

## **Chairman's Report for the AGM 2015**

Good evening to you all and many thanks for coming out tonight to support your club. Thanks to our secretary Frances for organising the AGM and our meetings throughout the year. I would like to start with a personal update. After a quarter of a century, give or take, of participation at your club I will be leaving to move down to Devon. I have had a great time playing tennis here and have made many friends. I will take lots of great memories with me and will continue to play whenever I can, albeit at a local Devon club. As a consequence of this I will also be resigning as Club Chairman. I am delighted to confirm however that Richard McMahon (subject to others standing) will be taking over from me. I couldn't imagine a better person to take the club forward. As well as being a first class player and current Captain of our glorious Gloucestershire League "A" team, Richard and his family are a part of the fabric of Tetbury. They have children at local schools and Richard brings a wealth of business and management skills to the club as well as a love of tennis. Richard – welcome!

Yet again I would like to recognise the great contribution that everyone on the committee has made to the continuing health of the tennis club. I should remind everyone that all committee members are unpaid volunteers who give their time and energy for your benefit without any favour or consideration whatsoever. Without their help and time there simply would be no tennis club so once again a very big THANK-YOU from myself and all at the club for your assistance.

**Facilities.** The courts continue to provide a good all year round surface for the club. We are also exploring the costs and options of providing better services such as electricity to the clubhouse to enhance everyone's comfort. In addition we are currently discussing with the school how daytime access to the courts could be improved for our members. The emphasis for our long term future has shifted slightly. Due to the lack of tangible progress with the Recreation Ground development and a very supportive environment at Sir William Romney's we are exploring how we might use the excellent land and facility opportunities at the school to provide the dedicated tennis facility that the Town deserves and warrants. The key stepping stones to realising such a long term vision are increasing our membership and raising funds. These two items will be the key focus for (Richard) and your new committee.

**Teams** During 2015 we have had an outstandingly successful summer season. We have fielded three full teams for the entire season – a significant achievement and improvement on last year's situation. Better still we have achieved promotion to the first division in the Gloucester league and our Premier Division team in the Chippenham and District League has performed well at that very high level. Thanks to our Captains, Nigel, Richard and Paul and their teams. Yet again you have represented the club in an outstanding fashion and achieved great success that is totally disproportionate for such a small club.

**Membership and Finance** Our finances have improved yet again despite a slight drop in membership and that is down to careful management of our expenses. We should recognise the key role played by our Treasurer, Paul Hampton, in managing this key area.

**Coaching** During the summer we ran a Thursday evening session as well as the Saturday classes. There are now new afternoon slots for Saturday and although staffing issues have made it difficult for ADS to provide all we would wish numbers have increased to a peak of 15 on some Saturday afternoons. This has also had the by-product of increasing club revenues although I am disappointed that this has not yet translated into higher membership numbers.

**Summary** The club continues to face challenges particularly around increasing membership and greater access to our facilities during the day but there are many positives. We are providing opportunities for tennis players both socially and competitively, the club funds continue to grow, and our Men's teams have achieved great league success. We have launched a new, clear and informative club website at

<http://www.tetburydolphinsltd.co.uk/>

We should look to the future with confidence. Finally, once again – many thanks for all your support and do please spread the word far and wide that Tennis is a fabulous sport for life. It is inclusive – we have no playing in tests or unreasonable clothing requirements. It is inexpensive – less than 50p per week for a junior or approximately £1.50 per week for an adult. It is fun and it provides a perfect opportunity to make new friends whilst getting fit. Please spread the word and be the best ambassadors you can for our club, to help us grow. Many thanks.

Brett

Brett Watson