

## Chairman`s Report

I`m sure you will all remember that at the start of the 2008 season we entered 13 teams into the Chippenham and District Tennis League. This was the largest number that we had ever fielded. You may also remember that the teams did quite well with 5 of them topping the table in their respective groups.

It can only be a positive sign that at the start of each season we have more members wanting to play league tennis and it was in part for this reason, we went further this year and entered a total of 15 teams. The breakdown was 6 men`s – one of which played in the Swindon league, 4 ladies and 5 mixed.

For a number of reasons our results were disappointing this year when compared to the previous year and as usual, you can pick through the detail for yourselves in the captain`s reports.

The big questions regarding the leagues for the next season are:

1. How many teams do we need to enter in order to satisfy the members desire for league tennis?
2. How does that stack up against our court space when we take into account our other court commitments?
3. How many leagues do we wish to be represented in?

Tony Clark has already drawn up a comprehensive assessment of the 2009 season which will help the team captains and committee members to properly review the season and I am confident that the committee will reach the right decision for the 2010 league.

Following the excellent financial results of the previous year, when the club produced a very strong performance, we have

constantly reviewed the business plan in conjunction with the prevailing financial climate. We have monitored the effects of the recession on our membership numbers and our opportunity to produce other income, as well as focusing on controlling expenditure. The dramatic fall in the bank's interest rate has also had a negative effect on the interest we receive into our account.

On the other hand, we did take the opportunity of the downturn to review timescales and costs of some of the important jobs that needed action and had been brought to our attention by members. Over the last 4 months we have completed the installation of the new court lighting system, repainted the courts and replaced the deteriorating fencing. The club has managed to reduce the cost of these projects by some £15000, saving a third of the original budgeted cost. We believe that this action will have provided existing members with increased value for money as well as maximising our opportunity to attract additional members in the future.

I must say how pleased I have been with the management and administration of coaching. I also believe that the coaching itself has improved from what was already a significant success. Last year the coaching committee, supported by Peter Hopwood, reviewed and revamped areas of the administration. This included how we delivered the start of term letters and payment costs. We saw some immediate improvement with payment coming in quicker. This year Susan closed the book in September with no outstanding debt and an improved system that allows us to monitor how things are progressing. This enables us to react much quicker when we see a situation developing. Well done to all concerned.

Probably our biggest achievement this year was in gaining Clubmark status. This status comes with many benefits including

opening doors to all kinds of additional support including financial. Had it not been for the methodical work of Tony Clark, I doubt we would have achieved it at all. But, In fact, we did not just achieve it, below is an extract from the letter I was sent from the LTA Tennis Development Manager.

*"I am delighted to confirm the Chippenham Tennis Club has successfully secured tennis clubmark. On behalf of the Wiltshire LTA I would like to congratulate you and say how impressed I was by the quality and professional presentation of your folder. Chippenham Tennis Club is a great example of good practice and I would like to thank you and your club colleagues for all of their work and contribution to Wiltshire tennis."*

To date, there are still only a handful of clubs in the area who have achieved Clubmark.

As well as the work on the presentation of the folder, there were also workshops that a number of us attended covering various sections of the folder including equality, this must be at the forefront of our thinking in all areas. Now that we have achieved the status of Clubmark, it is vital that as individuals, as a committee and as a club, we live up to what we have signed up to. Chippenham Tennis Club is a significant club within Wiltshire. It has great opportunities and real responsibilities. It is for those reasons that I believe the time has come for the club to review the way in which it elects its committee. In my view, the re-election of members' year on year as a formality does not serve the interests of the club. As the outgoing chairman, I strongly recommend a rethink.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the committee for their contributions over the last two years. It has not always been easy but everyone has made a contribution. In particular, a huge thank you to Tony Clark and Peter Hopwood who are great people to

have around when things need doing. My thanks also to Sue Walker and Susan Mansfield who have both done excellent work on membership, club and junior respectively. To Richard for the great work that's going on in coaching, there is a strong team effort going on in that area. It's disappointing that Peter Moss is stepping down, he is a good committee member with a level head and his focus during meetings will be missed, but a big thank's to you Peter for your input and for your pledged support with the website until April next year. Last and definitely not least to my wife, Rachael who's help and support has been invaluable.