. We will be able to do so once the Election of Officers and Committee members has taken place later in this meeting. Thank you to Steve Place from BCVS and John Grainger for all the hours that they have spent completing the application.

5. Retention and recruitment of membership - ongoing

Colin Gilbey has spent many hours grappling with this issue ably assisted by several members. He is therefore best placed to report on this later in the meeting but I would personally like to thank all of you who took part in the Littledown Family Day to ensure that more people were made aware of Southbourne Tennis Club and why they should think about becoming a member. The festival flags and bright turquoise tee shirts definitely made us look very professional!

6. Improved communication especially digitally and using relevant social media - ongoing

In spite of having resigned from the Committee last year Adam Spicer still wanted to contribute to

improving the club. He offered to completely revamp our web site and I'm sure you will agree it is a great improvement . The ongoing challenge is to keep it updated, relevant , easy to navigate and attractive to current and prospective members. He will be training the Committee at our next meeting and I am sure will continue to be very grateful for any feedback that you are able to offer.

Our use of social media mainly Facebook has been greatly improved largely due to the work of coach, Sally Revel. Sadly she has recently left the club and as yet we have not found anyone else to take this on. All offers gratefully received, please let any of the Committee know if you can help this important element of our work.

7.Raising sufficient funds to ensure that the existing facilities are maintained and improved - ongoing

At the end of my report three years ago my final words to you all were 'money, money,money'. Three years on this is still the main thing that keeps me awake at night. The Treasurers' report later in the meeting will provide you with full details of our finances and demonstrate how carefully the Committee manages the books. We have very little wriggle room so unless we feel comfortable with taking some well considered risks we are not in a position to undertake any unplanned or unresourced expenditure. I am acutely aware of how frustrating this is especially for the members experience working group but I am sure that you will agree that financial probity has to be strongly maintained at all times.

And what other challenges has the rest of the year brought ?

In **March** three members of the Committee informed me of their intentions to resign once suitable replacements had been found. I am therefore extremely grateful that Carolyn Day agreed to become the new treasurer, Andrew King Social Secretary and Amanda Nagle Vice Chairperson, in the interim.

In **May** we held an EGM which 47 of you came to and agreed the revised Memorandum and Articles of Association and Club Rules. These were subsequently approved by Companies House and formed part of the paperwork required for the application for charitable status.

In **July** we held a meeting with team captains with a view to exploring how we could foster better links with both the Committee and other members.

In **September** Dimitri Antinio, a Junior member joined us for part of the Committee meeting and inspired us all by the very helpful and positive contribution that he made. It also opened up a discussion about whether or not we should consider inviting representatives of team captains and disability groups to attend Committee meetings.

I would like to conclude my report by recognising and acknowledging the extremely hard work that many of you continue to put into ensuring that our club remains successful. Firstly to Dave and the coaching team. Here in all weathers, answering the phone,dealing with members and visitors, ensuring that the club operates smoothly on a day to day basis, running coaching sessions, tournaments, open days to name but a few. A huge thank you to Dave, Matt, Ray and all other members of the coaching team.

I mentioned earlier that three Committee members resigned during the year and I wanted to thank them individually for the huge contributions that they have made .

Firstly **Martin Cavey** the Treasurer who held onto the purse strings for over eight years. He managed to do this as well as run his own business and fulfil his role at home. I think that he

played tennis occasionally too! Often it must have felt as if he had sole responsibility for ensuring the ongoing financial health of the club especially in relation to the creation and use of the sinking fund. Thank you for all the time and effort that you had to put in to get the books to balance each year, sometimes in spite of all the attempts to spend the money.

Sarah Stout, the Social Secretary, tea maker, cake seller, bowling trip organiser, box league celebration co-ordinator, kitchen rota co-ordinator, Christmas party planner, to name but a few of the many tasks that Sarah undertook for over three years. Sarah, this is a very small token of our sincere thanks to you for all those hours of work that you put in to creating a fun and vibrant social calendar.

Peter Richardson, Vice Chairperson has been my faithful vice chair and general dogsbody ever since I became chair always there with a hammer, toilet leak fixer, tree feller or whatever is needed. His role grew to include Maintenance Co-ordination, Health and Safety Lead and Manager of the Club Cleaner. Paul Woods has agreed to undertake the regular Health and Safety Checks and I am still awaiting volunteers to undertake the other roles as clearly they are not usually within the remit of the Vice Chairperson. Any takers? Thank you to Peter and to all of you who have assisted him in the ongoing maintenance of the club.

And finally the Committee. It is no easy task to continue to work effectively when almost half the Committee change during the course of the year. This is even more challenging when the club is going through a period of change and development. So I am very grateful to all of you for staying with it throughout the last year. Change is not universally well received and we have been acutely aware of this at various points. However I am confident that I can speak on behalf of all of us in saying that we welcome your comments, positive or otherwise. We need you to keep responding to our requests for feedback, support and to share your skills and expertise.

We're all in this together determined to ensure the ongoing success of Southbourne Tennis Club now and in the future.

Thankyou for being part of it .

Susie Grainger