

NEWTON ABBOT TENNIS CLUB

A FORWARD LOOK

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th February there will be an important meeting for all tennis club members. It is a general meeting to discuss what we need to do as a club. It will not be an AGM but one for a discussion on all the issues in this paper. I hope that you will be able to attend but if not, please do not hesitate to let me have your views on anything. Do this either by WhatsApp/text to 07725647358 or preferable to brianmackness@clara.co.uk

What Are We?

Newton Abbot Tennis Club prides itself on being an all inclusive club for people of all ages, abilities and disabilities. Key to the success of the club are a broad range of members who provide, through their memberships, most of the club's income and contribute to the vitality of the club by taking part in social and semi-social club sessions. Through playing for the club in competitions, they enhance the club's reputation which in turn leads to new members.

For its first year as a separate club, our membership and other arrangements have been left to settle down. Now is the time when we must look forward to what needs to be done to secure the club's future in line with our objectives. We are a members club and I want all members to feel that they are part of the club and the decisions that are made about it.

Finance

Some financial details will be available at the meeting. The detailed figures can be summarised as :-

- The club is just about breaking even or making a loss. This can't continue
- The major part of the club's income comes from membership fees
- We are never likely to be able to make major changes, such as the refurbishment of the courts from our day to day income and will need to get large grants to do this.

We could increase the income from membership fees by either raising subscriptions or by increasing the level of membership. The latter is tempting but, given that members inevitably play the tennis at certain times, there is often congestion at peak times and some members have complained about not getting enough tennis.

Membership

In a mobile world there will inevitably be a turnover of members. The club has in place arrangements to welcome potential new members and persuade them to join. Recruitment of junior members is key to maintaining and increasing membership.

Competitive Tennis

Participation in tennis leagues is important not only in itself but also as a way of attracting new members. The club will support existing members of teams but also encourage other members to put their names forward for inclusion in team squads.

Social Tennis

The club provides opportunities, through designated club sessions, for members to play with other members. For 2026 encourage members to attend club sessions, finding those that suit them best.

Ground Development

However successful membership income is the club will not be able to fund the cost of major work such as the refurbishment of the courts and lights.

The Pavilion

Following its refurbishment a couple of years ago the pavilion is now very respectable. However, a further review should look at what facilities are needed, mainly the plumbing and the honours board.

Padel

Padel is a fast growing sport and the club needs to decide whether it wants to develop padel facilities and how to do this. If decided, we will need a project group to research practical and financial ways of proceeding.

Communications

Both internal and external communications are an important contribution to the club's success. A challenge is the multiplicity of communications media and identifying which ones to use and to ensure consistency of messages.

Organisation

However much work is done by individual members, the club needs a committee which will oversee the running of the club and particularly have responsibility for membership and financial management. We are, at present looking to appoint a Club Chairman and Club Secretary. We are also asking if anyone would be interested in joining our Tennis Committee.