

SWANSEA LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH RACKETS CLUB

Chairman's AGM 2012 Report

13 February 2012

I am very happy to report that your Club has continued to make progress through the season 2011- 2012. Some significant achievements and events:

- Membership has continued to improve and at 549 now exceeds the previous record. The numbers remain well up on 2008 when there were just 325 members and in 2004/2005 438.
- The club has generated a surplus from operations for a third year in a row.
- Refurbishment of changing rooms is substantially complete and the space vacated by the previous men's changing room will be converted to a unisex warm up warm down facility.
- A new radiant heating system costing £8.2k has been installed and although there have been some teething problems I understand it is now working well.
- A new modern and attractive sign promoting the Club has been installed facing Oystermouth Road. We are very grateful to Swansea Building Society for sponsoring this.
- The Club had a very successful official opening in June of the refurbished tennis courts when the Lord Mayor attended as well as senior representatives and a successful Club open day and these events have proved very worthwhile in boosting membership over the last few years. The event was timed to coincide with the finals of the inaugural Swansea Junior Tennis tournament sponsored by Swansea Building Society.

In respect to these open days and much else the Club owes a great deal of thanks to our Membership Secretary Tony Ridout. His hard conscientious work underpins the success of the Club.

I would like to thank Howard Davies for all the hard work he has done over the year in preparing the accounts. He will present a detailed report but I would offer the following overview.

The Club has loan facilities as follows:

- One with Swansea Building Society of £50k which is currently an interest only facility
- The second which is interest free with the LTA of £66.3k repayable over 9 years
- The third a loan with Lloyds Bank of £11.4k
- Member loans of £13.7k.

The Club's income comprises the gross margin from the bar currently running at 49% of sales providing £35k of net income, subscriptions of around £35k and income from lights. This income has to pay for running the Club, capital improvements servicing and paying down the loans over time. The club house roof is in need of renovation which will be a very significant expense and the bar and other facilities also require a makeover.

Subscriptions and bar prices have to at least keep pace with inflation and over time some increase over and above this will be necessary to maintain the fabric of the Club. The subscription to Sky TV is an investment made in an attempt to increase bar takings as well as providing a further amenity for members.

The long term future of the Club requires continued sound financial management and the new committee will have to make this a major if not its number one priority.

Roy Lang, our Bar Chairman, has worked closely with James Duffy to tailor the bar offering to meet members' needs. Meals are now been provided by Beverly Wadling and Irene Evans on Tuesday evenings and for matches and are reported to be of a very good quality.

Phil Barry should be thanked again for his contribution to the refurbishment of the changing rooms.

Martyn Wadling has done much towards improving Club amenities and should take much of the credit for the refurbishment of the changing rooms and the installation of the squash courts heating. Under his leadership well supported by Geoff Thomas, squash has continued to prosper.

In December Our Squash Committee which includes Allan Crocombe (Chairman), Hugh Griffiths, Mark Cook, Craig Jones, Wendy Norris besides Martyn Wadling and Geoff Thomas successfully encouraged many erstwhile members of the closing Strings Squash Club to join us.

We all welcome their membership and thank them for choosing SLT&SRC.

The club currently fields 4 teams. In the Winter Season 2011, 3 of them played in the same League (South Wales One West)! After a good effort by the A team they are now in Premier 2 for the Spring Season 2012.

The former "Strings" members will complete the current season on their original teams so there are 9 teams currently playing from the club.

A reduced category Club Tournament, with 75 entries in 5 events, came to a Finals night conclusion on 8 May 2011. Dan Anderson is again Club Champion, beating Gary Cairns in a 2010 repeat Final. That result was reversed in the inaugural Racketball final. There were no Ladies events. Josh Rees won the Handicap again, beating Gareth Morgan in the Final.

The West Glamorgan County Championships were held with us in September 2011, providing a whole week of evening competition. It will be back in September 2012.

The Welsh Masters is scheduled to return to the club Friday to Sunday, 17-19 February.

The Club hosted the South Wales Junior Open in Sept/Oct 2011, supported by Squash Wales.

The West Glamorgan Junior league is running very well with teams of 4 juniors competing every 5/6 weeks. It is organised by Hugh Griffiths acting as West Wales Development Officer. He also organizes adult and junior coaching at the Club (07971 809427; swanseahugh@hotmail.com).

Internal ladder leagues of one month duration are growing in popularity, with typically 16 groups of 5, including juniors. Club nights take place weekly on Fridays at 6.30 – and are open to all.

The popular internal Summer Team Leagues with players from other clubs will take place during June and July.

Tennis activities have continued to strengthen led by Jeff Gleave, Tennis Chairman, well supported by his committee and coaches David Williams and Jodie Jenkins.

The new all-weather courts have assisted membership growth; regular brushing by the University is helping maintain quality and longevity. Up-keep of the clay courts continues to be a challenge relying on considerable voluntary effort as there is no ground staff. Thanks are due to Cliff Sarfas for his time and effort supervising the repair of the watering.

Club social and competitive tennis is waxing strongly with Tuesday nights and Saturday afternoons becoming more popular all the time. Thanks are due to Joy Lang and Iris Duffy for their efforts here. Thanks too to Alain Brain for organizing Club ladders.

Helen Dougherty and Kerry Beynon have successfully organized Sunday afternoon matches for young juniors.

A successful Club Tournament was held and results are published on the Club website. Jodie Jenkins was the new ladies club champion.

There were over 100 entrants to Swansea Open Junior Tennis tournament sponsored by Swansea Building Society and Sinclair Garages. Thanks are due to Sue Isaac for refereeing.

Thanks are due to all adult and junior team captains; without them teams could not operate. Also to Louise Davies for her work as Fixtures Secretary. The highlights of the season are listed below:

- WINTER LEAGUES 2010/11 – Veterans Ladies team won and were promoted from Div 4. Mens and Mixed Vets teams remained in Div 1. Mens Open Team was relegated from Div 1 of the Cymru Kitchen League.
- SUMMER LEAGUES 2011 - Mens 1 were 3rd in Premier 1; Mens 2nd were 2nd in West 1 and narrowly missed promotion via a play off. Mens 3rd were 3rd in Div 2 West Central. Ladies 1st did not complete their fixtures and will be relegated from Premier 1. Ladies 2 won West 2 and were promoted. Ladies 3 were 4th in West 2.

- Junior teams were very successful. 9 teams competed in the AEGON Team Tennis Leagues from Under 8 to Under 16. Highlights were the Under 8 B team winning their division (Team members were IESTYN DAVIES, MATHEW DOUGHERTY, ELYSIA BEYNON, SOPHIE CHAMPION and LAILA SAVAGE). The under 9 Team winning the top division in Wales (Team members: HENRY MUXWORTHY, BEN FELIX, LUKAS RAASCH and ELERI ROWLANDS). Finally the Under 14 Girls team which played in a national division competing against major English clubs and coming a creditable 3rd in their division.

The future strength of any Club is to be found in the achievements of junior players. The club is fortunate to have cohort of such members. Their success is a tribute to them, their coaches and the tennis committee in providing an encouraging environment. The successes are too many to read out but are listed here for the record:

- FRANCESCA LEWIS – Achieved a WTA international ranking, only current woman player in Wales to do so. No 1 ranked player in Wales. Represented Wales at Senior level.
- FFION DAVIES – Ranked No. 1 under 18 Wales and No. 2 in Open Age Group Wales. Represented Wales. Won U18 Doubles Junior Welsh Open. Won Womens Singles at Langland.
- TESSINA BRAUNEROVA – Winner under 18 South Wales County Closed Singles. Runner up U18 Doubles Junior Welsh Open. Winner under 18 Mixed Doubles Langland. Represented South Wales.
- CHARLOTTE IRVINE - Represented Wales 14 and under. Runner up 14 under Girls Doubles Junior Welsh Open. Winner 14 under Girls Doubles Langland. Ranked No. 1 under 14 Wales.
- LUISA BRAUNEROVA – Represented Wales under 14. Won under 14 Doubles Junior Welsh Open and Langland. Ranked No. 4 under 14 Wales.
- JOELY LOMAS – Winner 18 and under Girls Doubles Junior Welsh Open. Runner up under 14 Girls Singles Junior Welsh Open, Runner up 18 and under Girls Doubles Langland. Ranked No. 3 South Wales Under 14.
- CHLOE ALPINE – Ranked 5th under 18 Wales.
- ALICE WARREN – Junior Welsh Open runner up under 12 Girls Singles. Langland runner up under 14 Girls Doubles. Represented South Wales Ranked No. 2 Wales under 14.
- NICK REES – Represented South Wales Open Age group.
- JONATHAN DAVIES - 18 and under Boys Singles runner up Junior Welsh Open. 18 and under Mixed Doubles winner Langland. Ranked 5th in Wales under 18.
- MATHEW LLOYD – 14 and under Boys Doubles Winner Langland. Ranked 2nd in Wales under 14.
- LUKE SIMEONE - 16 and under Boys Singles runner up Langland. Ranked No. 1 in Wales under 16.
- HENRY MUXWORTHY – 9 and under Boys Singles runner up Junior Welsh Open.
- LUKAS RAASCH – 9 and under Boys Singles runner up Langland and Torbay Open.
- DYLAN CHASE – Ranked 4th 12 and under Boys Wales.
- DANIEL YOUHANA – Under 18 Boys runner up South Wales closed.
- DAN MESSER/NATHAN CANA – 14 and under Boys Doubles runners up Langland.

A very special thanks to John Gregory our Club President is due. He cares massively about the Club and continues to contribute in many ways.

Peter Lane, our Club Secretary, is stepping down this year after almost a generation of 15 years or so in the job. Thank you Peter for all your hard work over many, many years.

Finally after 7 years as Club Chairman I would like to thank everyone for their support and putting up with me and wish Alan Crocombe our new Chairman every success in the future.

Thank you for supporting Swansea Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club and have a great racquets sports year in 2012.

Norman Allnatt