

## **HAZELWOOD SPORTS CLUB**

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT 2024/25**

At last the end is nigh! The end, that is, of my first year in the privileged position as Chair of Hazelwood Sports Club.

In compiling this report, I have looked back to the report the previous Chair, Ray Waller, gave in 2011/12. In that report he mentioned the need to continue to improve our facilities “commensurate with today’s expectations”. Two years later in 2014/15 he reported that “the AGM is later than normal, and this is mainly due to the construction work that has been going on and the need to properly account for all the costs incurred”.

Now, ten years later, we are continuing to improve our facilities, and the aim is to carry on doing so! The resurfacing of the back dome has taken place, costing around £35,000 and in the coming year we intend to upgrade the outside court lights to LED. Estimates for this work are likely to be around £70,000 and, when completed, will mean that the lighting throughout the club will be LED. This will assist in reducing our energy and maintenance costs. If you refer to the attached accounts, you will see that our combined gas & electricity costs for the last financial year were £92,831. Our utility costs are at the commercial rate not residential. The gas and electricity is the same product supplied to our homes, and it would seem to me that there is a good case for amateur sports clubs to make special cases. In a world where the importance of exercise is stressed ever more frequently by successive governments, I wonder at the way amateur sports clubs are treated. We get very little financial support but make a considerable difference to the general health of society, and prevention must be better than the need for NHS intervention.

Improvements to the gym have been carried out by way of redecoration (for which we are grateful to Paul Taylor and Ray Waller who provided the labour free of charge) and upgrading of equipment, notably a new exercise bicycle costing around £5,000.

Within the next two years, it will probably be necessary to replace the leaky roof over squash courts 1 & 2. Estimates for this work have been around £75,000.

With all this expenditure you may ask how we manage to stay afloat. When you consider that we have also managed to make a large reduction in the members loans it is even more remarkable. To discover the answers, you should make a point of attending the AGM where all will be explained!

The “local difficulty” with the padel noise complaint from one near neighbour made to Enfield Council, during covid, resulting in our having received an abatement notice, has been settled at last with a reduction in the playing hours. Padel UK have spent around £30,000 in court costs, expert fees and noise reduction measures. No doubt Enfield Councils costs are even higher. The complainant, of course, hasn’t spent a brass farthing, the action was funded by the borough’s council taxpayers! I can’t help but wonder how far this matter would have gone if the complainant had been footing the bill, and we are supposed to be living in a democracy.

**Peter Wilson**

**CHAIR of HAZELWOOD**

## **CHAIR OF TENNIS REPORT 24/25**

Dear All

This has been my second year involved in an administrative capacity within the club. From day one I have been taken aback by the size of the organisation and the amount of administration required to run the club. The club does have paid employees however a vast amount of work is undertaken by some notable volunteer members and I am very much appreciative of their support and assistance during my tenure.

During the year there have been several large changes some easily identifiable such as the re-surfacing of the back balloon and others less so visible including changes to the coaching arrangements, which has led to a reduction in member complaints about court availability.

The tennis membership has been stable this year. Of course, gaining new members must be the continued goal going forward. Particularly I believe in the higher levels of club tennis as from a men's perspective without the goodwill of the coaches and the continued youthfulness of a certain A Field we would struggle.

There are excellent coaching groups available for all members standards including the well supported Chris Weekes and Chris Leoardiou Ladies and Men's Monday training sessions and Lennys Sunday Coach and Play sessions. In addition, the club has a fantastic group of coaches that cater for all levels tennis and contribute to the club in many ways including but not limited to running teams.

It has been an active summer for team tennis with the club entering 4 Ladies teams and 5 Men's teams in the Middlesex Summer League. Special mentions to; Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> Team and the Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> Team for gaining promotion (really Chris 😊) and the all-conquering Ladies 4<sup>th</sup> team who won their division. In addition, Nick (Pep) Joannou managed our Mixed Doubles team to their Middlesex Cup win. The teams are very busy in the winter and of particular note is the Mixed Seniors team who are in the national final of the over 50s event in November.

The Club Night and Afternoon sessions run by Nick have a steady core of players, hopefully this is something that can continue to develop. I would also like to thank Chris Weekes for running the multi sports tournaments these are always fun and I think they are a great way for different sections within the club to mix, so please support these if you can.

The club tournament ran this with some issues. I apologise for getting the notices up quite late this year which put pressure on the time frames to play the matches. However, we had a good finals day and the rain stayed off. It has been tabled to maybe reschedule the tournament to fall outside the busy team and summer holiday period, this will be something for the new Tennis Committee to consider.

The club continues to be an LTA Regional Performance Development Centre, the coaching for this is delivered by UT alongside their own academy. Thanks to UT for providing the funds for the resurfacing of the indoor courts.

Mandy and Leo have worked hard to promote Junior Tennis and the club in general to younger players. This has included organising box leagues and junior matches. Hopefully going forward, we can see traction in this area as it is shame that we do not have enough Juniors currently to participate in a meaningful Club Junior Tournament.

Unfortunately, commitments outside of the Tennis Club have meant I will not be standing for the role this year. Thank you to everyone who assisted throughout my year, but especially Pete, Irene, Jack, Mandy, Kirsty, Leo and Graham.

Kind Regards

Lee Messling

## **CHAIR OF SQUASH REPORT 24/25**

### Chair Role

I will vacate the chair role after 2 years of service. This is mainly due to me not playing squash regularly enough and wanting to pass the baton onto someone closer to club night and first team affairs. A special mention to my sub committee of Patrick Mills, James Dutta and Waj Hossenally for all the efforts over the last year.

### Tournaments and Events

Over the past year, the squash section has continued to build engagement through internal tournaments. In total, four tournaments have been held since January 2024, two organised by Patrick Mills and two by Joe Magor. These events have helped maintain competitive play and social connection among members and non members, offering a good balance of participation across abilities. Future tournaments will see active encouragement for external players to join as Hazelwood members.

### Team Performance

The men's team experienced a mixed season. After being relegated from Division 3 last winter by just one point, the team currently competes in Division 4. Performance this winter has been strong, with Hazelwood currently sitting at the top of Division 4, though results from a few key rivals — Southgate and Coolhurst 5 are still pending at the time of writing. The target for the coming season will be to secure promotion by finishing first or second. Hazelwood finished fourth in the summer league division 3 and remain in division 3 for next year.

### Club Night Club

This has continued to be a highlight of the weekly squash for most players, with attendance typically ranging from 8 to 12 players and occasionally many more. It provides an inclusive and social setting for members of all levels to play competitively and meet new partners, helping maintain a lively and welcoming squash community at Hazelwood. The squash night is currently £5 per session for members and £10 for non members. Conversations have taken place to make squash night a members only session and free to play, this is part of a wider club strategy to provide better value for members. A decision was deferred due to concerns on bar revenue being reduced from bar using non members.

### Youth Training

Junior coaching on Saturday afternoons remains an important part of the club's development. Sessions are led by Mark Worton. The club also has professional coaches in the form of Tawanda Mawushe and Patrick Mills. The sessions are well attended and provide valuable opportunities for younger players to develop their skills, though continued focus on engaging maturing youth players to transition to tournaments will be beneficial for long-term growth.

## New Kit

Efforts to re-engage lapsed players and boost team identity have shown encouraging results through the new team shirt initiative. A total of 29 shirts have been ordered so far, with another 10 expected due to strong demand. This has helped reconnect members who had fallen out of the habit of playing and reflects renewed enthusiasm and commitment heading into the new season. Thank you to Dan Skipworth-Mitchell and James Dutta for sponsoring the shirts.

Sam Szczurek

## **CHAIR OF GYM REPORT 24/25**

Dear Members,

Having chaired the club for 15 years, Chair of Gym was a nice small role to undertake which I have enjoyed and plan to stand again for the next 12 months.

The gym is small but for many of the gym members is functional and meets their needs. The reality is, our gym is not for fanatic body builders or elite sports persons it is for members of other club sections and local people who do not want a fashion show but simple easy to use machines in a calm environment with good parking!

Unique Tennis does have an issue with our gym as the children they coach are athletes and the equipment we have does not fulfill all of their needs. Also being small the physical number they have cannot always be easily accommodated although they do also use squash courts for conditioning exercises not requiring specific equipment

How we try and square this off is not easy but my current position is to 'make do and mends' unless Unique wish too spend their own cash on a purpose built gym in the grounds of Hazelwood specifically for their use. At £29.00/month we are competitive and if we were to upsize and get more equipment then we are looking at £50/month. This is OK for the stand alone gyms but we are part of a members club and I do not believe this is in the interest of members.

So what has been achieved since my appointment as Chair:-

- The broken mirror that was taped up has been patch repaired and now looks acceptable.
- The Gym and surrounds was all re-painted (thanks go out to Paul Taylor)
- 2 new bikes have been purchased
- Motivational pictures/sayings have added some colour and motivation.
- Notices posted asking for people to act responsibly and return equipment to designated places.
- Wall bracket for balance board.
- Windows and surrounds all cleaned with sticky tape being removed. Regular window cleaner for both inside and outside.
- The gym is generally cleaner and more organised but it is a constant battle as some users are inherently pig headed leaving their mess for others to clear!

Our two trainers – Mark and Stephanie offer a good service to members and also bring along outsiders who sometimes join the club. Both pay a fixed monthly amount for the use of the gym, which is fair and reasonable for all parties.

An enjoyable first term but what to do next?

Ray Waller

## **FACILITIES AND EVENTS CHAIR REPORT 24/25**

Kirsty Meggitt and Jackie Poole were joint Social Secretaries from April 2024 until January 2025 and Nuriye Evlat and Jackie Poole were joint Social Secretaries from January 2025 to date.

### **Committee Members:-**

Jackie Poole

Nuriye Evlat

Kirsty Meggitt

Jack Wilson

Jane Osborne (From February 2025)

Dave Knight (From September 2025)

### **Introduction**

The period from April 2024 to November 2025 saw a few of the usual activities and goings on at Hazelwood together with some new events to entertain our members. Our main aim is to provide members and our local community with alternative and engaging social events at cost but also increasing the bar sales and therefore helping to financially support our club. Our first task was to ask all our members to do a survey to see what kind of social events they would like to see at Hazelwood Sports Club. The results helped us to plan the following events:

### **80's Disco 29th June 2024**

The Hazelwood Squash and Padel Finals Day was followed by an 80s disco. It was great to see that some people had dug out their 80s gear and made a real effort to set the scene as well as Will's disco pumping out the 80s hits.

### **Summer BBQ and Tennis Finals 21 July 2024**

This annual event was well attended, and the youngsters enjoyed the bouncy castle and corn hole game (thanks to Mark Holloway)

### **Barn Dance 14 September 2024**

This new event went down well with the members with lots of denim, checked shirts and cowboy boots on show! Alan May did a great job as caller and the bales of hay added the final touch.

### **Quiz Night 19th October 2024**

Karen Street did a great job setting the questions and keeping the enthusiastic members in check with lots of banter. A challenging and fun evening!

### **Dinner and Dance 30 November 2024**

This event is held every other year at Crews Hill Golf Club. This year went brilliantly and was very well attended with all the tables taken. The food was good and served promptly, the speeches were short and the live band “Therapy Room” and Wills disco got lots of people on the dance floor.

### **Noggin Night 24 December 2024**

The mulled wine and buffet went down a treat.

### **Curry Night 8 February 2025**

The curry night is always a popular event and this was no exception. The members enjoyed an evening of tennis or padel followed by a few beers and a curry.

### **Memorial Day 5 April 2025**

The Memorial Day has become an annual event to celebrate the lives of members who have sadly passed away. This year the sun shone, and a record number of members turned out to play in the tennis, padel and squash tournaments. Jo Durie, Ryan Jones and guests challenged the members to beat the coaches to raise money for charity. The celebrations continued with the usual Hazelwood BBQ and Will’s Disco.

### **Quiz Night 26 April 2025**

Another well attended event run by Karen Street showcasing the breadth of knowledge and trivia across the members with a cash prize for the winning team.

### **Comedy Night 24 May 2025**

We had the opportunity to invite Pauline Eyre to the club, a standup comic who was a line judge at Wimbledon for 20 years. It was a fun evening with a serving of laughter and many anecdotes.

### **Barn Dance 28 June 2025**

Alan May returned to running another Barn Dance on a lovely sunny evening. Great to see so many cowboy boots on show doing the do si dos!

### **Summer BBQ and Tennis Finals Day 20 July 2025**

Despite the not so good weather there was a fair turnout to watch some brilliant games of tennis followed by a presentation by Lee, Chair of Tennis, and a BBQ.

### **Multisports Afternoon 20 September 2025**

A successful afternoon of tennis, padel, table tennis and boules run by Chris Weekes. A great way to meet members and try other sports.

## **Quiz Night 4 October 2025 Cancelled**

**Line Dancing 15 November 2025 - get your tickets now!**

### **Facilities**

No major repairs to facilities were required save for a considerable bit of patching up of the clubhouse roof - many thanks to Andy Schofield, Ronnie and Jack. We would also like to thank Jack and others for putting up the outside lights to add more atmosphere when members are drinking outside on a summer evening. We also invested in some new Xmas decorations to brighten up the clubhouse and make things festive!

### **Thank you**

The Social Committee would like to thank Mickey Davis, Jordi, Paul Taylor and the rest of the BBQ guys for giving up their Saturday evenings to provide food at all our events. We would also like to thank Jack for buying the food and setting up the clubhouse ready for the events. Last but not least, we would like to say a big thank you to Karen especially for serving on the bar at all our Saturday events and to all the other bar staff who have helped out at busy times. Thanks also goes out to Nick J and Chris for running the tennis and padel tournaments and to everyone else who has contributed to the social events.

The Social Committee are looking forward to arranging more of these events in the coming year if we are re- elected but they can only be a success if members get involved and attend these events. Also, if you have any special requests for a social evening or if you play an instrument or sing or are happy to cook food for a theme night please let us know.

Jackie Poole and Nuriye Evlat

## **CHAIR OF HOUSE AND GROUNDS REPORT 24/25**

The grounds continue to be well maintained via the 'volunteer ground force' whose weekly presence ensures that the club's lawns, gardens, drive ways and car parks are presentable to all club members and visitors. Tree's and bushes are regularly trimmed to ensure that all excessive growth is managed.

Current mechanical tools including lawn mowers, blowers, strimmers etc are operating fine albeit with the occasional 'off day' when extra care and attention are required to ensure full operation is obtained!

The current autumnal weather of rain and wind, following from a somewhat dry summer, has certainly supported the lawns growth and the downloading of leaves across all parts of the grounds that are being cleared on a weekly basis by the currently depleted ground force, get well and recover soon wishes to both Johnny Lea and 'fat boy' Tailor.

Ongoing thanks and recognition to Arthur, Ray, Jack and Peter Wilson (plus fit and healthy John and Paul) who have all supported the ground force during the past reporting period. Also, many thanks to Mickey Skinner who constructed the outdoor wooden seating benches that are a great asset to the club albeit very heavy when they need moving....

As previously requested, to maintain the pleasant grounds, ongoing support is required from all to ensure that all litter, empty bottles etc are placed in the supplied recycling bins.

Peter Harrison