



Chairmans Report 2024

Welcome, everyone, to the Annual General Meeting of Horsham Lawn Tennis Club. Tonight, we celebrate another incredible year of tennis, friendship, and collective effort. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our members—your passion, support, and contributions are the foundation of our success.

This year, we were deeply saddened by the passing of a cherished member and friend of the club, Sheila Girling. Sheila, who dedicated more than 25 years to Horsham Lawn Tennis Club, was instrumental in establishing and nurturing our Ladies' Morning into the thriving event it is today. She was a beloved and familiar face, often cycling in to lead Ladies' Morning and joining Social Tennis sessions with enthusiasm. I had the personal privilege of growing up playing tennis with her children, Chris and Jen, and I know Sheila's friendship and contributions will be dearly missed by all. Please join me in taking a moment to remember her legacy.

Fundraising and Member Contributions

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Paul and Donna Copeland, whose hard work has been invaluable in raising funds through the sale of club hoodies. Paul, in particular, has dedicated countless hours to this initiative, and our club community is truly grateful. Their commitment makes a significant difference to our club's success.

Grounds and Facilities

A special thanks goes to Alex and his dedicated groundskeeping team, who have elevated our grass courts' quality despite challenging weather conditions this year. Alex's team has shown great commitment to ensuring our courts are at their best for members to enjoy. Looking forward to next season, we're already discussing improvements, including an additional weekly line-marking session, based on feedback from members. Alex and the team's efforts are a crucial part of our member experience, and we thank them for their dedication.

Membership Subscriptions

To ensure financial stability while maintaining value for our members, we will be implementing a modest 3% increase in membership fees for the 2024-2025 season. This measured approach helps sustain the club's growth and reduces the potential need for larger adjustments in the future.

Coaching Program

Our coaching program has flourished this year, with notable growth driven by the dedication of our players, parents, and coaches. It was particularly exciting to see new players participate in LTA competitions for the first time. To support more players in making this transition, Martin and Josh have introduced a junior ladder on Saturdays, enabling coached players to gain regular match experience. We're eager to see the development of a stronger competitive team within our club.

Additionally, we had a successful summer camp season, welcoming many new young participants. Heartfelt thanks to our entire coaching team—Martin Shuttlewood, Joshua Dunford-Smith, Maxwell Copeland, Chloe Cochlin, Thomas Cochlin, Edward Cochlin, Gwen Midwood Newman, and Matthew Arnold-Hart—for their exceptional work.

Coaching Achievements

Congratulations to Billy Johnson and Joshua Dunford-Smith for completing their Level 2 coaching qualifications. This accomplishment enhances the expertise of our coaching team, and we're excited to see the positive impact on our program.

Committee Plans

Our committee is actively developing a five-year plan to be presented to the main club. This strategic outline will include essential maintenance on the tennis courts—such as court cleaning, resurfacing, re-bonding, and fencing replacement. Neil Cochlin and Paul Sweet are leading this planning process and working closely with the main club to establish the necessary sinking fund, ensuring we are prepared for future maintenance.

Club Tournament and Teams

This year's club tournament showcased remarkable progress, with thrilling matches and increased participation, including several new members joining in.

Despite the challenges of poor weather, finals day still attracted enthusiastic support from spectators, who brought great energy as they cheered on their friends. The level of play was outstanding, and we were thrilled to celebrate many deserving winners.

Next year, we plan to hold the tournament finals on the same weekend, hoping for good weather to help us further establish the day as a must-attend event on our members' calendars.

Roll of Honour

2024 Roll of Honour			
Men's Singles	Billy Johnson	bt	Leon Martin
Men's Doubles	Billy Johnson & Glyn Jukes	bt	Dom Hall & Daud Sadiq
Ladies Singles	Sophie Kitson	bt	Donna Copeland
Ladies Doubles	Sophie Kitson & Vicky Goosen	bt	Helen Windwood & Donna Copeland

Mixed Doubles	Sophie Kitson & Dan Smith	bt	Donna Copeland & Paul Copeland
Men's Singles Plate	Claudio Reddi	bt	Mark Williams
Men's Doubles Plate	Pieter Vermeer & Mark Williams	bt	Stephen Hoad & Tony Brent
Under 17 Singles	Max Copeland	bt	Edward Cochlin
Under 14 Singles	Edward Cochlin	bt	Round Robin
Under 12 Singles	Feyi Onamusi	bt	Jensen Jukes

This year has brought mixed fortunes for our club teams, as past successes and promotions have led to much tougher fixtures to contend with. As always, a huge thank you to all club members for their dedication in representing the HLTC teams in the Sussex tennis leagues.

Congratulations to the Winter Men's 1st and 4th teams and the Summer Men's 2nd team for your promotions.

Winter 2023/24 final standings

- Men's 1 Position 2 of 7 in division 5W Promoted
- Men's 2 Position 6 of 8 in division 6W
- Men's 3 Position 4 of 8 in division 10W
- Men's 4 Position 2 of 8 in division 10 W Promoted
- Ladies 1 Position 4 of 7 in division 3

Summer 2024 final standings

- Men's 1 Position 7 of 7 in division 5
- Men's 2 Position 2 of 8 in division 9W Promoted
- Men's 3 Position 3 of 8 in division 10W
- Men's 4 Position 6 of 8 in division 12 W
- Ladies 1 Position 6 of 7 in division 3

Our Dorking and Leatherhead mixed 1st team, under the dedicated leadership of Louisa Malcolm, faced challenging matches in Division 1 this season and ultimately finished in 7th place. This year, we were also thrilled to introduce a mixed 2nd team, captained by Susannah Rose. This addition gave more players the chance to participate in club matches and enjoy the experience. The mixed 2nd team also finished 7th in Division 3 and is eager to compete again next season.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our team captains and to all the players who dedicate their time to represent Horsham LTC. Special recognition to Dom Hall, who has stepped up as the new captain of the 1st team, following my decision to step down after nearly a decade in the role.

One piece of member feedback we received was the desire for more opportunities to play competitive matches. In response, we've introduced a new Singles Box League, which launched in early November. This league offers a fantastic chance to practice match play at your convenience, meet new members, and enhance your competitive skills.

In closing, thank you once again to all our members, coaches, and volunteers for making this year another success. With your continued support, I look forward to another year of growth and exciting developments for our club!