

2015 Presidents Report for Cambridge Racquets Club

16/11/2015

It is with some pride and a touch of sadness that I find myself typing my final President's Report for the club as I come to the end of my third year as the Club President.

2015 has been a good year for the club and there have been some big changes some positive moves forward that everyone involved should be very proud of.

The big wins have been there for all to see with the Tennis Court Resurfacing and Men's changing room upgrades complete. With Higgle and Wayne's drive we'll likely have the downstairs of the club painted this summer as well.

There has been a drop off in senior membership for both Tennis and Squash but juniors have increased significantly on both sides. This is a little concerning as this is most of the revenue for the club but with a lot of juniors it does bode well for the future player base.

Financially we're maintaining an even keel although the drop in income from the bar is significant and will pose some challenges in the future. It's good to see Squash and Tennis holding solid financially but the club is reliant on funding from grants to make any financial progress.

There have only been small increases in the playing fees in the last three years and a review is currently being undertaken to see whether we can tailor our fee structure to appeal to a wider base.

We have tried to keep a tight lid on unnecessary costs in the last three years and this will need to be a strong focus moving forward as well. We have certainly had higher costs in a lot of operational areas in this financial year and the new management team may decide to cut some expenses where possible.

We now have a new manager in place and Wayne is already imposing a strong community feel on the club and is getting to know members well. As he grows in this role I am sure he will be able to add significant value to the club over the coming years.

Overall I think it has been another excellent year for the club and I'm really proud of both the achievement and the fun that our members have had here.

There is no doubt that a lot of the success for the club in recent years has been down to Claire as Club Manager. I'd like to formally thank her for her contribution in this time.

Now a small reflection on the last three years and where to from here...

I can say that I have enjoyed the challenges presented by a club with 400 members, all with different ideas and requirements to get the most out of their membership. Along with the challenge of striving to improve our financial position by reducing costs and generating more revenue.

One thing that has remained constant at the club, as it is in society, is the vocal minority who will take their time to complain about the way things are done or propose short sighted plans without a willingness to work with the committees that manage the club and be part of implementing a solution.

I challenge all club members to consider what more they can do to help to move this club forward and improve the experience for all who play and visit here. We are not a business out to take people's money, we're simply a local club administered by a group of dedicated volunteers (and one paid employee) trying to provide a great place for the community to exercise and socialize. I hope for the club's sake that we don't become a bunch of complainers and more people become do-ers.

I must give a huge thanks to all that have helped me to form a vision for the club and do their bit to ensure we've continued to improve. I've had an outstanding Management Committee who have asked the tough questions and put in a lot of work trying to find better solutions. Not to mention several hours each month given up by them to complete actions and attend meetings to discuss improvements.

The Squash and Tennis Committees have also been very good at driving the causes of their sports and I think the work done there is fantastic. We're fortunate to have a structure where each committee can make decisions on running their own programmes and push their case for changes within the club to a management committee. Once again, I encourage more people to get involved as Tennis especially struggles with the numbers required to run it's committee at 100%.

I think I'm leaving the club in an excellent position with a solid financial base and most importantly a core group of members who care about the future of the club and want to drive it toward future success.

Even though my travels will take me away from Cambridge for part of next year I'll still be actively involved in the squash side for most of the time and I look forward to seeing the future changes.

Best of luck to everyone out on court.

Adam Thompson