

Bearsden Lawn Tennis Club - Secretary's Report 2018

With another year in Bearsden LTC history nearly over, it is time to present the Secretary's Report. This summarises the Club's activities over the past year, and also invites you to attend the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 6th November. Please support your committee in their efforts to manage the Club with both the members' and Club's best interests at heart.

Clubhouse and Courts: Since last year's AGM, the fitting-out of the new clubhouse has continued, with lovely blinds on the windows, framed photographs on the walls, and new sofas and tables. There is still some work to be done to complete the new interior, with the committee considering options for additional furniture, noticeboards and other items. The courts urgently need some work done on them though, and the committee hope to address that in early 2019.

Membership: At end of September 2018, our membership was standing at 234, which is a decrease on last year. The committee would like to thank our Membership Secretary Keith Wright for all his hard work over the year, and for also being our Treasurer.

Coaching: Our Club Head Coach Gordon Wilson (along with his team of assistants and helpers) continues to develop and encourage the junior and senior membership. Gordon has provided an extensive junior coaching programme throughout the whole year, with summer, Easter and October camps running during holiday periods too. There are also popular Drills Nights for senior players taking place on Tuesday, and Thursday during the winter now. As always, the feedback from participants in Gordon's coaching is full of praise for his expertise, advice, and enthusiasm.

Teams: The Club entered 38 teams in the Tennis West of Scotland leagues and competitions this year. This includes 8 junior teams participating in the AEGON junior leagues, 6 teams in the Seniors leagues in the autumn, and 2 teams in the winter leagues.

On the Junior side, our Girls U18 team struggled this year in the very tough Division 1, with our boys teams faring only slightly better. In Mini tennis, the U8 team did very well in Division 1, and the U10s in Division 2. As always, huge thanks go to those parents who take on team captain roles and give up their free time to take junior players to away matches.

Our Mens 1st team had a strong year in Division 2A, narrowly missing out on promotion. However, the Ladies 1st team trumped them by running away with the Division 1/2 title, and gaining promotion to Division 1. The Seniors Ladies 1st and Senior Mens 2nd teams are going very well in their respective divisions, but the other Summer and Senior teams have had mixed fortunes, with some maintaining "mid-table respectability" and others having "tough" campaigns!

Tournaments: The 42nd hosting of the annual **Invitation Tournament** took place on a dampish day in early June. Once again, Josie Beeley was the organisational dynamo behind this popular event. Milngavie won the men's title and Western took the ladies, with Bearsden teams finishing runners-up in both events again.

The **Summer Series Tournament** (this was its 29th year!) was run in early August, and was once again sponsored by Doe Sport (North). As is now the norm, the event was very popular (more than 100 competitors across all the different categories) with highly-rated players attracted from near and far. The committee would like to express their thanks to Josie Beeley for the considerable commitment, time and effort spent organising and running these events. They undoubtedly boost the profile of Bearsden LTC within the Scottish tennis scene.

The **Drumchapel Inter-Club Tournament** will take place in late October and we hope to have lots of BLTC players involved. In 2017, we retained the Junior Shield for the eighth year in a row, and the Senior Shield for the third year.

Other Events: The Club continues to enjoy social tennis on Saturday afternoons and Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Weather permitting, these sessions are usually well attended and our thanks go to those members who participate regularly.

We also held two social tennis tournaments/BBQs in May and June, a Great British Tennis Weekend event in April, a Halloween tennis event for juniors, and a **Family Quorn Cup** event (whose winners Rory Hunter and his dad Craig went on to Nottingham to represent the club at the regional finals).

On the social side, we held various events throughout the year – some involving tennis, some (like the new Book Club) enjoying our clubhouse space. The **Mixed Doubles tournament** on Saturday 25th August was a hugely enjoyable afternoon of tennis, followed by an evening where lots of members enjoyed the barbecue and many refreshments. The winners of the J. Black Mixed Doubles cup were Joanne Quirk and Keith Wright. Thanks to Phil Waterfield for his hard work organising this event and, also, for his lead role in arranging the **Prizegiving and Awards Evening** social event that was held on Friday October 5th at Douglas Park Golf Club. We enjoyed live music from Willow Moon, entertaining speeches, a blind auction, a raffle, and some lovely food. This year was the first at which we've presented prizes and awards to junior players too.

Championships: The Club Championships took place over the months up to finals day on September 8th, with Joanne Quirk in charge again. The big story of the day was young Kyle McKay winning the grand slam (the U12, U16, U21 and Men's Singles titles). Len Berlouis, John Beeley, Phil Waterfield, Andy Gordon and Andrew Christie assisted with umpiring duties, and many helpers kept the supplies of tea, sandwiches and cakes flowing from the kitchen. Once again, the standard of tennis was very high, and we even coped with some rainy weather. Congratulations to our 2018 champions:

Juniors

8 & Under (Red)	Rory Hunter
9 & Under (Orange)	Rory Hunter
10 & Under (Green)	Rory Hastie
U12 Boys	Kyle McKay
U12 Girls	Josie Allardyce
U14 Boys	Kyle McKay
U14 Girls	Maxie Kolberg
U16 Boys	Kyle McKay

Seniors

U21 Gents	Kyle McKay
U21 Ladies	Rachel Taylor
Gents Singles	Kyle McKay
Ladies Singles	Karen Christie
Gents Doubles	Andrew Christie and Liam Gordon
Ladies Doubles	Joanne Quirk and Emma Wright
Mixed Doubles	Karen Christie and Phil Waterfield

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all members for their continued support and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on the Tuesday 6th November.

Andy Gordon, Secretary