

Tennis Section Report AGM 2024

Tuesday 12th March, 8pm

Prior to the club AGM we would like to provide you with a reflection of the year and plans for the future via this report -

Let me start by expressing my extreme gratitude to all those who continue to volunteer their time to tennis section matters including the committee members, team captains and all other members who contribute to the successful running of the club.

Particular mention to both Carol Nelson, Colin MacMillan and Syed Ahmed who are stepping down from the tennis committee after a combined period of over 2 decades. Over these years they have done a massive amount to ensure the continued function and success of the tennis club.

We are always very keen to have new blood on the committee and we **would encourage everyone who could offer any of their time to be on the tennis committee (or help the club in other ways) to contact us as we would love to hear from you (contact russellallan@doctors.org.uk).**

Over time we have become a more integrated club with tennis section working progressively closer with committee of management for specific issues.

On the tennis side much has been achieved over the last 12 months -

Club Championship Winners

Ladies' Singels Champion	Katie Petchey
Men's Singles Champion	James Drummond
Ladies' Double Champions	Tricia Courteney & Emma Martin
Men's Doubles Champions	James Drummond and Jack Hartman
Mixed doubles Champions	Jack Hartman and Tricia Courtney
Ladies; Vets Doubles Champions	Alix McDonald & Maura Lynch
Men's; Vets Doubles Champions	John McCann & Mark Petrie
Men's Vets Singles Champions	Steven Reynolds
Mixed doubles plate	Lynsey Rettie & Michael Hughes

A massive thanks to Gordon Pettigrew and Ross Ferguson for organizing and refereeing the championship!

Junior Champions -

U18 Boys Singles	Ollie Petrie
U18 Girls Singles	Kate Petchey
U14 Boys Singles	Charlie Hamilton
U14 Girls Singles	Kate Petchey
U12 Boys Singles	Niall Henderson
U12 Girls Singles	Callie Longhurst
U18 Boys Doubles	Ollie Petrie & Mathew Willis
U14 Boys Doubles	Jamie Rodger & Niall Henderson
U12 Boys Doubles	Charlie MacKenzie & Leo Weir
U12 Girls Doubles	Callie Longhurst & Anna McDonald

Other intraclub competitions

Lady and Mens' box leagues continue to run. Numbers are down a little (probably due to the weather recently) but everyone is encouraged to join up if interested. We are always looking for more ways to develop this competition and freshen it up so grateful for any ideas. If you have any questions or are keen to be involved please contact Gordon Pettigrew on Gordon.pettigrew1@gmail

Interclub Competitions

West of Scotland Winter Youth Leagues

Teams entered in U9, U11, U114 boy and girl events and U18 boys. U14 girls can 2nd in Division 1.

Summer league U16 boys (2 player team) – League winners

Summer league U9 mixed won Silver League

Adult Summer Leagues

Mostly a year of maintaining league positions however...

Men's 1st team

- League 1/2 winner with promotion to 1/1.
- Finalists senior Calcutta Cup

Men's 55 KO - Finalists

Men's 2nd – 4th in Division 2A

Men 3rd – 4th in Division 4A

Men 4th – 5th Division 5A

Men 5th – 5th Division 6A

Men 6th – 4th Division 6C

Men 7th 9th Division 6A

Men 8th 7th Division 7A

Mens 60s – 2nd Division 3B

Women 1st – 2nd Division 2A

Women 2nd – 7th Division 2B

Women 3rd – 7th Division 4B

Women 4th – 6th Division 4A

Women 5th – 7th Division 5A

Women 6th – 4th Division 7B

Women 60s – 2nd Division 2B

Massive thank you to all who competed, supported and especially to the hard-working captains and Helen McGarrity for co-ordinating the scheduling!

Tennis Committee involvement - your club needs you!

A number of the Tennis Committee are now ready to come off the committee and as such **we would love to hear from willing volunteers who would like to become part of the Tennis Committee** to help continuously strive to deliver the best club experience to all our members.

To whet your appetite the jobs that need done every year are:

- Enter teams for all summer then winter competitions
- Ensure all teams have a captain in place
- Court booking for all matches + other club events
- Organising an running box leagues
- Safeguarding – Welfare officer (requires specific training course to be do)
- Planning of tennis events – Gala day etc
- Organizing and running club championship

- Risk assessment of events
- Court maintenance
- Gathering feedback from members and acting on these
- Incidence reporting and reviewing
- New members introduction
- Much more

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Please be aware of our policy displayed on notice board and website. Any concerns should be reported immediately to club safeguarding officer - russellallan@doctors.org.uk / 07876751519. Our safeguarding policies are on the club website and the notice board at the club entrance.

Russell has been the welfare officer for 6 years and would be grateful for a successor. Requirement includes attendance at a training workshop which Russell can help you get a place on.

Court maintenance & Improvements

Courts are cleaned and inspected 3 times/year under our maintenance contract. Generally the courts remain in good condition. Any issues needing attention or sand top ups are dealt with at that time. We have given the go ahead for a kick plate to be fitted around the fencing to reduce lost sand but have been let down by delay from the business given this job. We will look for an alternative and plan to get this done as soon as possible.

We hope members have enjoyed a winter season of token-free, instant light.

Membership

A separate Membership Report is available on the AGM webpage.

Coach Update

As you are aware after many years' service to the club Chris is moving on at the end of March. We are extremely grateful for everything he has given to the club over his time here and wish him all the best with his future endeavors.

We would very much like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Chapman on behalf of all our membership for his years of service at the club and for his assistance with the transition.

Looking forward now to the future of Woodend's coaching programme, while aiming to maintain the positive aspects already in place, we also aim to meet the following ambitious goals –

1. Provide a more extensive programme that goes well beyond catering for beginners and junior club players but ensures that each of the club's demographics are fully catered for including adults teams, performance juniors, social players, adult beginners etc.
2. Retaining our better juniors – a number of our junior players over the last 10 years have reached a level where they have had to move to another club to enable them to get the coaching expertise and playing standard of peers that they need to allow them to continue to progress
3. Retain our junior members into adulthood and imbed them in the club and its teams
4. Provide mentorship and support for the development and growth of our coaching helpers to reach their desired goals in coaching and beyond.
5. Integrate the coaching team into all aspects of the club rather than working in silos.

These goals are ambitions but we believe with our new coaching team and the will and dedication from everyone at the club these can be met and we can continue to drive towards Woodend's vision to –

“optimise the experiences of all its members. The COM will always aim to make the club better than its existing state and provide a vibrant club that is a daily hive of activity. We aim to be a 'local neighbourhood hub' that welcomes and caters for everyone. We will maintain the highest quality of facilities, whilst maintaining financial stability so as to ensure longevity. This will hopefully give members a feeling of belonging and pride of being part of the club's successes.”

With that in mind, we are now excited to introduce our new coaching programme leads –

Julie Gordon and Verena Scott.

Rather than traditional “head coach” model where one individual must deliver for all; we have opted in favor of a model of a coaching team which will utilise “lead coaches” with specialist expertise.

Julie

Julie's reputation as one of the top coaches in the country as well as perhaps the most liked person in Scottish tennis is well known well beyond the West of Scotland.

In addition to her extensive academic achievement (including MA(hons). BSc, x2 MSc psychology) she is a LTA Level 5 Master Club coach. Despite being at the top of the coaching qualification pyramid she remains ambitious and is currently completing the LTA CTQ certificate which will qualify her to deliver Level 1 and Level 2 courses. In this way she will act as a fantastic role model and mentor to all those involved in delivering the coaching programme at Woodend whether 'home grown' or recruited via Julie's extensive network of coaching contacts.

Indeed, she has a proven track record of achieving this at Western tennis club where she has helped numerous coaches maintain the high standards that she expects to see on court as well as supporting them progress through the coaching grades. In this way she ensured a constantly flourishing coaching programme at Western.

Verena

From the moment our coaching vacancy was announced Verena's name was mentioned by multiple different sources within the West of Scotland coaching network as the coach people want.

Similar to Julie, Verena has an interest in sport psychology and has a BA and MSc in psychology to supplement her BA in critical languages and international studies in Chinese.

She brings with her an impressive playing history including an ITF ranking as a junior where she competed in junior Wimbledon and various top international competitions. She remains part of the West of Scotland ladies county team.

She has demonstrated similar success in coaching being heavily involved in the top juniors in the county and nationally and is currently completing her LTA senior Performance level 4 qualification.

She delivers the West of Scotland and Tennis Scotland's national training so is in an excellent position to help players with this transition between club-district-county-national level training.

With the combination of the team approach and the unique qualities, experiences and drive of Julie and Verena we can easily see how we will be able to move towards our goals and vision.

Both Julie and Verena will be at the tennis AGM and are very keen to take to all sections of our membership to understand how they can best meet your needs.

Potential for Padel/Pickleball Installation

Padel

COM/Colin Macmillan have been investigating the possibilities of installing padel/pickleball courts at Woodend. The proposed site for 2 x padel courts is on the grass area adjacent to the mini court.

Tennis Scotland attended for a site visit and drew up impressive flythrough imagery of how this might look post instal. Several of COM also attended an LTA conference in Edinburgh aimed at clubs who were considering adding padel. As a result of this and consultation with others with experience of the sport in Scotland, the following conclusion was reached by the committee:

- The infrastructure required is significant (approx. £60k per court and double this for a covered one). Unless padel courts are covered, their use is minimal in Scottish climes.
- The planning implication of installation is problematic (even for an uncovered option) due to proximity of residential housing and noise issues.
- In inclement weather padel is not playable – we have our fair share of this in Scotland. There are currently 27 courts (due to rise to 32 next year) in Scotland, only 3 are uncovered – it is not the same as playing tennis in the rain.
- Potential market saturation. We are aware that local authorities and other providers are expressing interest in this sport (e.g. 2 courts currently being built at World of Golf on Great Western Rd). It is a risk to the club to invest in something where others are likely to be able to provide bigger and better facilities.
- We are not convinced padel would get enough use from members to justify the outlay and associated. It would also involve opening up the courts for external use via ‘pay and play’ which comes with a host of issues not least around our status as a private members’ club.

Pickleball

This is a more financially achievable option via a proposal to change the existing mini court into a multi-use pickleball and mini court. This would be funded via club reserves. The estimated cost we have been given for this is circa £5k. We are keen to understand the interest in this from our existing members and will circulate a survey in due course.