

## **SWATA AGM 14 April 2025**

### **Report from the Chair for 2024**

I am pleased to report that Village tennis is continuing to thrive. The courts are well maintained, our finances are secure. We have an excellent Coach, our safeguarding arrangements are strong and membership has held up well with some new members following a very successful open day in May. However, there is always scope for greater usage of our excellent facilities and none of this would happen without a considerable amount of work from our Committee members. I am hugely appreciative of their efforts and also for the support from others in the Village but we can never have too many volunteers!

### **Membership**

Membership has remained at around 35/40 families and 10/15 single members, with several members new to the Village, and we are very grateful to our Membership Secretary Fiona Reay, supported by Jax Ings-Chambers. We have kept the Membership Year from June to June. We thought it sensible in order to maintain our financial position to make a modest increase for family Subscriptions to £55 p.a per family and £30 for singles but no change to the much-reduced rate of £10 for juniors. Payment can now be made online and via the Club Spark system which is much easier.

### **Finances**

These remain sound and many thanks to our Treasurer Paul Jackson.

Paul will go into more detail in his report but in outline, membership income was over £2,000 and we received a small income from manning the interim 'pop up bar' with WSCC. There are maintenance costs for court cleaning and upkeep of the fencing and we do need to provide a sinking fund for eventual court renewal and major works such as court renewal and painting. Our sinking fund now stands at some £25,000 which is adequate but not excessive.

### **Website and Booking system**

As previously reported we have set up a new website and booking system, with many thanks to Jax Ings-Chambers, through Club Spark <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/SWATA>. This is a valuable addition to our communication of SWATA to everyone in the Village who might be interested in playing tennis.

### **Courts and surrounds**

Our courts remain in excellent condition thanks to considerable efforts by Charles Humphries.

We are grateful to the Council for the increased maintenance of the surrounding area and to Tom de Winton for tackling the bramble patch between the hedge and the west end of the courts. We are assured that the Council intends to take on regular maintenance of this area which is a great relief. We are always keen to see more people playing and enjoying this great facility and with the cricket nets nearby there is a real buzz around the area. The new picnic table and table tennis are a very welcome and we are getting a new notice board for better communication.

### **Coaching**

This has been a great success. Thanks to Emily Bain we established an excellent coaching arrangement with Simon Parker of Chais Sports and we now have classes for children and Simon is available to SWATA members for individual or group coaching.

### **Safeguarding and Diversity and Inclusion**

As previously reported, in accordance with best practice and LTA requirements SWATA has adopted policies covering Safeguarding and Diversity and Inclusion. Elaine Drury is our Welfare Officer and the first point of contact for any issues arising. We have been audited by the LTA Safeguarding team and we were pleased that not only did we 'pass' but the team noted that '*SWATA has worked hard to ensure that safeguarding is promoted with members and the local community*'. The policies may be viewed on the website and are publicised on a Notice on the Courts.

*Elaine has been DBS checked again and has recently done a safeguarding workshop renewal both of which are valid until start 2028. Elaine is now on an Oxfordshire Safeguarding Whats App group with the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Officer.*

### **Social and Fundraising**

We had a very enjoyable Open Day in May and are planning an event as part of the Village 'Swing into Summer' in June. We are discussing further possible events for the coming year and welcome any suggestions and offers of help.

*This has now been confirmed as SWATA hosting an open courts session on Saturday 21 June.*

*We also confirmed that we are starting Social Tennis sessions on Friday evenings from the beginning of May. The Saturday and Sunday morning roll ups continue to flourish it is always nice to see new faces.*

### **SWATA Committee**

As previously reported, sadly for us Susie Mee decided last year that it was time for someone else to take up the pen as Secretary and stepped down from the Committee. Also as reported above our Treasurer Lesley Munro- Faure handed over to Paul Jackson who has kindly taken on this role . We are also fortunate to have a new Committee member, Will Miller and if any members or others are interested in joining us please let me know.

*At the meeting Jax Ings Chambers confirmed that due to family commitments she wished to step down and Will Miller will take over her role on the Membership. The Committee for 2025/6 was proposed and seconded by SWATA members present as Tim Martin, Paul Jackson, Fiona Reay, Elaine Drury, Charles Humphries, Emily Bain, Lesley Munro-Faure and Will Miller.*

**Tim Martin, Chair SWATA**