

## **President's Report 2010/2011 (prepared by Vice President)**

**Open Day:** Our season began with the open day on Sun 28<sup>th</sup> March. Weather was cold but dry, turnout was commensurate with the conditions. Refreshments were arranged by Sandra and Sheila. Sandra was on hand to receive subscriptions and allocate keys to members, while Alex and helpers replaced the old padlock and fired up the ball machine.

**Publicity:** Once again many thanks to Aenea for preparing publicity flyers and welcoming posters around the courts. Nicola assisted in distributing the publicity material to the library and schools while Alex delivered a photo to the *Mearns Leader*, thanks to both. An ad was posted in the *Clochandichter*.

**Portlethen Tennis Club Website:** The website gets better every year. Congratulations and thanks to Aenea for keeping it up to date with news, events, results and pictures.

**Club Championships:** The committee met in May to make the draw for the annual championships. As in 2009, a round robin format was utilized for the men's and women's doubles to increase the probability of completion while the normal KO format was maintained for the other tournaments. The women are to be congratulated for completing both their singles and doubles matches while the other tournaments were only partially completed due to a combination of weather, illness etc. Winners were, however, selected on the basis of the games which *were* played

**Attracting Junior Members:** Junior coaching (beginners and improvers) was provided by Stephen-Mark Williams, a teacher from Portlethen Academy with assistance from our own Jack Davidson (Thurs evenings 29 April – end June). Over the same time period, on the Wednesdays, Jack organised free fun and games evenings for the under 10's. Many, many thanks to him.

**Court Maintenance:** Moss clearance was undertaken by the council but, early in the season, they declared the courts unfit until some minor court repairs were effected, this left only one court for the open day and delayed our season somewhat. They also carried out some repair work to the perimeter fence for which the club are grateful, however, the task was only partially completed and there remain weak spots (especially at the community centre end) where non members could and did gain entrance. Fortunately vandalism and bullying of junior members were less of a problem than in recent years. Alex, Randall and others did a great job painting the lines, while most of the men and in particular Gordon swept the courts and kept the hedges trimmed. Many thanks to them.

**Planning for the Future:** In February 2010 members of the tennis club committee met council representatives to discuss the possible refurbishment of the tennis courts and to map out the way ahead. Three options were discussed: 1. Complete refurbishment (estimated cost 37- 44K) 2. Repair of damaged area alone (2.1K) 3. Over-laying current courts with a sand-filled carpet (12K). VAT not included in these estimates. It was agreed by both parties that option 3 would be the best course of action and that the council (as owners and lease holders of the facility) would further investigate this option while the club would pursue various fundraising options from the private and public sectors as well as approaching other tennis clubs for advice. Montrose tennis club were particularly helpful, having recently successfully refurbished their own courts. Amongst others, Stewart Milne and Shell were approached as potential funders, however, negotiations have stalled as the club awaits more concrete information from the council on option 3. Regarding the lease of the courts, the club decided that, while our membership and finances remain low, it would be unwise to take it on for the time being until we have a clearer idea of the financial and other implications.

**Thanks:** Our thanks to the bowling club for allowing us to use the pavilion for meetings and the hospitality we offer to visiting teams. Also to our committee and especially to Aenea, our treasurer, to Sandra our secretary, and to Alex who continues to work quietly behind the scenes including the preparing the trophies. And a huge thank you to Jack for his sterling work with the juniors.

**Congratulations:** Jack is now a qualified level 2 coach and has kindly offered to continue his work with our juniors.