President's Report

Cambridge Racquets Club – Annual General Meeting, 16 November 2026

This report covers the period from the 2025 Annual General Meeting to the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

The past year has again been a positive one for the club. While household budgets remain tight and the competition for people's leisure time and money has never been greater, Cambridge Racquets Club has continued to run a full programme across both codes and to keep its finances in good heart. Membership softened slightly on last year's record numbers, but the club remains considerably stronger than it was three years ago and the activity level around the courts is as high as I can remember. Our thanks go to everyone who made that happen.

Club Highlights

1. Membership: As of 31 July 2026, membership stands at 433, comprised of:

Code(s)	Senior	Junior	Totals
Tennis	181	66	247
Squash	101	44	145
Both	32	9	41
Total	**314**	**119**	**433**

This is a 3% decrease on the 448 members recorded at the same point last year, and it reflects a shift in the mix rather than a loss of interest in the club.

Junior squash more than made up the ground lost the year before, rising from 32 to 44, and junior tennis held its own at 66 against last year's very strong 76. Senior tennis grew again, from 165 to 181, which is now the largest single group in the club and there are waitlists for tennis competitions. That growth was offset by a fall in senior squash from 119 to 101 and in dual-code membership from 56 to 41. The drop in senior membership is more a reflection of retirement from the sport. It is worth recording that alongside this the club has continued to attract new members through come-and-try sessions, business house competitions and our open events, and that several of those events ran at capacity with waiting lists. Feedback from members of other racquets clubs and from national bodies on how well our events are organised remains consistently positive.

2. Facilities and maintenance:

The Facilities and Maintenance Committee has again committed a great deal of time and energy over the past 12 months, keeping the club-maintained day to day while continuing to explore a complete makeover of the club building, much progress has been made here as detailed in the facilities report. As with any major project it takes time and energy, and while progress can feel slow, real headway has been made on the funding side, with offers of sponsorship and of materials at significant discounts. It takes a committed group of individuals to make this happen and we currently have that group within our club.

Once again, my sincere thanks to Peter Bryant and Carli Van Zyl for the time and energy they continue to put into this project, I don’t think either of them quite realised the time this project would take – this is not a quick 3 set match!

3. Events and competitions: The talent within our club remains as strong as ever, and our members have continued to excel at local, regional and national level.

CRC continues to host popular and successful events for both codes. All of these events matter for the reputation of the club, provide opportunities for members to compete and participate, and generate revenue. I would like to extend deep thanks on behalf of the club to everyone involved in running them.

At the Waikato Thames Valley annual club awards, Annabel Chapman received the Female Player of the Year Award.**, and** Cambridge Racquets Club was named **Club of the Year.**

CRC has again been represented in interclub competitions in both codes, in junior and senior grades. Thanks to all those players who represent the club, and especially to those who organise and manage teams and drive juniors to matches.

4. Looking forward: As the financial reports show, the club is in a healthy position financially and membership remains strong. This is not good luck, and it should not be taken for granted. .

For the year ahead the committee's priorities are to hold and rebuild senior membership, to spread the workload of our events more widely so that the same few people are not carrying them, to keep the facilities project moving, and to continue to get more members involved in lending a hand. If you have ever thought about helping with an event, coaching a junior, or joining a committee, this is the year to put your hand up.

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank the members of the Squash Committee, the Tennis Committee, the Facilities and Maintenance Committee and the Management Committee for their dedicated mahi; all of our members who volunteer for various roles and pick up all the jobs that need doing around the place; and our staff, who keep the club running week in, week out.

Finally, the amazing Suzie Halliday, our Club Manager, who lives and breathes the club and just gets on with it, whether it is organising a tournament, running club nights or applying for grants.

It is a privilege to serve as your Club President.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou, thank you all.

Dave Kilbride, President
Cambridge Racquets Club
Date: 13/11/2026