



## PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2022

Firstly, I would like to wish all our members a very Happy New Year, if not a bit belated! It is apparent that 2021 will go down as a year to forget for most people. A further year of Covid-19 prevented life from returning to normal and causing disruption to peoples' work and social lives, their finances and holidays. Your club has not been an exception and I would like to thank all those who have helped to keep things running as smoothly as they could last year, ranging from clubhouse and court maintenance to the bar operations and finance.

The encouraging news is that the pandemic now seems to be showing signs of topping out. However, this does not mean that we can rest easy and your committee is constantly looking at how we can improve your club. I am aware that the bar is not as busy as it was before the lockdown and the function room is far from being fully utilised. Even if we return to some sort of normality, it is likely that these issues will need addressing. We need to make the clubhouse more appealing to encourage members to spend more time there.

As a result, we are looking at a number of ideas to take the club forward. We look forward to sharing some of these with members at the next Annual General Meeting. I would be very interested in hearing the views of members as to what improvements they would like to see over the next few years. Please email me at [president@kdrc.info](mailto:president@kdrc.info) with your ideas.

**FIRST AID TRAINING:** Central Fast Response is a charity relying on the community to provide space to run their first aid courses. We have offered it the use of the function room for this purpose. The focus is on training as many people as possible in the use of defibrillators, assisting people in cardiac arrest and also simple life-saving skills to aid recovery or even save a life. We now have the dates of these courses to be held at the club:

- 28th January (19.00 – 21.00) Plenty of spaces
- 2nd February (14.00 – 16.00) Now full and with a waiting list
- 7th February (09.30 – 11.30) Filling up fast

The course is interactive and gives participants confidence in knowing what to do in a medical emergency in the community. All the facilitators are fully trained and insured in first aid and equipment – many are or have been volunteers with the ambulance service and work alongside them. There will be no charge for the classes and, if you would like to participate, please see the club communication of 10 January to book in.

**TENNIS COURTS:** A couple of reminders, please. First, if you are playing on courts 5 or 6 under lights can you please ensure that you pay for them. We do track usage and would

prefer not to have to chase for payment. Second, in these lovely bright, but cold, days players must use their discretion if it is icy and play at their own risk. The club cannot be held responsible for any accidents caused by slipping on the snow, ice or frost. Our advice is that the lines need to be clearly visible. If they are not, then it is too cold to play.

**COURT REFURBISHMENT:** We have now placed the order for the new carpets for courts 3 and 4 and the pre-start meeting with contractors is due to be held on January 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition, a number of members of both the main committee and players have recently visited other clubs in the area to investigate their lighting as we edge closer to replacing our existing lights, ideally with a LED scheme.

**TENNIS BALLS:** From January 1<sup>st</sup>, members have to provide their own balls for general play, although balls will still be provided for social tennis (club afternoons) and social tennis matches. Members can purchase balls at advantageous prices from the bar. Please note that a recycling bin for used tennis balls has been placed in the disabled toilet. We would be grateful if members could place (dry) balls in the bin when they are deemed to be of no further use (and not put used paper towels in that bin).

**SQUASH COURTS:** We have become aware that a number of squash and racketball players have not been changing their shoes to go on court. This has resulted in sand and dirt being transferred to the courts which is not only making them dirty but can also damage the surface. Please ensure that you change your shoes to go on court and remind your opponent if they are not following these requirements.

**HONOURS:** I am delighted to report that members of our club have achieved some recent successes. Our squash and racketball chair, Bruce Hopkin, has been crowned as Warwickshire Over-45 Champion in the recent annual championships, while the K&D Vets tennis team have won the Warwickshire Vets league 2021/2 for the 67<sup>th</sup> consecutive year! Congratulations to all those concerned.

**SPONSORSHIP:** We have been successful in gaining a number of advertisers and sponsors for the club, one of the latest being the estate agents in Dorridge, DM & Co. The company took a video at the club as part of its introduction to the area for new arrivals and we hope to be able to make this available to members shortly.

**HOUSE MATTERS:** While the repairs to the clubhouse kitchen are still ongoing, we are still able to offer the function room for hire. If any members should like to hire the room for meetings or parties, please contact either Annette Hammond or Sally-Ann Shaw.

**SOCIAL EVENTS:** It was very disappointing that we had to postpone the club's Christmas party but I am convinced that it was the right decision, given that it was being held in the run-up to Christmas. Having been so pleased to be able to arrange it so close to Christmas, it backfired on us as it became apparent that parties like this were not appropriate as health concerns and fears outweighed the party spirit (Boris take note!). We are still hoping to arrange a party and we will obviously keep all members informed of the new date.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The date of the AGM in 2022 has now been set for **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 8pm**. All are welcome and urged to attend. Any members wishing

to raise any items for the AGM will need to submit a motion at least three weeks before this date (i.e. before March 2<sup>nd</sup>). These motions are not questions or general topics so they must be proposed and seconded in accordance with Rule 18.2. Members should note that Main Committee minutes are now in a folder in the pigeonholes at the main entrance to the club.

**FINALLY:** A plea from your committee. Your club has survived the lockdown period to date. However, your club needs member volunteers to help with its running. Times have changed – such as more working from home – as well as everyone having greater expectations that everything will be provided for a fee. However, a members' club does not have this luxury – we do not have the finances to buy in services. We have to provide it ourselves. To be blunt, we need more help. Please let me know if you would be willing to help us run our club in any capacity.

My best wishes to you all.

**Steve Williams**  
**January 2022**