

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

8th March 2016



Dear Members,

Thanks to the efforts of many people, the last 12 months have been another very exciting and productive year for our Club. There have been many very positive developments at the Club over the year to update you on, some future developments to alert you to, and a lot of people to thank for their contributions to your Club which is run by volunteers.

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.



I am very pleased to be able to announce that Old College Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club has just been awarded the **Tennismark+** accreditation by the LTA. We received the following message from the LTA.

8th March 2016.

Congratulations to you and everyone at Old College Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club. We are thrilled to let you know that you have achieved your Tennismark+ accreditation. Tennismark+ is the elite tier of accreditation for tennis venues. It recognises your venue as safe, welcoming and inclusive and that your venue provides a high quality tennis programme, alongside the right environment to ensure the welfare of its members. You can now use the Tennismark+ logo to announce your new accreditation. You can use it on your website, social media pages, emails or other documentation.

This is great news for the Club and a huge thank you goes out to all have been responsible for achieving this accreditation over the last couple of years. I want to thank all the coaches and in particular our new Head Coach **Chris Barker** who recently ran an external tournament for us which was one of the requirements of Tennismark+. I also want to thank all those on the Tennis Committee who run our tennis activities and in particular **Joy Jackson** who kindly acts as our LTA representative. We should also thank **Jonathan Pearson** who implemented many of the changes we needed to achieve Tennismark+ before he stepped down as Chair of Tennis. I also want to

thank the Club Committee as the overall management structure of the Club including all its policies are part of the assessment for Tennismark+. In particular I want to thank **Nigel Thorpe** who helped with the initial submission and together with **Chris Barker, Matt Cowie, Rosie Allen, Dan Cameron,** and **Catriona Lischka** ran an open day on the 27th September, and progressed our outreach programme with local schools.

MARKETING, MEMBERSHIP, AND COMMUNICATION

Catriona Lischka has done a great job as Director Membership over the last three years. She has welcomed every new member and set them up on our system. She has also maintained our excellent website and been the person who has taken primary responsibility for sending out communications to all members. Catriona also successfully introduced a new system for subscription payments using Go-Cardless in 2015 which we are using again in 2016. Catriona is stepping down this year from the Committee as her tenure is up. She has done an excellent job often behind the scenes. The workload that Catriona has done is significant, in fact going forward we have decided to restructure the role. Going forward the membership renewal process is to be managed by our very competent bookkeeper Emily Chandler. I am sure that Emily will do an excellent job managing the renewals process plus this will make the workload of Director Membership manageable going forward.

I am pleased to report that our overall membership numbers have grown. Also now that we have finalised the appointment of Chris Barker as Head Coach that the tennis junior numbers will increase over the year ahead as he and the coaching team work on ways to further improve our tennis offering for juniors. Croquet have also experienced a period of change with the introduction of new playing rules. Now that these changes are settled I expect that numbers will increase in the year ahead. I should also explain that social membership numbers have reduced in tennis but increased in croquet, a few croquet members who are now in their 90s and have transitioned to become social members.

| | February 2015 | February 2016 |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tennis Adult | 391 | 408 |
| Tennis Juniors | 165 | 159 |
| Tennis Minis | 40 | 45 |
| Croquet | 40 | 34 |
| Social | 19 | 17 |
| TOTAL | 655 | 663 |

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 Club's financial position has continued to strengthen over the past 12 months with a healthy surplus being reported for the period to September 2015. There was a surplus of recurring operations for the year of £39,131 (following a surplus of £26,814 in 2014).

The Club's Wear & Tear fund has approximately £105,500. 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. In addition to the Wear & Tear fund the Club has cash reserves for new projects of approximately £61,000. These funds can be used for new projects like the practice area/hitting wall and floodlights on courts 6&7.

I would like to thank Dan for all the time and effort he puts in as our Treasurer. I would also like to thank **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**.

TENNIS

TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

Club Championships

A very successful Club Championships was run over the summer culminating in a great Final's Day on the 19th September. We owe a huge thank you to **George Cockbill** who as Tournament Director has done a great job both running the Open age tournaments as well as assisting the **coaches** who run the Junior tournaments and **Ian De'ath** who has run the Veterans tournament. Finals Day followed its new format of Juniors in the morning, Vets and the Open tournaments from midday and prize giving from roughly 6pm. This year we also invited all members to stay on after the tennis to enjoy a **Latin themed evening of live music from the OC resident band (led by Charlie Casey), food and drink**. I think it was possibly one of the best finals days we have ever had.

Thank you to all those who organized, umpired and participated in Final's Day. Thanks are also due to **Desmond MacMahon** and **Sarah Walsh** and all those who manned the BBQ and helped out on the social side which was a big success. A big thanks to **Eduardo Grazioli** who prepared the food for the evening. Finally thanks to **Jenny Ritchie** our Honorary Club President for 2015 for presenting the trophies on the day.

It was great to see some new winners in the open section of the Championships. Congratulations to **George Cockbill** who amazingly managed to both organise the finals day competition and still win the Men's Singles and together with **Ben Randall** win the Men's Doubles. Congratulations also to **Elena Hristova** for winning the Ladies Singles and to **Vicky Flind & Sue Milton** for winning the Ladies Doubles. Finally well done **Jonathan Pearson & Katy Nicholson-Lord** for winning the Mixed Doubles.



| Open | Winner | Runner-up |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Gentlemen's Singles | George Cockbill | Chris Barker |
| Ladies Singles | Elena Hristova | Jane Buswell |
| Gentlemen's Doubles | George Cockbill & Ben Randall | Chris Barker & Will Cutler |
| Ladies Doubles | Vicky Flind & Sue Milton | Jane Buswell & Mahvash Tavassoli |
| Mixed Doubles | Jonathan Pearson & Katy Nicholson-Lord | Luke Swanson & Gill Kirwan |



The veteran's finals were played in good spirit and enjoyed by all. Congratulations to **Jeremy Labram, Vicky Flind, Patrick Mears, Alison O'Mahony & Anne Traynor, and Jeremy Labram & Sue Milton.**

| Veteran's | Winner | Runner-up |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gentlemen's Singles | Jeremy Labram | Peter Higgs |
| Ladies Singles | Vicky Flind | Alyson Holder |
| Gentlemen's Doubles | Peter Higgs & Patrick Mears | Jeremy Labram & Rob Leonard |
| Ladies Doubles | Alison O'Mahony & Ann Traynor | Louise Mitchell & Sue Milton |
| Mixed Doubles | Jeremy Labram & Sue Milton | Robert Leonard & Caroline Periton |



It was a very successful Finals day for the juniors. Congratulations to **Felix Suther-Jones, Miles Speer, Jasper Callaway, Giulia Lesa, Otis Stuart** and **Matteo Cranchi** and to all the juniors who played on Finals Day.



| Junior's | Winner | Runner-up | Third |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| U18 Boys | Felix Suther-Jones | Mathew Mears | |
| U15 Boys | Miles Speer | James Merideth | |
| U13 Boys | Miles Speer | Zack Morris-Jones | |
| U11 Boys | Jasper Callaway | Blake Morris-Jones | |
| Mini Green | Guilia Lesa | Jasper Callaway | Josh Mendel |
| Mini Orange | Otis Stuart | Louis Wilbourne | Joint Cassius Sullivan & Sebastian Thurlow |
| Mini Red | Matteo Cranchi | Lyndon Tas | Doahn Cat |





Old College Mini Red 8U Mixed Open Tournament

A very successful open Mini Red tournament was run on the 5th March 2016. This was organised by **Chris Barker** and we received entrants from both within the Club and from outside. There were 11 participants in total and they all played a lot of tennis. The top four positions were: 1st **Luca Fasiani**; 2nd **Zak Gregory**; 3rd **Alastair Irving**; and 4th **Ryan Leung**. Thanks again to Chris and his assistants for running this tournament.



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 **Will Skidelsky** (Men's Captain), **Alison O'Mahony** (Ladies Captain) and **Liz Rowland** (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](#)¹ and [here](#)² respectively (*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*).

Open AEGON League

The highest standard competition in which Old College teams compete is currently the AEGON open league, where the format involves both singles and doubles matches. This summer we once again entered both Ladies and Men's Old College **AEGON teams**. Both teams were in high divisions and are enjoyed great matches. A big thank you to **Will Skidelsky** and **Jane Buswell** for being the captains and organizing the AEGON teams.

¹ If the hyperlink does not work the full URL is

<http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/clubteams.aspx?id=2CB71153-B229-43EB-A8B6-9F83E88C473A&cid=44>

² <http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/clubteams.aspx?id=EE9BA235-9AC8-409C-96A1-5BBADA50D1CD&cid=62>

| 2015 SUMMER AEGON LEAGUE | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Team | Captain | Division | Position |
| Men's 1 | Will Skidelsky | 03 East | 3 rd |
| Ladies 1 | Jane Buswell | 03 East | 5 th |

Surrey League

The competitions in which most of our teams compete are the Surrey leagues. Congratulations to the following 7 teams for winning their divisions: Mens 6th team; Ladies 3rd team; Ladies 4th team; Ladies mid-week 1st team; Ladies mid-week 2nd team; Mixed 2nd team; and Mixed 4th team.

| 2015 SUMMER SURREY MEN'S LEAGUE | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Team | Captain | Division | Position |
| 1 | Will Skidelsky | 04 | 4 th |
| 2 | James Hooker | 06 - East | 4 th |
| 3 | Jimmy Gasteen | 09 - East | 3 rd |
| 4 | Justin Elcombe | 13 - East | 2 nd |
| 5 | Jamie Burnett | 13 - East | 6 th |
| 6 | Clive Sherlock | 19 - East | 1 st |
| 7 | Peter Wright | 26 - East | 2 nd |

| 2015 SUMMER SURREY WOMEN'S LEAGUE | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Team | Captain | Division | Position |
| 1 | Jane Buswel | 05 - East | 6 th |
| 2 | Claire Myatt | 07 - East | 3 rd |
| 3 | Sophie Rutherford | 11 - East | 1 st |
| 4 | Joy Jackson | 13 - East | 1 st |
| 5 | Karen O'Keeffe | 19 - East | 2 nd |
| 6 | Claire Stuffins | 20 - East | 4 th |

| 2015 SUMMER SURREY MID-WEEK WOMEN'S LEAGUE | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Team | Captain | Division | Position |
| 1 | Maria Szekely | 09 | 1 st |
| 2 | Rachel Anderson | 11 | 1 st |

| 2015 SUMMER SURREY MIXED LEAGUE | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Team | Captain | Division | Position |
| 1 | Sarah Walsh | 03 | 6 th |
| 2 | Mahvash Tavassoli | 06 - East | 1 st |
| 3 | Louise Michell | 07 - East | 3 rd |
| 4 | Liz Rowland | 10 - East | 1 st |

Thanks are due to: the captains of the teams as listed above and of course all the players!

Details on how all the teams ended the Winter 2014/15 season can be found [here](#). Congratulations to the Mens 6th, Ladies 5th, and Ladies mid-week 2nd teams who all won their divisions!

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 third time running this year - a fantastic performance and thanks are due to **Liz Rowland**.

Old College also entered a men's team in the Southwark Men's Teams knockout tournament. Old College were the 2015 **winners of the Southwark Cup!** The team was led by **Peter Wright** and included Jeremy Labram, Andrew Logsdail, Desmond MacMahon, and Ben Randall.



JUNIORS

First a big thank you to our **coaches** who together with the assistance of parents and others in the Club run our very successful junior section.

14 & U Road to Wimbledon Tournament

This event was played entirely on one day for the first time ever and although there was some rain, all the matches were played and this included a consolation event. The day went very well and the tournament was won by **Miles Speer** who beat **Seth Mack** in an extremely high quality final. Unfortunately Miles was unable to play in the regional finals as he was off France where he won the U12 OUATT tournament a prestigious international event.

Junior AEGON League

Many of our Junior Members have been representing the Club in matches against other clubs, and here we have achieved great victories at every age group. Many committed parents ferried children around the County and special thanks again to our **parent captains** for their patience and organizational skills. Without them none of this would be possible.

Well done to all our Junior Members who played in matches and a special congratulations to the **12U Boys Cougars**, **12U Boys Coyotes** and **16U Girls**, who won their divisions! The match-by-match results for all the Old College teams entered in the junior AEGON league can be found [here](#) (*this link is also useful if you want to know how Old College's junior teams are performing at any stage during a season*).

| Team | Parent Capt. | Division | Finished |
|------------|------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Red | Jason Stuart | 2 F | 3 rd |
| Orange | Giovanna Lalli | 2 H | 5 th |
| Green | Corrine Callaway | 2 H | 3 rd |
| U12 boys A | Michael Mack | 2 E | 1 st |
| U12 boys B | Lisa Bauer | 2 G | 1 st |
| U14 boys | Amanda Shaw | 2 B | 4 th |
| U14 girls | Nicky Perry | 2 A | 6 th |
| U16 boys | Bill Meredith | 2 B | 5 th |
| U16 girls | Claire Richards | 2 C | 1 st |
| U18 boys | Gillian Kerr | 2 B | 3 rd |

New Family Club Play Sessions

The Club has introduced Family Club Play sessions on Sunday afternoons to encourage and provide an opportunity for the whole family to play at the one time. These have generated really positive feedback from both parents and kids alike.

HEAD COACH

At the end of 2015 **Jon Modica** decided to step down as Head Coach. To quote Jon "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the Old College and have found this an incredibly tough decision to make. If it weren't for the fact that I have decided to follow my dream to immigrate to Spain, I would have loved to continue in my post." Jon has been a member at the Club for 43 years and Head Coach for 11 years. He has made a huge contribution to the Club and to the hundreds, if not thousands, of members and children he coached over his many years at Old College. In my time as Club Chair it has been a great pleasure to work with Jon and I am sure that everyone wishes Jon the very best for the future.

The Club then undertook quite a detailed search for this position. A subcommittee was headed by the Chair of Tennis, **Mark Alderson**, also on the subcommittee were **Jimmy Gasteen**, **Alison O'Mahony**, **Jonathan Pearson**, **Owen Savage**, and **Lorna Tidmarsh**. There were in excess of 12 serious candidates for the position. Candidates were shortlisted and assessed taking into account the following considerations:

- Relevant experience in, and willingness to lead, coaching for all abilities and age groups - juniors, adults, performance, team and mixed ability sessions
- High club playing standard and commitment to play for Old College teams
- Balance of entrepreneurial spirit, and willingness to participate in the club as a sporting and social community
- A primary focus on Old College
- A comprehensive vision for juniors development that is inclusive, including outreach and demonstrable experience of increasing junior engagement and participation

Chris Barker was the strongest candidate and the recommendation of the subcommittee was supported unanimously by the Club Committee at its meeting on the 23rd February 2016. So congratulations to Chris! I am sure that Chris will do an excellent job as Head Coach and that he will build upon what we currently have and take the Club forward to even greater success. Finally I would like to thank all the candidates who applied and a special thanks on your behalf to Mark Alderson and the members of the subcommittee who did a very professional job.



COACHING SQUAD

Matt Cowie became a Level 3 coach this year and he was formally invited to join the Old College coaching squad. Congratulations Matt! I want to thank our coaching squad of **Chris Barker, Hamid Irshad, Simon Tricker, and Matt Cowie** for the huge contribution they make to our Club.

CLUB PLAY

Club Play sessions are run for you so please come along and meet more members and play some good competitive tennis. All the sessions are listed on the Club's website. If a session is so well attended that there is a longish wait to play then please also try some of the other sessions. For example Thursday night is a session that is growing in popularity but the wait to play is usually not long plus there is a coach organising players into competitive fours. Note that the Club provides **balls and floodlights** (for evening sessions) for all Club Play sessions. This is a **great deal** compared with many other Clubs in our area who do charge extra for balls and lights. The **bar** is also normally open for drinks and snacks on Club Play evenings. If by chance it is ever not open and you are an adult Member then please contact one of the Committee and they can give you a brief induction on how to open and use the bar - you will then be able, and encouraged, to open it for yourself and others to enjoy.

WIMBLEDON DRAW

Special thanks are also due to **Joy Jackson** who again ran our **Wimbledon ticket draw**.

TENNIS COMMITTEE CHANGES

I would like to thank **Jonathan Pearson**, who stepped down as Chair of Tennis during the year, for his huge contribution to the Club over the last five years. Jonathan was previously the Men's Captain and kindly agreed to be the inaugural Chair of Tennis under the new management structure that was introduced in 2013. To quote Jonathan it has been an "intense period" and Jonathan is leaving a great legacy.



Jonathan was a key member of a number of working groups that over the years tackled the issue of what are the Club's **values** and vision. Also when he started in the job as Men's Captain there were only a few adult **teams** and he changed processes around teams so that they were inclusive, transparent and fair. As a result the Club today has a very inclusive and fair system. We now have over 20 adult teams. The standard has improved and continues to improve.

Jonathan worked very hard to also improve **Club Play** sessions. Under his leadership we introduced coaches to run Club Play on Saturday afternoons and Thursday nights which made it possible to open up these sessions to both intermediate and advanced players. We also introduced a coach run combined adult and junior Club Play session on Sunday afternoon. These have all been a success.

Finally he recognised that our system of categorizing players for Club Play was not a very effective way of ensuring competitive matches. It may have been 30 years ago when the system was first introduced. However after 30 years of never demoting players the range of abilities in the advanced category had widened to the point where there is a significant overlap between the two categories. Further even if players were demoted the system doesn't support our current situation where there is a material difference in standard between our two advanced Club Play sessions. Wednesday night, whose popularity grew under Jonathan's watch, works because we tell people that the standard is higher than the entry standard for advanced players. So a system was proposed where the **Tennis Committee labels the standard for a couple of sessions** and allows members to determine if they are currently of that standard or not as opposed to labelling 400 people which for the reasons outlined above doesn't really work but does take up a lot of time and effort. The proposal for change was put to members at the 2015 AGM. There was a very good discussion at the AGM which was well attended by more than 60 members. Approximately two-thirds of the tennis members present voted for the change. However this outcome was diluted by postal votes and the vote fell below the two-thirds required under the rules. As the majority of members who voted favour the change I expect that in the future members will want to vote again on the improvements proposed by Jonathan.

I also want to thank **Mark Alderson** who very kindly agreed to take over the challenging role of Chair of Tennis. Mark has done an excellent job.

Rich Wilson also stepped down this year as Men's Captain. Rich relocated to Washington for a couple of years so hopefully we will see him back in the future. In addition to being Men's Captain Rich was a key members of the **Conduct Committee** and helped deal with a number of challenging issues including one extremely difficult one. I want to also thank **Will Skidelsky** who kindly took on the role of Men's Captain.

Another key person at the Club who has made a significant contribution but behind the scenes is **Tim Marcot**. Tim has been the Director Court Allocation for the last 3 years. Tim has done such a good job quietly and efficiently managing the court booking system that his contribution is sometimes missed. Tim is stepping down from the Tennis Committee and he will be missed.



Maria Szekely is also stepping down as Director Club Managed Courses. I want to thank Maria for the great job she has done organising team coaching.

George Cockbill (Director Tournaments) is stepping down and he did a fantastic job with this year's Club championships.

Finally a big thanks to **Ben Randall** who very kindly joined the Tennis Committee this year as our Welfare Officer.

CROQUET

The lovely weather in April was a great start to the 2015 croquet season. The lawn was in good condition and playing on it was a pleasure. The programme was also very full over the summer. It included a couple of friendly matches with other clubs, both of which Old College won.

CROQUET TEAM

This year Old College Croquet Section again took part in the **South East Croquet Federation league**. This was our second year and our team is again enjoying visiting and playing at other clubs. One club near Folkstone is on a farm, with three full size lawns, at the croquet match they had a flock of sheep as spectators. It was a fun day out especially as Old College won the match. The team consists of Clive Brook, Ditte Gregersen-Wells, Judy Halfpenny, Margaret McHugh, Ina Pulleine and Chris Roseberg.



CROQUET TOURNAMENTS

The **Summer Tournament** was played over a very sunny weekend in June. The winners this year were **Jean Soul-Lawton** and **Rita Brook** and the runners up were Gill Romney and Philip Batty. The Singles Competition played over the season as a box league and the winner was **Ina Pulleine** and the runner-up was **Ditte Gregersen-Wells**.



The **Main Tournament** which takes place each August and played over two days was won by **Ditte Gregersen-Wells** and **Sheila Meadows** and the runners-up were **Rita Brook** and **Miriam Taylor**. The Club's Honorary President for 2015 **Jenny Ritchie** attended the Main Tournament high tea in August and presented the trophies. Congratulations to all our winners and many thanks to everyone who took part in all the events.



SURVEY

A **survey** was conducted amongst the Croquet members to get their feedback on changing the **rules** we play at Old College to be the same as the official Golf Croquet rules as played at other clubs. The main difference is there is no dead ball. The new rules were agreed which means we shall still be playing Golf Croquet just with updated rules.

CROQUET COMMITTEE CHANGES

Rita Brook is standing down as Chair of Croquet as her tenure is up. Rita has done a fantastic job as Chair of Croquet over the last 3 years. She has also made important contributions to the whole Club through her work on the Club Committee. **Philip Batty** has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Chair of Croquet. I am sure that Philip will also do an excellent job.

TENNIS-CROQUET

Unfortunately our **multi-sport tournament** that involves tennis, croquet and table tennis was cancelled due to rain this year. This is a key event for the Club as it includes both our tennis and croquet sections. It has been a big success in previous years and so let's hope for better weather next year.

INCORPORATION

We held an EGM on incorporation on the 19th of November 2015. **Patrick Mears** did a great job explaining various technical aspects of the proposed articles and modifications to the Club Rules required in order to incorporate. There was significant Member participation in the overall process in that 102 Members voted (counting postal votes plus those present at the EGM) and the vote was 76 Yes and 26 No. So the resolutions were comfortably passed by the required two-thirds majority. The breakdown on the voting between postal votes and those who attended the EGM was as follows. There were 52 Yes postal votes and 23 No. Significantly those members who were able to make the meeting and hear the discussion voted 24 Yes and 3 No.

I particularly want to thank Patrick again for drafting the constitutional documents and his guidance through the whole process. I also want to thank **Nigel Thorpe** who has been managing the transition by writing to all the relevant entities to advise them of our change of status. The company Old College lawn Tennis & Croquet Limited was set up on the 6th January 2016. Some members of the current Club Committee are now Directors and after the AGM the new Club Committee members will all become Directors. We have also appointed **Emily Chandler**, our Book Keeper, as a **Company Secretary** which means that she can assist with tasks like lodging documents with Companies House.



CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF A
PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY

Company Number 9939080

The Registrar of Companies for England and Wales, hereby certifies that

**OLD COLLEGE LAWN TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB
LIMITED**

is this day incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 as a private company, that the company is limited by guarantee, and the situation of its registered office is in England and Wales

Given at Companies House on 6th January 2016



Incorporation is a positive step forward as it allows the club to enter into contracts in its own name as opposed to in the name of individuals, usually Committee members. The protections provided by incorporation should also make it easier to get volunteers to serve on committees in the future. From the wider membership's perspective incorporation should mean business as usual and at membership renewal time instead of being asked to renew your membership with Old College Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club you will be asked to renew with Old College Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club Limited.

Finally I want to thank again **Peter Allen**, **Charles Tyndale-Biscoe** and **Mark Wansbrough-Jones** who for the last few years have very kindly acted as the Club's Trustees for our lease with the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Now that the Club is

incorporated the lease will novate to be in the name of Old College Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club Limited.

ARCHIVES

Honour Boards dating back as far as our records go have been installed in the Clubhouse. This has been a long project and thanks are first due to all those in the past who had the foresight to keep and preserve our records dating back to the 1880's. In recent times this has largely been done by **David Cianfarani** and so thanks to David and the **Archives Committee**. The final design and production of the Honour Boards was a team effort that included **Ivan Savage, Matt Cowie, Desmond MacMahon** and **Clive Sherlock**. We will also be adding more Honour Boards to our website recognizing many other categories.



A display cabinet is also due to be installed in the Clubhouse in the near future and this will allow us to display some items from the archives such rule books dating back to the 1880's, as shown on the right.



SOCIAL EVENTS

SOCIAL

Creating a social atmosphere is a key part of our vision for the Club. Over the year **Desmond MacMahon** (Social Secretary) has done a great job managing an extensive programme of events.



QUIZ NIGHT

The annual Old College Quiz night saw another great evening on 24th of April. This year it was hosted by **Matt Cowie**. Matt did a fantastic job with his irreverent stand-up style and a well thought out and challenging quiz. Matt even included a very creative sculpture round. Thanks are also due to **Jan Jakowicz** who showed his musical range playing live for the music rounds. It was a great night and everyone had a very good time, especially the winners table of Gillian and Howard Kerr, Jill Thompson, and Hillary and Paul Woof.



VOLUNTEERS FUNCTION

On Friday 12th June a softball game in Belair Park was organized 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. I want to particularly thank **Desmond MacMahon** for organizing this. We did start the game but unfortunately we were rained out fairly quickly and retired to the Clubhouse for drinks.



CLUB DINNER DANCE

On 27th February we held our annual Club Dinner Dance. This was a great success and it was attended by about 65 members and guests. It was held at the Dulwich & Sydenham Golf Club which has magnificent views of the London skyline.

Barry the illusionist did a great job entertaining us. However the highlight of the evening was our own **OC resident band** led by **Charlie Casey** which provided us with really great music, finishing up with a professional DJ stint from **David Winks**. We are very fortunate to have such musically talented members!

A raffle was arranged in aid of the Samaritans which raised £750. The event was the culmination of a lot of hard work, notably by **Desmond MacMahon**, **Sarah Walsh**, and **Rosie Allen**. Many thanks to all those involved.



TENNIS FUNCTIONS

There were many social tennis activities over the year.

There have been several social functions linked to team practice over the year. The men's teams have had fish & chip takeaway, Indian takeaway and a BBQ. Thanks are due to **Desmond MacMahon**, **Ben Randall** and **Jimmy Gasteen** for organizing these. The ladies teams have also held several very successful social events as well.



Maria Szekely organized a mixed "Santa" team practice night on Monday 14th December followed by a cooked supper of Hungarian wine soup with sweet bread, Hungarian chicken paprikas and mince pies. This was a great success and much appreciated by all.

On 19th December we held our traditional **Santa Tournament** with inspired Santa themed costumes. This was run by **Jon Modica** and in fact was his last act as Head Coach. Jon image also appeared on top of the Christmas tree in the Clubhouse courtesy of **Ivan Savage**. **Desmond MacMahon** very kindly organized the mulled wine. It was a good day and at the end we presented Jon with a silver picture frame and thanked him for his 11 years as Head Coach.



CROQUET FUNCTIONS

The Croquet section held a very successful **wine, cheese and croquet evening** in August.

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

The main croquet social event is the **annual croquet dinner** which was held on 4th December. I attended the dinner as did Jenny Ritchie the Club's Honorary President for 2015 and it was very festive and enjoyable.

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 1st Wednesday of the month. Finally a monthly Croquet **lunch** is held on the 3rd Monday of the month.

FACILITIES

Ivan Savage our Director Clubhouse & Grounds and **Matt Cowie** in his capacity as our Facilities Manager plus the other members of the Clubhouse & Grounds subcommittee continue to do a great job ensuring our facilities are maintained and everything works as it should.



One of the projects managed by Ivan together with the Croquet Committee was to replace the old croquet shelter which was in danger of falling down with a smart new **croquet pavilion** that cost approximately £7,000.



Ivan also arranged the installment of the **additional bike racks** in time for the upcoming season as an increasing number of our members are riding bikes to the Club.

I also want to thank **Mrs Jan Hill** who this year decided to retire from cleaning our Clubhouse, which she has been doing for the last 27 years. Jan has done a great job for the Club over a very long time and we acknowledged this. Thanks are also due to Jenny Ritchie who has been the Club's point of contact with Mrs Hill. Ivan and Matt are now trying out a new cleaning arrangement and the feedback to date is that it is working well.

DEVELOPMENT

Jeremy Labram in his capacity as Vice Chair very capably led the work to create a long-term development plan for the Club. Two of the projects from that plan have been progressed over the last year.

MINI TENNIS COURT/HITTING WALL

Justin Elcombe has kindly agreed to be the project manager for the mini tennis court/hitting wall development. The project has been discussed at a number of Committee meetings and input has been obtained from the Head Coach. Justin has commissioned a site map and had a possible plan drawn for the mini tennis court/hitting wall.

As you can see from the diagram the plan is for the current garage to be demolished and a new storage facility to be built behind the clubhouse. The mini tennis court/hitting wall will then be built between the clubhouse and Lovers Lane. The court surface area is roughly 16m x 6.5m. A mini red tennis court's dimensions can be 11m x 5.5m or 12m x 6m, see <http://www3.lta.org.uk/LTA-Mini-Tennis/Red/Mini-Tennis-Red/>. So the court will fit. Ideally we would have more width but we are constrained by the space. Lengthwise we are fine and the feedback is that when used as a hitting wall the extra length is beneficial. The large water tank will be shifted to behind the hitting wall. A seating area is planned and the grounds will be landscaped. Finally we intend to install lighting both in the surrounding garden area plus to light up the practice court so it can be used at night time.

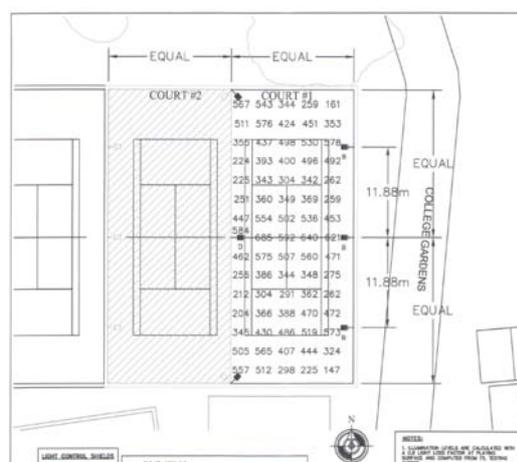


An A1 size version of the diagram has been put on the noticeboard. If you have any suggestions or feedback please pass these onto **Justin** or **Conor Finegan** who is taking over from Jeremy as the new Vice Chair. For example one suggestion is that the court surface be blue to lift the court visually given its proximity to trees and shrubs.

FLOODLIGHTS ON COURTS 6&7

We have started preparation for obtaining planning permission for floodlights on courts 6&7. We have appointed the architect **David Roberts** to manage the planning permission submission and to represent us. David was once a member of the Club and he has successfully acted on behalf of the Club previously to secure approval for our existing floodlights.

Before we seek planning permission we need to decide on what type of lights will be installed. So we have obtained a quote from the firm who installed our existing lights, Floodlighting Limited. We have also met with a leading specialist LED lighting firm, Pulsar Light which is headquartered in Cambridge, and they are going to submit a quote as well. Once the best way forward has been determined, as regards LED or to use the same as what we currently have, planning permission and permission from our landlord can be sought. As soon as permission is obtained the lights can then be installed.



Thanks are due to **Nigel Thorpe** for the work done to date. If you have any comments or suggestion as regards the floodlight project then please contact Nigel or **Conor Finegan** our new Vice Chair.

CULTURAL EVENTS

BOOK LAUNCH

On the 22 June the Club held its first ever book event. **Will Skidelsky** has written an excellent book called **Federer and me**. **Brendan Walsh**, the literary editor of *The Tablet*, kindly agreed to interview Will on the night and did a great job. Desmond MacMahon, Ivan Savage and Sarah Walsh should also be thanked for their hard work behind the scenes to make the evening such a success. Will's book was released to critical acclaim. I also thoroughly recommend it, it is a really good read – and it is not just about Federer and tennis but also about Will and his personal journey over the same period. It would be a great selection for your book club and I am sure that Will would be happy to sign your copy.



OC RESIDENT BAND



We are very fortunate as a Club to have so many talented members. Over the last couple of years an OC resident band has emerged led by **Charlie Casey**. We owe a big thank you to Charlie who is a professional musician and he has given very generously of his time. Under his leadership the band is both a lot of fun plus it is also of a high standard. The band have performed at most of our social functions. In addition to Charlie who plays guitar the current members of the OC resident band include **Aruna Lyengar** (vocal), **Matt Cowie** (guitar), **Jan Jakowicz** (keyboard) and **Rob Leonard** (trumpet).



CLUBHOUSE ART DISPLAY

Many of our Members are active artists. This year we set up an Art Committee to offer Members the opportunity to display their art work in the Clubhouse. The first display took place from 28 October to 28 November 2015. It was a collection of oil paintings by **Louis Blondiau**. Louis studied fine art at the Royal Academy of Braine l'Alleud (Belgium). He works in oil on canvas, exploring issues such as space, silence and contemplation. Louis has exhibited in many private galleries in Brussels and London. One of Louis' paintings that was displayed is shown on the left below. The second display was by **Liz Emerson (Rowland)**, our Mixed Captain. Liz is often out in wind, rain, snow or storms, to capture the drama of nature in our urban environment. Liz showed a range of images, including some of her local "Dulwich Snow" and "Dulwich Park" series, two of which are displayed below. Thanks are due to both Louis and Liz for sharing their work with us and to the Art Committee of **Ivan Savage**, **Desmond MacMahon** and **Rosie Allen** for hanging the work and managing the process.



TV AND PHOTO SHOOTS

Over the last year we hosted a number of TV crews, including some European ones who interviewed Will Skidelsky at the Club. A dating/dining TV game show also filmed a segment. Finally we hosted a photo shoot by model Samantha King and her team. These all help to promote our Club, we usually negotiate a fee for the Club and we have been careful to organize these events during off peak so as to minimize any imposition on Members.



OC COMMUNITY

In April we were saddened to hear that Michael Brudenell passed away. Michael did a lot to make Old College a great Club, including acting as a trustee for a number of years. Our condolences were passed onto Michael's wife Molley who was the Chair of the Club from 1983 to 1985.

In May, Patrick Spencer died. Patrick a longstanding member of Old College was always helpful round the club, providing creative in solutions to practical problems and made very helpful contributions at meetings and social events. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow Merrill and their son Julian.

In July Eileen Thorn passed away. Eileen was in her nineties and only stopped playing croquet this year when she became a social member. In 1977 Eileen joined the club and quickly became one of our best croquet players. Seven times Eileen won the Club Tournament, more than any other member. She was a special lady, always in good humour and our condolences go to her nieces, nephew and extended family.

Also in July Anne Traynor's husband Philip passed away. Philip was a great gentleman and he will be sadly missed by his many friends at Old College. Our heartfelt condolences go to Anne, Matthew, Daniel and Elise.

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 2016 was the Club Chair from 1999 to 2002. Over that time he had to manage a very challenging financial situation as regards converting the recently laid clay surface on courts 1 & 2 to hard courts. The underground water system meant that clay courts would never work on those courts. He also had to manage a difficult situation as regards coaching at the time which subsequently resolved itself with the appointment of Jon Modica as Head Coach. He together with his wife Rosie are strong supporters of the Club helping out wherever needed. He has also most recently been a Trustee of the Club for our lease with Dulwich Picture Gallery. Finally he truly embodies the values of the Club and is fair and transparent in all his dealings on behalf of the Club and he is very inclusive with a word of encouragement and positive feedback for all. It gave me great pleasure to be able to announce at the Club Dinner Dance that **Peter Allen** is the OCLT&CC Honorary President for 2016.



THANKS & A NEW CHAIR

One the changes introduced three years ago was tenure and so I am now stepping down as Club Chair as my three years are up. Over the last three years I have had the privilege of working with the following people on the Club Committee: Vice Chair - Sophie Rutherford and Jeremy Labram; Chair of Tennis - Jonathan Pearson and Mark Alderson; Chair of Croquet – Rita Brook; Executive Secretary - Nigel Thorpe; Director Membership - Catriona Lischka; Treasurer – Tony Bingham and Dan Cameron; Director Clubhouse & Grounds - Rebecca Jones and Ivan Savage; Social Secretary – Sarah Walsh, Hannah Carley, and Desmond MacMahon; and Member Representative - Rosie Allen.

I also served as Vice Chair on the Tennis Committee over the last three years with Chair of Tennis - Jonathan Pearson and Mark Alderson; Men's Captain – Jeremy Labram, Rich Wilson and Will Skidelsky; Ladies Captain – Claire Myatt, Sophie Rutherford and Alison O'Mahony; Mixed Captain – Louise Michell, Rebecca Jones and Liz Rowland; Director Juniors – Gillan Kerr; Director Court Allocation – Tim Marcot; Director Tournaments – Katy Nicholson-Lord and George Cockbill; LTA Representative – Joy Jackson; Director Club Play – Matt Cowie; Director Club Managed Courses – Maria Szekely; Welfare Officer – Sally Robinson and Ben Randall; and Head Coach – Jon Modica and Chris Barker.

I also served as Vice Chair on the Croquet Committee with Chair of Croquet – Rita Brook; Croquet Treasurer Tony Bingham, Sheila Meadows and Gill Romney; Clive Brook; Margaret McHugh; and Pearl Shaw.

On your behalf I want to thank these people who are all volunteers plus those who have worked on various subcommittees and projects as well as all the team captains and the coaches. **It has been a real team effort and collectively over the last three years we have achieved many things including the following.**

Vision and Values

- Agreed our vision and values of fairness, transparency and inclusiveness

Marketing and Communications

- Updated the Club logo and included it in new signage at the gate and on the Clubhouse
- Updated the website so it was contemporary looking and smart phone friendly

Investment in Facilities

- New patio, paths and lighting that included making the new entrance operational
- Relocated the floodlight poles on courts 4&5 to the correct position
- Refurbished the Clubhouse interior including the change rooms
- Fixed the electrical wiring in the Clubhouse and improved the IT set-up
- Installed a defibrillation unit in the Clubhouse
- New Croquet Pavilion
- Additional bike racks

Finance & Legal

- Extended the financial modelling work to distinguish between provisioning required for wear & tear on existing facilities from funds available for new projects
- Incorporated the Club so that the Club can enter contracts in its own name and to provide greater protection to members against financial claims

Development

- Formulated a long-term Development Plan
- Renewal of our lease for another 20 years
- Initiated the mini tennis court/hitting wall and floodlights on courts 6&7

Social

- Introduced an annual Dinner Dance that is now a firm part of the social agenda
- Introduced a joint tennis and croquet tournament – Multisport tournament
- Encouraged member's to socialise and use the bar by introducing a key safe system accessible to all adult members after a brief induction process - today about 50 members can open the bar
- OC art display in the Clubhouse
- OC resident band

Management

- Created an Old College file system on dropbox so that the club's records can be easily shared on-line with the various Committees thereby making the Club easier to run
- Introduced a range of policies for managing the Club
- Created a Conduct Committee that has proven effective in managing difficult issues

Tennis Coaches

- Updated the Head Coach contract and introduced coaching contracts for each member of the coaching team that were consistent with the LTA template
- Introduced a 5% Facilities Levy on coaching revenue so that coaching activities now contribute to the Club's Wear & Tear Fund
- Appointed a new Head Coach

Tennis

- Achieved Tennismark+, the elite tier of accreditation for tennis venues
- Continued to strive for transparency and fairness in team selection and our teams have flourished and are a major strength of the Club
- Introduced a Ladies Aegon team, high standard with a format that involves both singles and doubles
- Introduced coach led Club Play sessions that have proven very successful and significantly contributed to improving the inclusiveness of the Club
- Introduced a family Club Play session on Sundays
- Instituted the management and development of the junior section by the Head Coach

Croquet

- Entered a team in the South East Croquet Federation league
- Updated the playing rules used at OC to be consistent with current rules
- Table tennis in the Clubhouse is now a regular activity of Croquet members in the winter months
- Continued to make croquet at OC a very friendly and sociable experience with croquet, wine and cheese events, a book club, lunches and dinners

Archives

- Honour Boards dating back as far as our records go have been installed in the Clubhouse
- Created electronic copies of many historical documents and uploaded these onto the Club's file system on Dropbox

Recognition

- Created an Honorary President policy to recognise a major contribution to a Club by a Member - recipients to date have been David Cianfarani, Jenny Ritchie and Peter Allen

After being part of a process of change and preparing Old College for the future it is time for me to step down and hopefully play more tennis. I am very pleased to be handing over to **Jimmy Gasteen** who I am sure will be a great Chair of the Club.

Please give your full support to **Jimmy** and the newly elected Club Committee members of **Conor Finegan** (Vice Chair); **Jeremy de Pessemier** (Director Membership); **Ivan Savage** (Director Clubhouse & Grounds); **Desmond MacMahon** (Social secretary); **Sarah Walsh** (Member Representative); **Philip Batty** (Chair of Croquet); and **Mark Alderson** (Chair of Tennis). Also newly elected onto the Tennis Committee are **Will Skidelsky** (Men's Captain); **Alison O'Mahony** (Ladies Captain); **Liz Rowland** (Mixed Captain); and **Lorna Tidmarsh** (Director Juniors).



Peter Higgs
Club Chair
2013-15