

Presidents Report 2008

Coaching

Our coaching sessions were run this year by Dave Lindsay. He took Junior Improvers, Junior Beginners, and Senior Improvers on Monday and Tuesday evenings at the beginning of the season. Dave also offered a Tennis School in August and again during the October holiday, and Autumn/Winter Session for Juniors on Sunday afternoons. We hope he will be available again next session.

General Play

As in previous seasons we had a regular turnout on Monday, Wednesday and Sunday mornings. Again, Ladies team practice took a court on Monday evenings and Tuesday evenings were set aside for League Matches. At other times courts were used by Families and Juniors.

Club Championships

The Committee made the draw in May and once again it was pointed out to entrants that they must follow the regulations regarding arranging and playing matches within the deadline dates. To date all events have been completed except the Mixed Doubles and the Mens Doubles. In the Mens Doubles we have finalists but the Mixed looks like a write off this season. Thanks to all who took part and congratulations to the trophy winners. You will have noticed that the committee decided to save costs by only presenting Juniors with small trophies to keep. Adult winners and runners-up were given certificates.

Open Day 2008

This took place on Sunday April 6th in the Bowling Club Pavilion. Refreshments were provided, and Dave Lindsay attended. Traditionally, Aenea was on hand to allocate keys to members and the court padlock was changed. Although the event was publicised in The Clochandichter and posters were placed around Portlethen we did not manage to attract a significant number of new members. Perhaps the new committee can come up with strategies to advertise this years event planned for Sunday April 4th.

Attracting Junior Members

During the season we had good communication with Fishermoss Primary School. The Headteacher, Ann Park, was very supportive and liaison was provided by Rachel Lightbird, the Active Schools Coordinator Primary, Portlethen Network. The school agreed to distribute fliers giving pupils and parents information about tennis events and coaching. The school used the courts during their Health Week in June.

We also arranged a parent/child tennis evening on June 4th. P1-4 pupils came from 7-8pm and P5-7 pupils from 8-9pm. Dave Lindsay gave coaching drills assisted by Jack and Scott, and Arthur and Alex operated the ball machine. The evening was very well supported with a big turn out of parents and enthusiastic youngsters. Unfortunately this enthusiasm did not lead to any significant addition to our membership despite enrolment forms being on hand.

Tennis Club Website

Aenea must be congratulated again for the magnificent job she has done in setting this up and keeping it up to date with information and pictures. I would encourage members to look in regularly.

Pavilion Development

Alex spoke to Peter Taylor, the Bowling Club President, who gave an update of developments. Bowling Club members are proceeding with redevelopment in stages. At present their priority to refurbish the old football changing rooms and locate their lockers there, leaving the lounge as a social area. They also have keys for the referees room and intend to clean it up. They reckon it could be years before the purchase of land from Aberdeenshire Council is completed. Long term they intend to have floodlights erected. Perhaps

our new committee should look closely at new floodlight pylons.

It seems now that the redevelopment will be more gradual than we anticipated when the amalgamation of the Clubs was first proposed.

Court Maintenance

Aberdeenshire Council seem to have given up on maintenance costs and are leaving us to get on with it. They treated the moss early in April leaving us to pay the bill, but they have agreed to trim the top of the conifer hedge as soon as possible. However, they informed us they could not help with line painting. Before the lines could be painted much detritus had to be brushed off and taken away. Thanks to Les and Alex for this, and Randall did a great job in power hosing the courts. Many back breaking sessions later the lines were painted! Thanks to Arthur, Randall, Les, Alex and David - and rolls of masking tape!

Graffiti appeared on the Bowling Club wall. Alex phoned the "Graffiti Hotline" and was given a ref. no. After two non productive phone calls he passed the matter to Councillor Paul Melling for assistance and lo and behold the daubs were removed. Thanks Paul!

Alex also tackled the replacement of floodlight bulbs. His first phone call to the council was on February 28th. After months of being given the run around by various disinterested council employees he gave up in exasperation and sent an email to Councillor Melling on the 18th July outlining all the phone calls and meetings. A copy of this email is attached. As yet Councillor Melling has not been able to help.

K&D Voice

Kincardine and Deeside Voice runs a database of voluntary organisations in the local area. Alex had a meeting with Sarah Groom who took particulars of the Tennis Club and informed us that we could become a member by filling out a form. She explained that they had no funds but they assist Clubs in gaining funding through grants etc.

Tennis Club Polo Shirts

At the previous AGM members wanted to obtain club customised polo shirts. Alex arranged the production of these with N.E.Rig Out Ltd and a number were sold. Members should be encouraged to purchase these as this helps with club funds.

Finally, I must thank Sandra, our secretary, Aenea, our treasurer, the committee members, and everyone in the Club for their contribution over the 2008 season.