

AGM Tennis Report 2024

We had a good year to Tennis in 2023. The organising committee has seen some changes recently. John van der Rest and Catherine McElholm have taken up the Chair of the club. We are thankful to Ruth Fennell for all she did as Chair, who stepped down from the committee in the Autumn of last year. We also thank Sayuri Sullivan for all her help with the juniors and Natalie Hardy for all she did in the coaching team. We have been recruiting new helpers. We still have Ted Frith, whose done a great job with the Men's teams this year. We've also got help from others. James Vithanage will be helping us with Safeguarding issues. Saurabh Kabre, Mike Swinn, Steve Phelps-Jones, Jordan and Zara Aslam, Jane Hodge have all said they are willing to help out.

Below are a number of reports:

Ladies Tennis Section 2023

This past year we have had more women than ever entering tournaments within the club and participating in competitive matches against other clubs. Some players were struck with injury but with new faces helping out we were able to fulfil all our fixtures. We had 4 ladies' teams playing in the Coventry and District Summer Leagues, 2 vets teams last winter, 1 team in the Helen Cole winter league and some Ladies playing the Birmingham Mixed Doubles winter league also.

The Ladies have become less keen on playing singles in recent years so we were unable to hold a singles competition in either the open or Challenger tournament. However with the additional new box leagues of Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles it's nice to see more ladies competing internally within the club.

Cardio Tennis has been introduced this year and whilst numbers have dropped off during the cold winter months it is mostly ladies taking part.

Our junior ladies have played for the ladies' teams also and are showing great promise at winter training session. This bodes well for the season ahead.

We would like to encourage any ladies interested in playing team tennis to make themselves known to the Ladies Captain Catherine McElholm.

Sadly the weather, in particular the excessive rain, has disrupted our winter ladies' tennis practice but those who have participated have been benefiting from our excellent new coach Lucy Sanders.

We look forward to the new season ahead!

Catherine McElholm

Men's Tennis Section 2023

The club tournaments were well attended, although we do need more super vets stepping forward.

18th January 2024

We had 3 teams playing in the Coventry league and one in the Birmingham League.

Our 1st team won their division by a big margin and have been promoted to the 2nd division.

Our 2nd team maintained their position in the 3rd Division.

The 3rd team were relegated to the 6th division despite having won 5 matches – that must surely be a record! ...and our 4th team comfortably stayed up in the Birmingham League

Over 35 men played in the teams, and we never failed to have a full team for all matches. Thanks goes to our four team captains for all their organising and avoiding any 'no shows':

Steve Wilkinson and Suart Hamilton for the 1st team

Will Curtis for the 2nd team

Ted Frith for the 3rds

And John Morgans for the 4ths

Team Captains are always looking for additional players to join their squads, so if anyone wishes to participate, please get in touch with our Men's Captain, Ted Frith and you will be made most welcome.

Our vets team were joint winners of the 3rd division of the Warwickshire 22/23 league and were promoted into the 2nd division, which for the 23/24 season is still ongoing.

They are currently above the relegation zone and all being well should remain in the 3rd division.

Throughout the winter, the men's Monday coaching has been very successful with 8 players appearing for most sessions under the expert guidance of our level 4 LTA Performance coach, Lucy Sanders.

Steve Wilkinson was selected as our Senior Player of the year and Ben Leach was our Junior player of the year. Ben went on to be awarded the Junior Player of the Year for the Coventry League. Details of why both were selected is up on the club notice board.

It's been a successful year for men's tennis, and we see no reason why 2024 cannot be equally successful.

Ted Frith

Coaching

It has truly been an eventful year for the Hampton Junior Programme, marked by exciting changes and a growing sense of optimism. We welcomed a dynamic Coaching Team from A STAR TENNIS.

While bidding farewell to some members of our coaching team in pursuit of new opportunities, we're thrilled to introduce Lucy Sanders as our new Head Coach at Hampton in Arden. Her successful 3-month trial period has demonstrated her commitment and skill, and she is already making positive connections with players across all age groups.

Working collaboratively with Alex Thompson, (Tennis Director of A STAR TENNIS), and Assistant Coach Lucie Mellor, Lucy Sanders is spearheading efforts to create an exciting promotional schedule for the upcoming spring and summer season, promising a vibrant rebranding of our tennis program.

18th January 2024

Lucie Mellor, LTA Level 2 Tennis Instructor, adds another layer of expertise to our team. Alongside Lucy Sanders, she will be instrumental in coaching groups and providing personalised coaching to both junior and adult members. Lucie's engagement extends beyond the club, reaching local schools through after-school and lunchtime clubs, contributing to the growth of tennis in the community.

Highlighting notable achievements,

- Our 8&U Team's victory in the LTA winter league stands out, showcasing their talent and determination against formidable opponents. Well done Lucie Mellor for captaining the team to the victory.
- Welcoming new local Level 1 coaches Francesca and Rebecca adds depth to our coaching roster.
- Our continued school links and new partnerships with George Fentham, Eastern Green, and Knowle Primary expand our network, providing more avenues to promote the club.
- The success of our Xmas Junior Social, with over 20 enthusiastic attendees, is a testament to the positive momentum we're building. Well done Lucie Mellor and Thabo Ngcobo for delivering this fun session.
- Our continued good work with our community partners, offering key coaching hours to members of the team. Links with the Family Care Trust and Newland Bishops farm have been successful, and participants are enjoying the club facilities and the chance to try new sports and activities. We have also set up a new link with Brightspark school in Meriden, a school for children bullied in mainstream education. Thank you to Ian Poole who manages and develops these links, growing the club profile and creating new revenue streams for the club through facility rental.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with hope and excitement for the bright future ahead, marked by growth, achievements, and a strengthened sense of community at the Hampton Junior Programme.

Alex Thompson – A Star Tennis

2024

Here are our plans for 2024, that hopefully address points raised in the recent survey.

Coaching

As Alex mentioned we were sad to have Natalie Hardy leave the coaching team. She is still a member and will be helping the Ladies teams this year. We have already benefitted from excellent coaching in team practice. As there have been a few changes recently, when the winter months are over, we want to have an event where we try and get all the coaches and members together, so members can meet them and find out more about them. I have updated the website, there are still more updates to make. We want to also try and get new members (junior and adult) from outside of Hampton village. I've approached the Meriden Parish Council asking if we could do something there, with a view to getting more to join the club. The membership list has just a handful of members living in Meriden, so there is great potential for new members there.

18th January 2024

Chances to play competitively

We will run the Club Championship again this year. That is a tournament open to all members. We also want to run the Challenger tournament. We also want to hold a number of American Doubles tournaments like we did last year. Last year we had one on Hampton Festival day and another one later in the season. We learned a lot about what works and what doesn't work so well. One area we can and must improve on is the Junior tournament. Now that the Coaching team is now in place we hope that generates more interest and participation in the tournaments. We continue to run box leagues throughout the year. We've moved over to the LTA competitions system, which has some annoyances, but looks to be working. We would like to explore the possibility of a Junior box league. Team Tennis continues with 4 ladies teams and 4 men's teams. We will communicate better how team selections are made soon.

Social Events

We don't have a social events part of the committee, meaning more work for those on the committee. More volunteers are always welcome! We will commit to organising a couple of Social events during the year. It would be nice to have another End of Season Party. Something like that takes a lot of organising so we can't say for definite that will happen.

Communication

These are our plans. We will communicate these plans in the near future. One of the things we have become aware of is that people want to know what's going on, but don't want to be bombarded with too many emails. So we have to make better use of the quarterly newsletter, which I think people like. We do put up notices here in the clubhouse and on the gates. We are moving the club website onto Wordpress. Wordpress has been mainly used for blogs. With that we can have new updates on the main home page and hopefully share them onto facebook.

John van der Rest