

Chairman's Report to the Southbourne Tennis Club 2022 AGM

Although our last AGM was only 6 months ago progress has continued to be made across a wide range of projects around the club

The main improvement project was the surfacing of the car park adjacent to courts 5 & 6. Unfortunately, this took much longer than we had anticipated and caused more disruption than we had hoped for. The completion of the car park left us with a soft soil border that caused many members an issue when accessing equipment in the boot of their car. We are very grateful to Colin Reeves our maintenance man who came up with an ingenious solution which he implemented recently. I hope that you will agree that the finished article is very good.

Another improvement was the replacement of the exterior lights with new LED units. This should improve the safety of members moving around the club on dark winter nights. In addition, there was the installation of lighting on the mini-tennis court/practice wall. This will allow the court/wall to be used in the winter evenings.

After a great deal of pestering BCP council have finally cut back the trees that were overhanging courts 5 & 6. This should reduce the amount of leaf debris that accumulates on the courts in the autumn.

We have had major issues with the heating in the club house. These have now been resolved and will hopefully minimise our expense on gas during the 2022/23 winter when we anticipate gas prices to be significantly higher than at present.

We finally held our first social event in 18 months. The STC Christmas Party held at the Norfolk Royale in Bournemouth was attended by nearly 70 members and guests and, from the feedback we received, was very much enjoyed by attendees.

The winter team tennis season has been the first one completed fully for 18 months. Many of the teams have enjoyed success and will be promoted to higher leagues for the 2022/23 winter season.

Finally, the club conducted a members' survey during December of last year. We would like to thank all those that responded and gave us some ideas on how to improve the club. Although we cannot follow through on all the ideas, we have put some of the longer-term items in the updated Business Development plan with some of the short-term ideas being implemented as and when we can.

So, what is planned for the next 12 months?

The main project that we are planning is the court 1-3 resurfacing. It is likely that this will be carried out during the week beginning 25th April subject to good weather. Again, this will be very disruptive for approximately one week but we need to invest in our infrastructure to provide the facilities our members deserve.

We will also be replacing our outdoor furniture to enable us to socialise in a pleasant environment subject to sufficient finances being in place.

Social events are proving to be problematic going forward. Although we have received some offers of help to run certain social events, we really need some individuals to lead these events on our behalf as the committee members are too busy and don't have the additional capacity to lead these social activities. We will continue to look for individuals or small teams to help us rejuvenate our social activities at the club.

I would like to thank the committee, coaching staff and volunteers for helping to make Southbourne Tennis Club a great place to play sport.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and on court during 2022.

David

Chairman, Southbourne Tennis Club