

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015



Dear Members,

Thanks to the efforts of many people, the last 12 months have been another very exciting and productive year for our Club. In this report I provide a summary of what has been achieved and thank those involved on behalf of all members.

As Club Chair I have encouraged the Committee and all those involved in running the Club to tackle every issue by trying to do the best we can for the Club both for now and the future. This year we have continued to develop the Club and move forward in a way that is consistent with the Club's vision and values.

## **OUR VISION AND VALUES**

OCLT&CC is a club that provides high quality tennis and croquet services and facilities so that members can enjoy and improve their game, whatever their playing standard, in a friendly, supportive and sociable atmosphere. We are committed to upholding the values of fairness, transparency and inclusiveness in all the activities that we engage in.

## **MARKETING, MEMBERSHIP, AND COMMUNICATION**

I want to start this year's review with a huge thank you to **Catriona Lischka** (Director Membership) who has welcomed every new member and set them up on our system, maintained our excellent website and been the person who has taken primary responsibility for sending out communications to all members.

Catriona is also working on the introduction of a new system for subscription payments using Go-Cardless which we expect to be ready for the 31 March 2015 renewals.

I am pleased to report that our membership numbers have held up very well. As we approach summer the numbers are expected to increase further.

|                | February 2014 | February 2015 |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tennis Adult   | 397           | 391           |
| Tennis Juniors | 164           | 165           |
| Tennis Minis   | 42            | 40            |
| Croquet        | 40            | 40            |
| Social         | 19            | 19            |
| TOTAL          | 662           | 655           |

## SOCIAL

Creating a social atmosphere is a key part of our vision for the Club. Over the year **Hannah Carley** (Social Secretary) has done a great job running the programme of events listed below as well as the social side of Finals Day which is covered later. I want to thank Hannah and all those who assisted her but in particular the members of the Social Committee which includes Matt Cowie, Desmond MacMahon, Pearl Shaw, Nigel Thorpe, Sarah Walsh, Hillary Woof and Paul Woof.

### CLUB FUNCTIONS

The annual Old College **Quiz Night** saw another great evening hosted by Quiz Master **Jeff Richards** on 4<sup>th</sup> April. There was a great turn out and well done to the winning team of Jonathan, Jane, Matt, Tim, Anna and Hannah – I'm sure there will be many people fighting for the crown again next year!



On 19<sup>th</sup> July a wine tasting and cheese **Volunteers Evening** was held for all the volunteers who help keep the club running. The purpose of this event is for people who volunteer, whether it be on a Committee, part of a project team or as a captain of a team, to get to know each other a bit better. The better people know each other the better the Club runs. Wine connoisseur **Rebecca Jones** assembled an excellent array of 11 wines to identify. This was followed by a fantastic selection of cheeses picked by Hannah. Everyone had a really good time and many thanks to Rebecca and Hannah.



On 31<sup>st</sup> January we held our annual **Club Dinner Dance**. This was a great success and it was attended by about 85 members and guests. It was held at the Dulwich & Sydenham Golf Club which has magnificent views of the London skyline. This year we also had Barry the illusionist entertain us.



However the highlight of the evening was our own **OC band** consisting of Aruna Lyengar (vocal), Charlie Casey (guitar), Matt Cowie (guitar), Jan Jakowicz (keyboard) and Rob Leonard (trumpet), which provided us with really great music on the night, finishing up with a professional DJ stint from Harry Walker with dancing until past midnight. We are very fortunate to have such musically talented members!



A raffle was arranged in aid of the Samaritans which raised £805. The event was the culmination of a lot of hard work, notably by **Sarah Walsh**, Hannah Carley and Rosie Allen. Many thanks to all those involved and this is now a regular feature of our social programme.

## TENNIS FUNCTIONS

There were many successful social tennis activities over the year.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June there was a **Ladies teams'** get together for an evening of tennis and a **barbecue**. A great and late evening was had by all.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July, in keeping with tradition the bar was open and there was a good turnout to view the Men's **Wimbledon final**, with plenty of Pimms, strawberries & cream and a great atmosphere!



On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October Maria Szekely organised a **Ladies' teams' end of season evening** with about 30 ladies participating. Everyone brought food and the bar was open. Alison O'Mahony gave a thank-you speech for Mabel Wanogho who had stepped down as Captain of 4<sup>th</sup>'s. The evening was a great success, with many people making new friends from different teams.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October the **Men's teams** got together for an **end of season evening** of tennis followed by a curry and beer. It was a really good night and Rich Wilson gave special thanks to Ben Randall for managing the curry order and thanks also to Matt Cowie for stocking the bar with a good supply of appropriate beer to accompany the curry.



On 13<sup>th</sup> December we held our traditional **Santa Tournament**. Unfortunately the weather was not great this year due to frost but it was still a success with mince pies and mulled wine served in the clubhouse.

## CROQUET FUNCTIONS

The Croquet section held two very successful **wine, cheese and croquet evenings** in July and August. On both occasions the weather was perfect, they were very well attended and greatly enjoyed by all!

The highlight of the croquet season, the main tournament, was held on 28<sup>th</sup> August and followed by a **high tea**.

The main croquet social event is the **annual croquet dinner** which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December. This year it was as festive and enjoyable as ever.

Over the **winter months** the croquet section run a number of activities. Croquet members meet most Tuesdays to play **table tennis** in the clubhouse. There is also a Croquet **book club** which meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. Finally a monthly Croquet **lunch** is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

## FINANCE

Our Treasurer, **Dan Cameron**, has prepared a report on the Club's finances for the AGM. As you will see from that report the Club's finances are in good shape. The financial year for the Club's accounts ends in September 2014 and you will see that the Club has again invested in capital projects, most of the expense being the final phase of projects started in the 2013 financial year.

The Club's cash reserve as of today is approximately £130,000. These reserves together with the additional reserves accumulated each year are adequate to meet significant refurbishment costs of Club assets such as: re-surfacing of tennis courts, replacement of floodlights, and periodic maintenance of the clubhouse and grounds even after allowing for some unfavourable contingencies.

I would like to thank Dan for all the time and effort he puts in as our Treasurer and **Emily Chandler** who does a great job as our Book Keeper. Thanks are also due to **Joanne Cheung** who very kindly agreed to act again as our independent financial examiner for the accounts. Finally thanks to our finance

subcommittee which includes Rita Brook, Ann George, Robert Park and Jill Thompson.

Dan and the Finance Committee have also been active in reviewing fees charged on coaching courses as well as comparing our membership fees with those charged by local clubs. We remain very competitive, particularly our tennis offering when you take into account that we do not charge extra for balls or floodlights during club play.

### **SERVICE CONTRACTS AND FACILITIES LEVY**

This year we reviewed and updated all the service contracts the Club has. In particular we updated the coaching **contract with our Head Coach**, Jon Modica. The last time this was done was just over 10 years ago. We also agreed contracts for the first time with our **coaching team** of Hamid Irshad, Chris Barker, and Simon Tricker. I am very grateful for the constructive and helpful input from Jon, Hamid, Chris and Simon through that process and for the key role that they play in the success of our Club.

As part of the coaching contract review we introduced a **5% facilities levy on coaching fees** for the use of our courts. This levy is expected to make a meaningful contribution to the **Club's Wear & Tear Fund** over time and it reflects the important partnership between the Club and our coaching team led by our Head Coach, Jon Modica.

We also updated our service contracts with our **Facilities Manager** and **Book Keeper**. I want to also thank Matt and Emily on their very helpful input through that process and the great work they do for the Club.

### **FACILITIES**

**Ivan Savage** (Director Clubhouse & Grounds), **Matt Cowie** (Facilities Manager), and the Clubhouse & Grounds Committee which includes Margaret McHugh and Charles Tyndale-Biscoe have been doing a great job both managing and improving our facilities.

A number of projects are ongoing such as the Honours Boards (which we really are now very close to finishing) and below are some of the projects that were completed over the year:

- addition of a second notice board;
- the introduction of tea and coffee facilities in the kitchen with regular fresh milk deliveries;
- sorting out a number of issues in the men's toilet;
- a more secure and comprehensive system for the management of the 15 or so different keys that are used in the Club;
- improved system for processing mail that comes to the Club; and
- fixing a leaking water tank in the roof.

## FIRST AID & DEFIBRILLATION

We take your health and safety seriously and have installed a **defibrillation unit** in the Clubhouse. We are grateful to the Surrey LTA who paid for half of the cost. About 60,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur per year in the UK. For every minute that passes without CPR or defibrillation following cardiac arrest, the chances of survival apparently fall by 10%.



As it is unlikely that any ambulance team will be present during the first five minutes after a cardiac arrest, bystander intervention is critical. The unit we installed is carefully designed such that the user cannot 'make a mistake' – the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) does all the decision making – it even talks to you. They are entirely safe and can be used by anyone, see [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

## ELECTRICS

The Club Committee approved a project costing approximately £5k to fix all the **remedial electrical work** in the Clubhouse. The need to do this was identified in a surveyor's report we commissioned. It is also the case that in our 130+ year history our Clubhouse has burnt down twice (January 1953 and January 1984) and on both occasions the cause was believed to be an electrical fault. As a result we thought it prudent to bring the electrical work up to date.

## BAR

This year the Bar Committee which consisted of Jeremy Labram, Hannah Carley, Matt Cowie, Ivan Savage and myself reviewed how we managed access to the bar. As a result of that review we introduced a new system for the Bar which has worked very well. Over 50 members have now been through a **brief bar induction process** and they can open the bar at any time, so long as it is within the hours allowed under our licence. There is no bar rota – members who have been through the induction process can open it when they would appreciate a drink and then close it when they are finished. All adult Members are welcome to do this. Please ask any member of the Bar Committee and they will show you how to open, close and operate the OC bar. Matt has also done a great job in evolving the drinks on offer and sales have increased. We expect demand to increase further as the Crown and Greyhound is closed due to refurbishment work - so please make use of **your bar** for a rewarding drink after playing tennis or croquet.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ipad-aed.com/cpranddefibrillatortraining/>

## Tennis Court Maintenance

We continued to follow the court maintenance program implemented last year. As part of that Court 3 was repainted. However we have had ongoing issues with court 3 and water retention and have been working with the contractors to fix this. To alleviate it somewhat special water sponge brooms were purchased. We have also just purchased new net posts for courts 1 and 2.

## Croquet Lawn Maintenance

The irrigation system is very important for the lawn and the pump which had been a bit temperamental last year was condemned in April. The irrigation system issues were resolved plus LawnsOne regularly watered the lawn each Monday over summer.

## OLD COLLEGE FILE SYSTEM

A major achievement this year has been the creation of the **Old College File System**. This has been created so that the Club's activities can be managed via one central file system. In the past, files have been stored on volunteer's home computers, laptops and other devices. The risk of that approach is that when there is a change of volunteers files may not be passed on or may be lost. Also it is very inefficient and often results in issues being tackled from scratch when in fact they have been analysed by a previous Committee.

A manual has been written to document and explain how to use the system. We have set it up on Dropbox which is cloud based and can be accessed via the internet using PCs, laptops, tablets, smart phones and other devices. Accounts have been created for each Committee position with access to folders to ensure that the right information is available to those who need it. When a Committee member retires all that happens is that their Old College Dropbox account will pass onto the next person. The system is now used by about 30 members who hold positions on various Committees that run the Club.

## INCORPORATION

There are a number of ongoing projects but one in particular to bring to your attention is the possible incorporation of the Club. This is being managed by **Nigel Thorpe** in his capacity as Executive Secretary. The project is well progressed and we expect to put it to Members for your consideration at an EGM in 2015. To date draft Articles have been developed plus some necessary tax clearances have been obtained. Special thanks are due to Patrick Mears and Nigel for the significant progress that has been made so far.

## POLICIES

We have updated most of our policies over the year and added one new one to cover guidelines on charities. This new policy covers both the use of the Club's facilities for **charity events** as well as support by the Club for charities. Examples include requests for information to be sent to Members about

charity events, raffles to raise money for charity, and tournaments to raise money for charity. All our policies are on our website.

## **MEMBER SURVEY**

A survey of members was conducted by **Rosie Allen** (who holds the position of Member Representative on the Club Committee). There was a great response rate with 96 Members filling it in. Overall Members have “**broadly positive feelings about the Club**” to quote Rosie. There were also quite a few suggestions made which is much appreciated.

Rosie averages around 1-2 enquiries a week as member Representative. Most of these involve her either sorting out the issue or pointing the enquirer in the right direction. So if you do have a query or idea Rosie is a good person to contact and I want to thank Rosie on your behalf for all the good work she has done and continues to do.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

**Jeremy Labram** (Club Vice Chair) over the last year has done a great job putting together a long-term development plan for our Club. A series of projects have been identified including:

- Hitting wall and practice area
- Floodlights for courts 6 and 7
- Switch to LED floodlights
- Reduction of frost on courts 1, 2, 3
- Improved landscaping at our entrance
- Extend court surrounds on courts 4, 5, 6 and 7
- Reinstatement of 2 courts within walking distance
- Indoor courts joint venture at nearby site
- Larger clubhouse

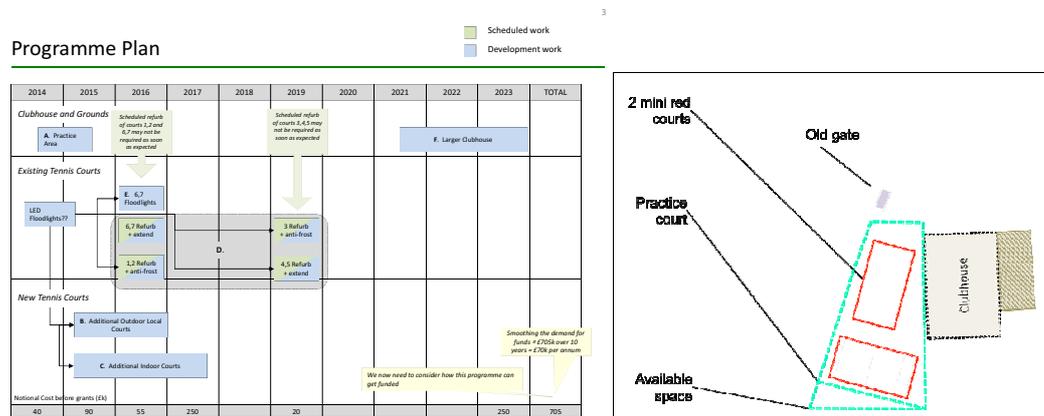
The plan is subject to ongoing review and updates as circumstances change. The projects identified in the development plan should be regarded as a road map.<sup>2</sup> We believe they would all benefit the Club but we are very conscious of the difficulties of many of them, whether it be funding or managing them or both. But they indicate our ambition to maintain Old College as an outstanding place to play tennis and croquet.

The first project the Club Committee has decided to go ahead with is a **practice area that incorporates a hitting wall** and mini courts. A hitting wall was also something members raised in the survey. This development is planned to be built on the area between the Clubhouse and Gallery Road (i.e. behind the Clubhouse). The plan is to complete this work in 2015 and **Justin**

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<sup>2</sup> We are conscious of the fact that the plan does not include any croquet specific proposals. The obvious longer term development for croquet is to build a full size croquet lawn. However at this stage we have not been able to identify land that could be used for this purpose. Note that we have been advised that the land between the Club and the Picture Gallery is to be used to build a sculpture park.

**Elcombe** has very kindly agreed to be the project manager for it. Justin is currently reviewing the initial design and together with Jeremy they are putting together a team to help him manage the project.



## TENNIS

This was the second year of operation for our Tennis Committee which we set up to manage tennis activities and this has continued to be a big success. I want to thank **Jonathan Pearson** who as the Chair of Tennis has done an excellent job and I am very grateful for all his efforts. I am also very grateful to all the members of the Tennis Committee which included Rich Wilson (Men's Captain), Alison O'Mahony (Ladies Captain), Rebecca Jones (Mixed Captain), Tim Marcot (Director Court Allocation), Jon Modica (Head Coach), Virginia Morley (Director Juniors), Sally Robinson (Welfare Officer), Joy Jackson (Surrey LTA Representative) and Maria Szkeley (Director Club Managed Courses). I want to also thank Katy Nicholson-Lord who stepped down as Director Tournaments and welcome George Cockbill who has recently kindly agreed to take over from Katy.

A huge thanks to our **Head Coach Jon Modica** and our **coaching team of Hamid Irshad, Chris Barker, and Simon Tricker**. Jon and his team are a key part of the Club and they run over 100 courses at the Club every year.

Special thanks are also due to **Joy Jackson** who again ran our **Wimbledon ticket draw**. This is even more challenging this year due a change in the method for the allocation of tickets to clubs by the LTA. Tickets are now allocated to clubs in proportion to how many members are signed up as British Tennis Members (BTM) and who "opt in" to be counted towards the Wimbledon draw (note this does not mean you are allocated a personal ticket rather that your BTM will count towards the total number of BTM's who play at Old College and as a result Old College will get a larger allocation of tickets for our draw). Apparently about 100 of our members have still not signed up as British Tennis Members. This normally costs £25 but is automatically waived if when you sign up you record that you are a member of Old College. So if you are one of the 100 and have a moment please go to the LTA website and sign up, see <https://www3.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/>. Please tick the box at the bottom of the form to "opt in" for the ticket allocation.

I would also like to thank Jeremy Labram and Matt Cowie for organising another Tennis Circus event with Ex-Davis Cup pros Danny Sapsford and Andrew Richardson. This was held on 30<sup>th</sup> March and it was a great success.

## CLUB PLAY

### Membership Categories versus Session Standard Guidance

One of the key tasks of the Tennis Committee is to organise, monitor and make changes as required to club-play sessions. In the latest survey club-play membership categories was the biggest issue raised by members when they noted what could be better about the club. Twenty-three members mentioned issues with club play that were related to categories. The responses were split between those who thought the system for categorizing players didn't work and those who thought club-play categories were a bad idea from a cultural and social perspective.

A number of the Club Committee and Tennis Committee members also felt that there were better ways to organise Club play and in October the Club Committee decided that the issue of club-play categories would be put to members at the 2015 AGM.

In the survey those who thought the categorization of players didn't work noted that there is a very wide range of tennis playing standards within the advanced category. Also under the current system once a player is assigned to the advanced category they stay there irrespective of any changes in their playing ability over time. So the first proposal developed by the Tennis Committee included addressing these issues by allowing members to move both up and down categories and setting a standard for the advanced category that would have made the differential in ability roughly the same across both the advanced and intermediate categories.

We received a lot of feedback from members both directly and indirectly via the working party set up to manage communications and as a result the Club Committee agreed to rule out the option of demoting members and setting a higher standard for advanced. Instead we agreed to preserve the 'status quo' as regards ability standards and also that no player would ever be demoted as an option at the vote at the AGM.

I want to thank all those involved in the debates and discussions including all the members who generously provided feedback, the Tennis Committee, and the members of the communications working party. The outcome of those discussions has been to clarify quite a few issues. The choice is now simply between organising Club Play using a system that labels around 400 members as either advanced or intermediate versus an alternative approach where the Tennis Committee provides standard guidance that is session specific and does it in a way that avoids the need to label members.

### Saturday Club Play

The Tennis Committee have also been doing a great job improving Club Play over the year. The major change concerned Saturday afternoon Club Play.

Many ideas had been trialled in the past to improve Saturday Club Play, some worked for a short time but then petered out. There is a wide range of abilities in the advanced section. It is also the case that it is unrealistic for players attending Club Play to always expect to play players of the same or better standard. This expectation leads to a trickle-down effect and over time the better players drop off and no longer attend. However it is realistic to expect play in at least a few good competitive sets and some where you may be the 'better player' for others.

To ensure that all players attending Club Play get a few good sets we introduced an approach used successfully at other clubs and **Saturday Club Play is now run by a coach**. Our Head Coach, Jon Modica, arranges fours taking into account the range of abilities of the players attending Club Play. He monitors the results of each set and has been very successful at ensuring that all those attending Club Play get quite a few very good competitive sets. Jon also often joins in and plays in some sets.

A coach led Club Play is a great way for members to mix and for players of all standards to enjoy good competitive tennis. This development comes on top of an earlier trial under which the Advanced Saturday session was opened up to Intermediates as well once a month. The monthly mix in sessions have been a success and the Head Coach has been able to organise competitive fours. So going forward, consistent with the Club's value of inclusiveness, any coach led Club Play session, paid for by all members through their subscription, will if possible be open to both advanced and intermediate players. The Tennis Committee will monitor the success of these sessions including court utilisation and waiting times and make changes as appropriate.

## Sunday and Thursday Night Club Play

In the latest survey Sunday Club play was raised by 6 members. As a result the next significant development is likely to be **Sunday Club Play**, and in particular a **family Club Play session**. The Tennis Committee has also said that it plans to introduce a **coach-run** session for **Thursday evening Club Play**.

## Coach Run Drop-In Sessions and Cardio

The Tennis Committee's management of your overall tennis experience is ongoing and dynamic. This year we tried Cardio tennis but unfortunately it did not get enough support from members to carry on. I want to thank Jon Modica for this initiative and although it turned out that there was not enough support (at least this time) I am very grateful for the considerable effort he put in to try to make it work. Coach Run Drop-In sessions on the other hand have

been a big success. The Tennis Committee have allocated courts accordingly to support this.

|             | 1                         | 2                         | 3                     | 4                    | 5                    | 6                    | 7                  |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 8.00 - 8.30 | Private booking           | Private booking           | Private booking       | Private booking      | Private booking      | Private booking      | Private booking    |
| 8.30-10.30  | Coaching Courts           | Coaching Courts           | Coaching Courts       | Drop-in coaching     | Drop-in coaching     | Drop-in coaching     | Private booking    |
|             | Miss                      | Miss                      | Miss                  | Drop-in/intermediate | Drop-in/intermediate | Drop-in/intermediate |                    |
| 10.30-12.00 | Drop-in coaching          | Drop-in coaching          | Drop-in               | Private booking      | Private booking      | Club play            | Private Coaching   |
|             | Intermediate/Advanced     | Intermediate/Advanced     | Intermediate/Advanced |                      |                      | Improver             |                    |
| 12.00-1.30  | Private booking           | Private booking           | Club play             | Club play            | Club play            | 12.00-1.00           | 12.00-1.00         |
|             |                           |                           | Intermediate          | Intermediate         | Intermediate         | Private coaching     | Private coaching   |
| 1.30-2.00   | Cardio Tennis             | Cardio Tennis             | Club play             | Coaching Courts      | Coaching Courts      | 1.00 - 2.00          | 1.00 - 2.00        |
| 2.00 - 2.45 | Club play - All Organised | Club play - All Organised | Intermediate          | Juniors              | Juniors              | Private booking      | Private booking    |
| 2.45-4.00   | Club play                 | Club play                 | Club play             | Club play            | Club play            | 2.00-3.00            | 2.00-3.00          |
|             | Advanced organised        | Advanced organised        | Advanced organised    | Advanced organised   | Advanced organised   | Coaching/1st teams   | Coaching/1st teams |
| 4.00-5.15   | Club play                 | Club play                 | Club play             | Club play            | Club play            | 3.00-4.00            | 3.00-4.00          |
|             | Advanced organised        | Advanced organised        | Advanced organised    | Advanced organised   | Advanced organised   | Coaching/1st teams   | Coaching/1st teams |
| 5.15-6.30   | Private booking           | Private booking           | Private booking       | Private booking      | Private coaching     | 4.00-5.00            | 4.00-5.00          |
|             |                           |                           |                       |                      |                      | Coaching/1st teams   | Coaching/1st teams |
| 6.30-7.45   | Private booking           | Private booking           | Private booking       | Private booking      | Private coaching     | Private booking      | Private coaching   |
| 7.45-9.00   | Private booking           | Private booking           | Private booking       | Private booking      | Private coaching     | Private booking      | Private coaching   |

## TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

### Club Championships

A very successful Club Championships was run over the summer culminating in a great Final's Day on the 20 September. This year for the first time we created an extra special day by holding the junior, open and veteran's finals all on the one day. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the epic 30+ shot rally deciding the winner of the Men's open age singles.

A big thanks are due to **Katy Nicholson-Lord**, **Ian De'Ath**, and **Jon Modica** for running the open, veterans and junior tournaments over the summer. Thank you also to all those who organized, umpired and participated in Final's Day and especially to **Matt Cowie** for bringing it all together on the day and to **Jonathan Pearson** who does a huge amount of work, often behind the scenes, coordinating and providing help and advice whenever needed. Thanks are due as well to **Hannah Carley** and all those who manned the BBQ and helped out on the social side which was a big success with the Prosecco flowing well. Finally thanks to **David Cianfarani** our Honorary Club President for 2014 for presenting the trophies on the day.

It was great to see a host of new winners in the open section of the Championships, including **Nikki Rohlfing**, **Jane Buswell** and **Mahvash Tavassoli**. A special mention to **Jon Modica** and **Vicky Flind** who made it a hat trick of wins in the Mixed Doubles. Congratulations also to **Will Skidelsky**. Also very well done by Georgia Jerome who made it through to her debut singles final from the group stage.



| Open                | Winner                           | Runner-up                     |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Gentlemen's Singles | Nikki Rohlfing                   | Ben Randall                   |
| Ladies Singles      | Jane Buswell                     | Georgia Jerome                |
| Gentlemen's Doubles | Nikki Rohlfing & Will Skidelsky  | George Cockbill & Ben Randall |
| Ladies Doubles      | Jane Buswell & Mahvash Tavassoli | Alison O'Mahony & Ann Traynor |
| Mixed Doubles       | Jon Modica & Vicky Flind         | Jeff Richards & Ann Traynor   |



The veteran's finals were played in good spirit and enjoyed by all. Congratulations to **Alison O'Mahony, Jeremy Labram & Rob Leonard, Louise Michell & Sue Milton and Jeremy Labram & Sue Milton.**

| Veteran's           | Winner                      | Runner-up                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Gentlemen's Singles | Peter Higgs                 | Jeremy Labram                   |
| Ladies Singles      | Alison O'Mahony             | Margaret Stone                  |
| Gentlemen's Doubles | Jeremy Labram & Rob Leonard | Peter Higgs & Patrick Mears     |
| Ladies Doubles      | Louise Michell & Sue Milton | Alison O'Mahony & Ann Traynor   |
| Mixed Doubles       | Jeremy Labram & Sue Milton  | Patrick Mears & Alison O'Mahony |



Finals day was particularly well attended by the juniors and their matches started the day at 8am and went right through to 4.30pm. The U18 boys was the pick of the matches with **Hamish Kerr**, last year's winner, saving 3 match points before beating Felix Suther-Jones in 3 hard fought sets.

Congratulations also to **Rosa Marks, Freddie Coghill, Seth Mack, Miles Speer, Giulia Lesa** and **Otis Stuart** and to all who the juniors who played on Finals Day.

| Junior's    | Winner          | Runner-up          | Third            |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| U18 Boys    | Hamish Kerr     | Felix Suther-Jones |                  |
| U18 Girls   | Rosa Marks      | Freya Tovey        |                  |
| U15 Boys    | Freddie Coghill | Alan Taylor        |                  |
| U12 Boys    | Seth Mack       | Oliver Meredith    |                  |
| Mini Green  | Miles Speer     | Jasper Callaway    | Luca Palazzi     |
| Mini Orange | Giulia Lesa     | Hamza Chettati     | Harry McCallum   |
| Mini Red    | Otis Stuart     | Lyndon Tas         | Cassius Sullivan |



## **Charity Singles Tournament**

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of September 30 members from Old College took part in an all-day Singles Tournament in support of the charity “Friends of Kianjai.” This is a charity closely associated with **George Cockbill** and his family, who ran the day. It was a big success, with the tournament, BBQ, Bar and raffle raising over £700. The money raised will go straight to building a school for disabled children in this rural region of Kenya.



**Sarah March** and **Nikki Rohlfing** both claimed top prize. Thank you to George Cockbill, his parents, girlfriend and friends and to Jonathan Pearson, Tim Marcot, Matt Cowie and Katy Nicholson-Lord at the Club for helping organize the day and thank you everyone for your generosity.

## **TENNIS TEAMS**

A great strength of the Club is our team tennis and we enjoyed many success over the year. A big thanks are due to **Rich Wilson** (Men’s Captain), **Alison O’Mahony** (Ladies Captain) and **Rebecca Jones** (Mixed Captain) for all their efforts in organising the teams. The match-by-match results and individual player statistics for all the Old College teams entered in Surrey and AEGON competitions can be found [here](#)<sup>3</sup> and found [here](#)<sup>4</sup> (*these links are also useful if you want to know how Old College teams are performing at any stage during a season as the results are usually posted quite soon after each match*).

## **AEGON League**

The highest standard competition where Old College teams compete is currently the AEGON open league where the format involves both singles and doubles matches. This summer we entered an Old College **ladies AEGON team** and they have performed extremely well will be promoted to a higher division next season. Our men’s AEGON team has also done very well in a

<sup>3</sup> If the hyperlink does not work the full URL is

<http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/clubstandings.aspx?id=6A86ADD7-8C33-41B3-96C0-57EBD16E0469&cid=53>

<sup>4</sup> <http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/clubstandings.aspx?id=C0065C3D-A7C3-4D99-8086-FB27376057F2&cid=44>

tough division. A big thanks to **Will Skidelsky** and **Jess Moody** for being the captains and organizing the AEGON teams.

## Surrey League

The competition where most of our teams compete is in the Surrey leagues. Summer was a very good season for Old College with two men's teams (I and VI), three ladies teams (IV, V, and VI), and one mixed team (IV) winning making a total of **six Old College teams winning their Surrey leagues**. Further **11 of our teams finished either first or second** which is a great result and means that in the summer of 2015 Old College will have 11 teams in higher divisions compared to this summer (in particular the mixed teams where three out of four teams finished first or second).

Congratulations and thanks are due to: the captains of the men's teams for the summer season **Will Skidelsky, James Gubb, Jimmy Gasteen, Justin Elcombe, Jamie Burnett, Clive Sherlock, and Rupe Gupta**; the captains of the ladies teams for the summer season **Jane Buswell, Claire Myatt, Sophie Rutherford, Mabel Wanogho, Karen O'Keeffe and Claire Stuffins**; the captains of the mixed teams **Chris Barker, Mahvash Tavassoli, Jimmy Gasteen, and Liz Rowling**; and of course all the players!

Old College also entered a team in the **Surrey LTA Men's Grade B Knockout**. This competition is quite a high standard and congratulations to our winning team which was led by **Hamid Irshad** and included James Gubb, James Hooke, Jeff Richards, Nikki Rohlifing, and Joe Tyndell.



## Southwark League

Old College enters two teams in the local Southwark league where there is a men's league and a mixed league (but no ladies league at the moment). The men's team, captained by **Peter Wright**, finished second. The mixed team won their division for the second time running this year - a fantastic performance led by the indefatigable **Sarah Walsh**.

Old College also entered a men's team in the Southwark Men's Teams knockout tournament. Old College were the 2014 **winners of the Southwark Cup!** The team was led by **Peter Wright** and included Justin Elcombe, Ben Randall, Ivan Savage, Owen Savage and myself.



## JUNIORS

The Junior section is thriving, with 165 Junior members and 40 Minis, we've had a fantastic summer season, the weather on the most part has been perfect for tennis, and it's been great to see so many Juniors and Minis regularly playing, attending camps and coaching sessions. We currently have over 100 Juniors and Mini's regularly taking regular coaching at the club, so the future looks bright for the Junior teams next season. Thanks are due to **Jon Modica** and **all our coaches** as well as to **Virginia Morley** and **all the parent captains**: Red - **Jason Stuart**; Orange - **Corrine Callaway**; Green - **Sally Robinson**; U12 boys coyotes - **Claire Richards**; U12 boys cougars - **Bill Meredith**; U14 boys - **Hilary Woof**; U14 Girls - **Sarah Thurman**; U16 Boys Coyotes - **Karin Barnick**; U16 Boys Cougars - **Laila Ram**; U16 Girls - **Virginia Morley**; and U18 Boys - **Gillian Kerr**. And a big thanks to **Tim Marcot** for managing all the court bookings!

Well done to all our Junior Members who played in matches and a special congratulations to the **14U Girls**, **16U Girls**, and **18U Boys** who won their divisions in the summer!

Some of our best juniors have also been mixing in with the adults in Club Play, and we even had 2 junior girls **Rosa Marks** and **Liz Vineall** making it to the semi-final and final respectively of the charity singles event, a great effort! We've also had external success with some of our younger Juniors and Minis winning tournaments: **Edouardo Bucca** won the Dulwich Open; and **Giulia Lessa** has won a number of Mini Orange tournaments and is now an Orange 1 star, to name but a few.

## SINGLES LADDER

A singles ladder has been launched and it is being run by **Ben Randall**. So far about **100 Members** have signed up. Well done Ben and please contact him if you like to join in.



## Members becoming Coaches

Congratulations to **Matt Cowie** and **Rebecca Jones** for passing their Level 2 LTA Tennis Coaching Qualification in June, and a big thank you on their behalf to the Club, Jon Modica and Chris Barker who were extremely supportive.

## CROQUET

I have enjoyed working closely again with the Croquet Committee which is chaired by **Rita Brook**. Rita and her team of Clive Brook, Margaret McHugh, and Pearl Shaw have done a great job running croquet and it is a very active

section of our Club. After many years of dedicated service Sheila Meadows has stood down from the croquet committee. Gill Romney has now joined the committee. She has been a longstanding member of the Club and did serve on the committee some years back. So welcome to Gill and a big thank you to Sheila for all her work.

## CROQUET TEAM

This year Old College Croquet Section took part in the **South East Croquet Federation league**. It was a steep learning curve as it was our first experience of handicapped playing but our team rose to the challenge and even won one of the four away matches and finished a very respectable 10<sup>th</sup> out of 16. The team consisted of Philip Batty, Clive Brook, Ditte Gregersen-Wells, Judy Halfpenny, Margaret McHugh, and Ina Pulleine.



## CROQUET TOURNAMENTS

The **Summer Tournament** was played in May and was won this year by **Sheila Meadows** and **Ina Pulleine**. The **Singles Competition** played over the season as a box league was won by **Clive Brook**. The **Main Tournament** which takes place each August and played over two days was won by **Philip Batty & Margaret McHugh**.



The Club's Honorary President for 2014 **David Cianfarani** attended the Main Tournament high tea in August and presented the trophies, it was a glorious day and the patio a perfect setting to celebrate. Congratulations to all our winners and many thanks to everyone who took part in all the events.

## TENNIS-CROQUET

### Multi-Sport Tournament

The second Multisport Tournament was held on 27 July. It was an even bigger success than last year. A big thank you to **Nigel Thorpe** for taking the lead on

the organizing of the event and for **Margaret McHugh** who encouraged and arranged quite a few croquet players to help the tennis players many of which were playing croquet for the first time.



It was very pleasing to see quite a lot of tennis players keen to try croquet and really enjoying it. Thirty members took part, organised in six teams. They played a frenetic six rounds of croquet, tennis and table tennis, all doubles and with two games of croquet happening at the same time. It was interesting to see how teams needed to be good at everything. Having a great tennis serve was no key to overall success and those teams that did best scored strongly across all three sports. Everyone who participated was a winner but the official winner in the end after a very close contest was Team F (**Philip Batty, Jonathan Pearson, Hilary, Paul and Joe Woof**). They were presented with a bottle of chilled champagne which was consumed on the spot!

## ARCHIVES

Our archives Committee is in its second year now. Work continues with the detective job to find out when exactly our Club was founded. Our current written records go back to 1884 and we were most likely founded in the late 1870s.

This year the archives group has focussed on the honours boards and I hope that these will soon go up in the Clubhouse, with at least one dating back to 1884. **David Cianfarani** has also had some success uncovering old photographs, including the one on the left below which dates back to the 1930s. We are also starting to locate some of the old perpetual trophies and we hope to install some type of lockable display cabinet in the Clubhouse to put them in with other memorabilia in due course.



If you would like to be involved with this fascinating work, or have any material or photographs that you believe should be part of the Club's archive (note that copies can be made), then please let me know.

## OC COMMUNITY

The Club has had its sadder times as well. One of our members James (Jem) Meadows died on 11<sup>th</sup> April. Jem was not only a charming gentleman and good croquet player but for years he contributed to Old College by doing croquet administration and helping with social events. Our condolences go to his widow Sheila Meadows who was for some years the Croquet Representative on the Club Committee and is still a key member of the Croquet Committee. In July one of our former croquet members Willis Walker died. He was a very gentle person and will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to his widow Gay who is still a croquet member. Also in July the husband of Ditte Wells died quite suddenly, although Richard was not a croquet member he did support many of our social events. Our deepest sympathy goes to Ditte too. Finally Katy Nicholson-Lord's father David also sadly passed away in September. David was a former tennis member at Old College and he is remembered very fondly. He was a lovely and very intelligent man who will be sadly missed. Our heartfelt condolences go to Katy and her family.

## HONORARY PRESIDENT

The last but arguably most important thing to report on was the appointment of an Honorary Club President to recognise a major contribution to our Club by a Member. The recipient of this honour for 2015 Qualified as a Part 1 Coach and would always be available to coach our juniors. She went on to win the Ladies Singles in 1974 and Ladies Doubles in 1977 and 1979. She ran the Surrey Qualifier event at Old College, and then ran a Surrey Tournament every summer for 17 years. She ran our Club Tournament for approximately 20 years. Contributed to the Club's fundraising when the Club was in difficult financial position by organising jumble sales. Also contributed by paying many years of subs in advance at that time (via a life member system that was set up then). Held the positions of Junior Secretary, Club Secretary, and Ladies Captain twice. Ran the Wimbledon Draw. A huge 13 year stint as Grounds Secretary 2000-12. She was our Surrey Representative for many years and was recently honoured by the County with the prestigious Surrey Meritorious Award for outstanding service to tennis. It gave me great pleasure to be able to announce at the Club Dinner Dance that **Jenny Ritchie** is the OCLT&CC Honorary President for 2015.



*Peter Higgs*

Peter Higgs  
Club Chair