

# **SAXMUNDHAM TENNIS CLUB**

## **AGM REPORTS 2023-24**

### **Chair's report for Saxmundham AGM 3rd April 2024, Frances Paul**

Hard to believe it's a year since I last wrote my last AGM report, and it feels more like I should be doing a weather report as it really has been quite a difficult year for the captains and getting matches played but we did get them all played.

In the Ipswich summer league, the Men's 1 finished top of Div 3 so will be promoted and Men's 2 & 3 unfortunately finished last so will go down but this gives them chance to regroup for the next season. Ladies 1 & 2 in Div 4 finished second and third but we are promoting Ladies 1's and hope they will attract some new players to bolster their team. Mixed Div 3 unfortunately last so will also be demoted but with only putting in one Lowestoft team this coming year it should free up players for a return up the ladder next year.

As you are all aware we now have our new lights up and running thank you to all those involved to make this happen especially David Lewis who did a lot of technical work and arranging the installation. We also have new benches on each court for you to either sit and watch or keep your bags of the wet ground, thank you Bill Camplin for putting them together with some other helpers.

I encourage you all to sign up to the newsletter Jo Davies does an amazing job on this and it will keep you all up to date with events and results, e-mail [club@saxtennis.co.uk](mailto:club@saxtennis.co.uk).

Matt continues to run some great training sessions which are fun and will help improve your game, this is for all levels and ages. Last year he ran a great box league and hopefully will do so again this summer.

Thank you, Fiona for organising our first Tuesday of the month mini tournaments and keeping us in refreshments.

It just leaves me to thank all the committee for their tireless work behind the scenes and building a successful club.

Frances Paul

## Matthew Last, Head Coach report for AGM

Competition related:

- Suffolk Grand Prix volunteers required for refreshments please on the 21st April 1-3pm
- Box League Entries now open for mixed, men's singles, men's doubles, ladies doubles, ladies singles, senior singles (55+), junior singles (u18)
- Play Your Way to Wimbledon + Open Day Weekend 18th/19th May.
- Team T-shirts I'll bring up tonight.

From Men's 1<sup>st</sup>:

Disrupted session however very exciting one nevertheless with the following permutations come our last match Tuesday away to Sproughton:

- Win 5 sets and we win the league
- Win 4 sets and we are promoted in 2nd
- Win 3 sets and we stay up in 3rd
- Win 2 sets and it's a tie for 3rd/4th and who knows the outcome
- Win 1 or no sets and we are relegated in 4th

## Membership Secretary's Report 2023-2024, Jill Sedge

Number of Members as at March 2024

Total	146	(down 60 on last year)
Adults	92	
Junior	51	
Student	1	

Family membership is included in these numbers but only 3 families joined this year (8 the year before).

We did increase the membership fees in all categories, but nobody said they would not join because the fees were too high and no one asked for a concession.

There was only 1 Student member. Persons aged over 18, on 1st April but still in full time education. (this allows those away at college or Uni to play when they return in the holidays)

Fees were discounted for new members joining more than halfway through the year, as we normally do.

Membership fees for 2023-2024 were as follows:

Adult	£85
Concession	undisclosed
Student	£22
Junior	£12
Family	£140
Visiting Adult	£60
Visiting Family	£85

We have kept all fees the same for this coming year.

Jill Sedge, Membership Secretary

## AGM report from Nicole Hobson, Welfare Officer

Policies all updated 8.1.24 – will need reviewing within 3 years, or if policy changes in the meantime.

Need to update DBS renewal dates.

I have just applied for my DBS renewal.

LTA's promote 'Safe To Play' – say something if you see something.

All club members need to strive to ensure that all children, young people and adults at risk are safeguarded from abuse and have an enjoyable tennis experience.

Everyone who is involved in tennis has a shared responsibility to support this by promoting the welfare of all children, young people, and adults at risk.

Next year we will need a new welfare officer.

The Welfare Officer role is not something that is overly onerous or anything to fear!

Welfare Officers will receive a short training session (if you are not already trained) and your key role is to ensure safeguarding is very much on the 'agenda' at your venue. This will include supporting everyone at your club to pass any concerns to the National Safeguarding Team who will investigate further.

Are you:

- Approachable and trustworthy
- Engaging and supportive
- Able to resolve conflict
- A good listener
- Professional and helpful

Then you could be a real asset to your club and support a safe and inclusive environment for all!

The Welfare Officer role will allow you to utilise any skills and experiences you may have from employment or volunteering roles and can support you in further developing your skills for future careers where these can be applied. For a more detailed understanding on the role of a Welfare Officer, please see our [Welfare Officer Role Description](#).

The link to the role description is at: [LTA](#)

Also copied and pasted below from the LTA website:

**The Welfare Officer is responsible for promoting safeguarding within their venue and working with others to ensure a safe and inclusive environment is achieved.** The Welfare Officer must not be a member of the venue's coaching team and should not be related to a member of the coaching team (for example, their spouse). The Welfare Officer should be someone over the age of 18.

## **Main duties**

- Work with others in the club to promote safeguarding, diversity and inclusion and ensure compliance with the LTA's minimum standards for venue registration
- Work with others in the club to ensure safeguarding and diversity and inclusion information, including policies, reporting procedures and details of the venue Welfare Officer are visible and available
- Work with others in the club to promote the venue's Code of Conduct(s)
- Ensure safeguarding and diversity and inclusion is on the agenda at committee meetings
- Act as the first point of contact for all children and adults where concerns about welfare, discrimination, poor practice, or abuse are identified
- Work with the LTA Safeguarding Team when concerns arise within the venue
- Maintain contact details for the LTA Safeguarding Team and key statutory agencies
- Contact the Local Authority children's or adults' social care teams and the police about concerns where appropriate
- Work with the LTA Safeguarding Team to facilitate audits of the venue in relation to the minimum standards
- Work with the Committee/Management and LTA to facilitate the completion of any action plan to address the results of an audit
- Work with others in the venue to ensure the relevant people at the venue have completed a satisfactory criminal record check

## **Skills and Traits**

- Tactful and discrete
- Able to resolve conflict
- Engaging and supportive
- Approachable and trustworthy
- Good listener and friendly
- Caring and understanding
- Professional and helpful
- Required for this role – see here for more information

## **Key relationships**

- Chairperson and management committee
- Coaches
- Volunteers at the venue
- All members – junior and senior, plus parents/carers of junior members

## **Time Commitment**

- Attendance at key venue events, such as open days and junior competition
- Attendance at management committee meetings Training

Required - Safeguarding and Protection in Tennis (or another course approved by the LTA)

Required - Time to Listen

Preferable - Yearly updates Criminal Record Check

Required for this role – see here for more information

## Marketing and Communications Officer's report for AGM, Jo Davies

### Website

- Monthly newsletter September 2023 to February 2024 had an average open rate of 83%, up 10% from the previous six months. [The industry average is 21%.]
- There has been a noticeable drop in match reports. Please could match captains email or WhatsApp Jo with a few lines about who, where, when played, score and an image.
- Our website received 1,582 unique visitors from March 2023 to March 2024, a drop of 21%. They mostly found us via Google, 70% using a mobile phone.
- Court bookings is still the most visited page with 379 visitors; this page traffic increased by a big 62% compared with last year, indicating that our existing members are playing more.
- The most popular pages after court bookings are membership, coaching, contact, news, juniors, big tennis weekend. Matt's tennis coaching pages have increased in traffic by a further 32% on top of a 33% increase last year.

### Social media

- A free repost on the Saxmundham What's On Facebook page helped us promote the open weekend in May 2023 to several hundred people.
- A modest Facebook advertising spend of £16 sadly didn't yield much response – the free repost was much more effective!

### Print media

- We spent £200 to promote the Prime Youth Girls initiative and the Big Tennis Weekend event in April and May 2023, and to update the large banner by the entrance.
- Matt handed out flyers to hundreds of parents via his in-school activity.

### WhatsApp groups

- There are now 52 members on the main Sax Tennis WhatsApp group and it's being well-used to organise games.
- Club teams have lively WhatsApp groups, plus there are several informal groups e.g. Ladies Friendly Doubles with 22 members organising regular Wednesday games.

Jo Davies

March 2023

## **Match captains' reports**

### **Men's 3rd Floodlit league Captain's Report for AGM, David McGowan, Captain**

We managed to get all our games played with only a few re-arranged matches required. Thanks to my team for being available throughout the winter, during some cold, wet and windy conditions! We also managed to avoid the wooden spoon and came 4th in the league!

A win and a draw obtained the team 3 well deserved points. As per my previous report we managed to get a wide variety of players in respect of ages and talent, and it was good to give the opportunity to everyone who wanted a game.

We are seeing some great talent coming up through the ranks young and less young players. Some are already now playing and guesting in the seconds and first teams. All games were played with fun and laughter which I think is the spirit of the men's third team.

David McGowan

### **Ipswich Winter League – Ladies 1 Division 2 – Jackie Quilley, Captain**

We had a couple of matches rearranged due to the weather but that is the norm in the Winter league and the weather was overall pretty good for the matches. Sadly, I often struggled to get a team at times as our main players were often unavailable.

Results to date Won 2, Lost 5, and one rearranged match to play next Wednesday against Ipswich which we hope to win.

It was good to see Gen back after injury at the end of the season and so pleased she will be available for the summer matches. Nicole played one match for us with Lisa, but they were a very strong opposition, Sproughton and a lot of the players normally play in Div 1 so we were beaten but had good games. Despite Lisa playing for Framlingham ladies she managed to play two matches for us, and we won one and lost one. I am happy to welcome Sue who joined us for the last but one match at East Bergholt and Mags and I managed to get 4 and Sharon and Sue got the one set that made all the difference.

It is likely that we will get demoted, but I am sure we will be back in Division 2 again in the not too distant future with the support of Sue and others that want to support us and play competitive but fun tennis. Thank you all for your support: - Jackie, Mags, Jacqui, Lisa, Sharon, Imogen, Fran, Fiona, Kathy, Nicole, Gen and Sue.

### **Ipswich Winter League – Mixed Division 3 – Jackie Quilley, Captain**

We had an enjoyable season, but we may get demoted. Sadly, one match was not completed due to Roger having Achilles injury and another was halted due to the weather and it being too slippery.

We had a convincing win against Ipswich 7-1 at Henley Road, and we also beat them at home.

At Wortham we drew, and they conceded the home game as they were unable to get players. Thank you all for your support: - Jackie, Lisa, Mags, Jacqui, Kathy, Fran, Sharon, Roger, James, Martin, and Cameron.

### **Ipswich Week-end League – Ladies Division 2 – Jackie Quilley, Captain**

We had a very enjoyable season and only missed staying up by one set. All games were great fun but competitive and so close. The weather seemed to be kind to us, and one rearranged match recently was like playing in mid-summer climate. It was an epic match against Creekers, and we had loads of deuces, and the match could have gone either way.

It was the longest we had played all season lasting two and half hours. The final score was 2 sets to 1 to Creekers and it was great fun and played in a good spirit as are all the matches. Thank you all for your support: - Jackie, Mags, Jacqui and Julie

### **Match report for Lowestoft league – Roger Challis, Captain**

Many thanks to all who played, we had a competitive but fun season having gained promotion from the previous year into division 2 , which meant sax B (us) were in the same division as the A team!

When this situation occurs the fun element of playing should come to the fore of course and any matches played to be politely competitive! At the end of the season, we managed to finish above A and remain in Division 2 . Unfortunately, weather played its part so not all matches were completed.

Additionally, with one team in the Lowestoft league this year my/our intention is to combine the A & B teams and share the play. Any other club members that wish to get involved please put your names forward.

### **Men's 2 Ipswich – Roger Challis, Captain**

Many thanks to all who played in the Men's 2, again we had a fun but competitive seasons tennis. Overall, with 3 men's teams it can be a juggling act to get squads out for the matches but we managed to keep all 3 teams going with player movement.

This however meant some of us got tied to one team which has a knock on effect to the other teams making it difficult for them to get a team out for their matches. The B team concluded it's better to help another team out but not get tied, while perhaps not ideal , we felt it's a fairer way overall for all 3 teams . Extra thanks to Matt for organising the fixtures in way that meant running the 3 men's teams was possible.



Roger Challis

### **Ipswich Winter League – Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team – Nicole Hobson, Captain**

As the winter season comes to a close, we reflect on our journey with equal measures of wins and losses. However, for our B team, the true victory lies in the joy of playing the game.

A heartfelt thank you to all our players for their unwavering team spirit and relentless desire to compete.

As we eagerly anticipate the warmth of the summer sun, we look forward to more fun-filled matches ahead in the summer league. Despite our success last summer, we've made the decision to remain in our current league, allowing our A team to advance in our place. In this slightly less competitive league, we encourage both new and seasoned members to embrace the opportunity for match play and friendly competition.

The B team is about inclusivity and fairness, ensuring that every member has the chance to participate in match play if they want to, sharing out matches so all team members get some play.

A plea for the B team too, I am seeking someone to take on the role as a vice-captain, with the potential to take over the reins next season.

Together, let's continue to elevate our team camaraderie and passion for the sport.

Regards  
Nicole Hobson

*Reports end*