

STAPLEFORD TENNIS CLUB

www.staplefordtennisclub.org.uk



Report for the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th April 2018

Your local tennis club shares the LTA's mission and purpose, which is to **"Get more people playing tennis more often"** in order to enrich lives through tennis. The courts have been part of Stapleford's Recreation Ground for nearly 60 years, since a public meeting in June 1959 took place to discuss forming a tennis club, and the parish council agreed to lease a parcel of land sufficient for two courts. Many long-time residents of Stapleford will no doubt have happy memories of you and your young families learning and enjoying a spot of tennis on your local courts. Currently the club has 170 members, roughly half and half adults and juniors.

In our Annual Parish Meeting report in April 2016 we highlighted the then urgent need for major investment for resurfacing and fence repairs. Since its inception, the tennis club has always been self-sufficient in carrying out the necessary periodic refurbishment works from funds accrued through Membership fees; roughly half of the annual receipts are set aside each year for this purpose, and in theory that will be enough after 10-12 years for what is required. These days there are grants available to match-fund club contributions, and it turns out this would be necessary in order for the club to pay for what is required now. To be eligible for any grant, a club needs to have a secure long lease on its facilities - 21 years minimum is the magic number - and because our current short-term lease expires in July 2019, we have been unable to pursue this avenue.

Because of the current state of the court surface and the fence, we have had to suspend our previously popular coaching programme and our club sessions. We also reduced our Membership fees in 2017 in recognition of the state of the surface and fencing, though we have ambitions to find a way to make Membership far cheaper still (even after a refurbishment), in line with some other comparable village tennis clubs.

Our current officers continue to liaise with the Parish Council over options for the future. We all want to get more people playing tennis more often, it is a question of how best to do that and how to pay for it!

Miranda Fyfe.

Treasurer – Stapleford Tennis Club.

April 2018