



Brenchley and Matfield Tennis Club

Chairman's Report 2018

In May 2018 I took over the role of Chairman from Ruth who stepped down after serving seven years in the role and a total of 20 years on the committee.

My first note is to thank Ruth Howgill for all of her work over those years. She has left us with a very successful tennis club assisted by an amazing committee, coaching team, team captains and a long list of volunteers, which has made my transition into this role quite painless.

We spent quite some time handing over paperwork, login details, LTA admin roles and all the other adhoc tasks which still continue to arise to this day, with Ruth still very happy to be annoyed by my questions nine months on.

The committee lost two further members in 2018:

Julie Phillipson stepped down after a tough decision was made to move to New York. A place I have to admit even Brenchley and Matfield tennis club cannot compete with. I am very jealous and wish her all the best.

Julie spent a lot of time in 2018 updating our website and setting up new email addresses for the club. She also assisted with form designs and other GDPR related tasks in 2018.

The work Julie put in for the club went right up to the night before her flight to NY, when I passed her all of the finals day photos, which she very kindly uploaded as a leaving present. Thank you to our tournament photographer Amander Wells for these.

The website and social media handover by Julie was completed and training given to myself and Ali.

Andrew Wells stepped down this year in October. Andrew has been a very active club volunteer for many years. His presence on the committee is, and will continue to be, greatly missed.

Despite several attempts of mine to keep Andrew on the committee (by ignoring his calls and emails) he was unfortunately successful in handing in his notice.

Andrew has very kindly agreed to carry on his role as fixtures secretary and to organise our annual club tournaments despite stepping down.

The committee gained three new members in 2018: Ali Pettitt, Graeme Dalton and Tara Bromley. These new members have been very forthcoming with their help and great additions to our already very strong team.



Through fear of alienating the whole committee, I must single out the work of the club officers. I have worked quite closely with both Jo Scholtz (Membership Secretary/Secretary) and Karen Reeve (Treasurer) this year and it has become very clear how hard these two work and how much time they donate to the club.

Jo and I have been working this year on revamping the membership form, the membership database and the renewal dates. This is to improve visibility of membership stats, conform to new GDPR requirements and to aid in the process of chasing in membership subscriptions. Late renewal payments continue to be a very time consuming issue and our work to improve this will carry on in order to reduce this burden. I have begun looking into a payment system / venue management tool (Clubspark), which could allow annual subscriptions to be collected by direct debit, and hopefully automate much of the process.

The time Karen donates to the club has also become very visible to me in my new role. Karen has set up online payments for our club this year which is a very efficient improvement, but the amount of transactions and the reports generated is a clear demonstration of someone making a very tough task look very easy.

As if the challenge of Treasurer was not enough, Karen adopted a large part of the maintenance role this year. As well as repairs and general maintenance around the club this also included the surface repair and repainting of court one and two, which I think have completely transformed the look of the top courts. Whilst a large expense this year, we feel it was very necessary and as well as looking good for the club, we believe will also extend the life of the court before a full resurface is required.

A few other improvements to mention around the club this year are the new picnic benches, a repainted clubhouse (thanks to David Izzard), a (very hot) replacement BBQ which is serving our Friday social sessions very well and a new fridge for our clubhouse (thanks to Mike Hughes).

We hope all members are happy with the work going into the club and we will continue to improve all areas wherever we can. Next on the list are the clubhouse doors which have been ordered and the decoration of the clubhouse when the doors are in place.

A final hurdle for the year was passed to us by the LTA who introduced five new minimum standards for 2018/19 in order to register as an LTA approved venue.

A special thanks to Graeme Dalton on this element, who volunteered to complete a safeguarding course and now act as our clubs newly appointed Safeguarding Officer. Thanks to Ali and Graeme who also helped



me create the required new policies (GDPR and Data Privacy, Diversity and Inclusion, club risk assessment and insurance details) and display them around the clubhouse and on our website.

Membership numbers and movements are shown below:

Membership Stats			
	2017	2018	Movement
Adults	144	159	15
Juniors	195	223	28
Non Playing	7	6	-1
Cardio	3	1	-2
Total	349	389	40

The above figures include 100 new members and 60 that failed to re-join.

I believe the total membership number of 389 is our highest ever this year. A special thank you to Evolution Tennis on this element who continue to offer a 1st class coaching team and program for our club, headed up by our own LTA Kent tennis coach of the year Dave Von Ribbeck.

We are aware our adult membership has been on a slight decline over recent years so it is nice to see that number increase this year and we will also be working further to improve that element.

My final note for this report is to officially announce that as a result of all the hard work completed by all of our members, volunteers and coaches around our club and on our website, as well as the increase to membership numbers this year, Brenchley and Matfield Tennis club has won the LTA Kent Tennis Club of the Year (1-4 courts).

We will be attending the Kent Tennis (and LTA) Annual awards in early March to officially receive the award.

This is great news for the club and will help massively with promotion this year when encouraging new members to our club.

Carl Allcorn
Chairman
Brenchley and Matfield LTC