

Message from the new Chair

Firstly I would like to extend my personal thanks to Trevor as outgoing Chair and I'm sure that you will join with me in thanking him for a job well done over the past year.

Secondly a thank you if I may for giving me the backing to steer the ship for the coming year or years..... depending I guess on how good a job I do!

And for my final thanks, for now, I'd like to thank the wider committee who have accepted me back into the fold very warmly and brought me back up to speed on what running this club entails!

Now then why did I agree to this..... Do I love the work well maybe not but I do love the game!and I am a firm believer that you get out of something as much as you are willing to put into it and I guess this underlines the important fundamental fact that this club could not survive without the people who volunteer their time:-

1. whether we sit on committee
2. support the various grounds, clubhouse and maintenance groups,
3. produce the newsletters,
4. compose the various bids and applications for funding
5. keep the website running
6. support our growing social scene
7. captain our various teams
8. promote our activities
9. organise the match fixing (Sorry Alice, maybe I could have worded that better!)
10. and not to mention those who deliver our expansive coaching programme
11. Oh and of course those who keep us supplied with coffee and biscuits!
Or should that be hot chocolate but I'll mention no names.....

and it is the combination of all these little and not so little bits that enable the club to thrive. Every little bit counts.

So what does this all mean well for me it means we are a club that is the sum of its parts, whether you are a member here:-

- For the Coaching opportunities
- For the Social tennis side OR
- For the Competitive tennis on offer

And I see my role as chairman as helping to maintain the balance between these sometimes competing demands being mindful that not one element could survive without the others and for me in my role it sets a very "simple" primary objective of keeping us solvent whilst maintaining a thriving club

environment. Simple to say but not always simple to deliver I'm sure you'll agree but I'll give it my best with your continued help.....

So what is to come.....

As well as finalising the land registry situation and considering the club status as Trevor eluded to at the AGM there are some physical works ahead that are more visible to members and we will be seeing....

1. the repainting of the hard courts scheduled for later this year
2. closely followed by replacement of the carpet surface planned for early next year
3. fencing replacement is also on the cards
4. along with works to the practice wall and hopefully some additional storage space to save having to use the loft space which is presenting risks we need to address
5. as you will have noticed we've recently seen some safety related repairs to the patio and there are likely to be more to follow with ideas to help remove the issues of "the lake" that form between the clubhouse and courts 1 and 2.

What else will be on the coming agenda/s:-

Members Views - As well as receiving suggestions I am mindful there are some additional elements we learned from the members survey undertaken last year and I am keen that we share the headline results from this and will be working with Gereint and committee in summarising this and taking some ideas forward in the coming months.

Supporting Competitive tennis – We will also be exploring ways in which we might support the Club Captain both for continuity purposes and in particular for the men, help us to rebuild a stronger base of players to improve the opportunities for competitive mens tennis. We have already had some expressions of interest but please do come and see me if this interests you.

Membership development – Just recently we've seen the Rotary backed Free Tennis events generate some good firm interest and there are plans developed to follow up opportunities on the recruiting the "missing generation" also know as the 18 to 40's and fingers crossed this is starting to show some progress.

The Coaching Programme will see further development and on a personal note can I say for those that may have been a bit like me in thinking "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" well I can report that after a winter of discontent, thanks to Cary's patience and to the amusement of my co-trainees, I finally have the early makings of a topspin backhand, OK Very Much a work in progress for those that have seen it and I probably shouldn't mention how many coaching balls ended up in neighbouring gardens but if

you've not considered coaching I am now a strong advocate! It might have been the comment "that someone in the Rogers household should have a decent backhand" that spurred me on but hey motivation is often the key! Thank you Carys

Branded clothing and an online shop are other opportunities that are also being explored not just for team tennis but for us all. As much as we have had some keen interest in the Under Armour ATC logo top option we need a little more to make this viable so if you are interested or maybe as a gift for someone please do contact Gereint asap.

Continued development of the Social calendar, with some embryonic ideas for another themed quiz evening in the very near future and linking tennis and social events such as a plan to make finals day this year an afternoon and evening event with food, drinks and some music. Oh and yes it would be very remiss of me not to mention it but my better half has already set up plans for a repeat of last years very popular Dinner Dance event. The date for your diaries is Friday 30th September this year with even better menu choices than last year and this time it's a little closer to home at the Monmouthshire Golf Club so don't forget buy your tickets early as spaces will be limited ...and they will be selling fast!!!

Before I sign off can leave you with one final request, well two actually....

The continuing need for Volunteers is even more important this year with the "retirement" of our courts maintenance co-ordinator and many thanks to Tony Cole for all his hard work organising the army of volunteers across many years. As we have not yet been able to secure a replacement for Tony a new approach has been developed to help lighten and share the load in an attempt to avoid expensive contractor costs. A timetable of activities will be posted on the Notice Board shortly asking for existing and new volunteers to sign up to cover just a month across the year and/or support working parties as indicated. These tasks are broadly suitable for all and can be fitted in at times to suit your availability so please do take a look and sign up for a month or more if you are able, all of which will also help us keep our subs down! - Your Club, Our Club Needs You!

And finally I and I'm sure my fellow committee members will continue to endeavour to address issues in a timely manner but please be mindful we have busy lives and responses may not always be immediate and a request backed up by an offer of help is often well received.

Bill Rogers

Chair ATC