



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

September has arrived only too quickly, suggesting that the summer is now drawing to a close. However, the success of Emma Raducanu has provided UK tennis – and women's tennis in particular – with a glorious finale to the 2021 season. Emma is a wonderful example of what can be achieved with precocious talent, great coaching and steely determination and she should be a role model for all our juniors, as well as a figure of respect for all our members. You bring the talent, we have the coaches!

Respect is one of the things that I hope is an important part of any club. We should respect our fellow players – and those who visit and use our club facilities. We are trying to make our facilities work for the benefit of all, such as the better utilisation of the function room. So, it was rather disappointing to hear that a recent event in the function room was disturbed by members using the kitchen facilities. I would ask everyone to respect each other's space so that we can all enjoy our chosen events in the way that we would expect.

FINALS DAY RESULTS: The finals day of the annual tournament was a fine day in every respect – the weather, the standard of tennis and the happy atmosphere were all wonderful. I thank everyone who played in the tournaments, the organisers and numerous helpers in the background as well as the umpires and spectators for making it a perfect end to the events. A list of the winners and runners-up has already been circulated. Congratulations to you all and I look forward to next year when we are looking to introduce even more changes to make the tournaments even more successful.

TEAM RESULTS: It has been a good season for our Men's teams. The team results were:

1st team (Birmingham Div. 2): finished 1st (promoted)

2nd team (Coventry Div. 1): finished 5th

3rd team (Birmingham Div. 5): finished 3rd

4th team (Birmingham Div. 6): finished 3rd

5th team (Metropolitan Div. 4): currently 3rd

The Ladies results were:-

1st team (Birmingham Div. 1): finished 7th (stay in Div. 1)

2nd team (Coventry Premier): finished 7th (probably demoted to Div. 1)

3rd team (Birmingham Div. 4): finished 2nd (probably promoted to Div. 3)

4th team (Birmingham Div. 5): finished 3rd (stay in Div. 5)

5th team (Metropolitan Summer): finished 4th (stay in Div. 1)

We lost a few top players at the beginning of the season which meant the Ladies' 1st and 2nd teams had a tough job. The first team did very well to hold their position in Div. 1, while the second team struggled as a result of losing some players to the first team but will probably gain from regrouping in Division 1. Ladies 3rd team did well and have likely gained promotion, while the Ladies 4th team had its best result in Div. 5. All in all, a very good season. The Ladies 5th team stayed put in the top division.

On behalf of the club, I should like to thank all the captains for their hard work this year.

REFURBISHMENT OF COURTS 3&4: Following the EGM, which gave the main committee the authority to spend up to £80,000 on the project, and confirmation that the preferred option is green/green carpets following the membership survey, an updated detailed tender document has now been sent to the competing contractors. It has been determined that we shall wait for full planning approval for the new floodlights before we proceed, although it is recognised that this is likely to push the works back into 2022.

GROUNDSMAN: I am delighted to report that a new groundsman has been appointed to take over from Ken Miller, whose retirement after 39 years was marked earlier this month. The club presented Ken with an engraved garden spade and a set of wine glasses while the members' collection raised over £1,000 for Ken (including a membership of English Heritage). On behalf of Ken, I should like to thank all the members who contributed to his presents for their generosity and we all wish Ken a long and happy retirement. Ken has replied and says "A very big thank you to everyone for my retirement collection and the lovely messages. I will look back with very fond memories. Thanks also to Steve, the president, for his organisation and my leader, Charles, will keep in touch."



I welcome Chris Miles as our new groundsman and would ask all members to make themselves known to him over the coming weeks. Chris has been looking after the Avenue Bowling Club in Lady Byron Lane and is well known to the ground staff at the cricket club and will be involved with the maintenance of both tennis courts and the grounds generally.



SPONSORSHIP: The progress I mentioned in my last newsletter has accelerated. A sponsorship subcommittee has been set up under Steve Dann and includes Mark Dakeyne (legal), Peter Lyons (finance), Charles Pontifex (grounds) and Doug Gibson (website). We have signed up our first five sponsors now with more in the pipeline and raised a significant sum of money for the provision of tennis balls and other new facilities for members, including the provision of cycle facilities.

BALLS: The condition of the balls remains somewhat varied and, given that we replace them on a regular basis, the only conclusion that the committee can come to is that some members are still replacing their own used balls with our new ones. We would be grateful if members return the original balls in the trays after use and, if you are using your own, please consider returning them to the club for others' use or recycling. The balls used in team matches are reissued for members after the matches and I would ask team captains to return them to the box at 28 Grove Road for redistribution. Should the balls provided continue to be replaced with old ones, then the committee may have to consider ending this perk (after all, we are the only club in the area that provides balls for members now).

EVENING EVENTS: As lockdown eases and the autumn approaches, the bar and social committee have started to look at opportunities to keep members in party mood. Two events have now been added to the club calendar - a quiz night on Friday November 26th and a Christmas party on Saturday December 18th. Please put these dates in your diaries now!

FINALLY: Without being too curmudgeonly, I would just like to emphasise that we are a members' club. We do not have any elves to clear up for us so I would ask those people who

borrow items from the club (e.g. cutlery, tables or balls) to return them to their rightful places afterwards. This includes glasses from the bar which should not be left outside. We plan to have a comprehensive asset register in due course and anyone wishing to borrow any items should book them out via Lynn Brown, Della Weston, Sally-Ann Shaw or Annette Hammond.

I wish everyone a fruitful autumn. Remember - the bar is now open from 6-10pm on Fridays with 15% off bottles of Prosecco on Fridays in the KDRC bar. Fizz Fridays are here!

Steve Williams

September 2021