

Newlands Lawn Tennis Club
President's Report 2021/2022

Dear Member,

I didn't even begin to imagine that when I took over as President in 2019, we would have such a couple of challenging years ahead of us. This past year has also had its difficulties but as usual the Club has managed to thrive and improve in spite of them.

Last year was going to be my final year as President but with ongoing developments and projects to complete and Covid restrictions not yet fully lifted it seemed prudent to stand for election again this year.

We had a successful EGM which enabled Padel at Newlands to move forward. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the outcomes from grant and LTA loan applications so we can then place our order for Padel courts. We expect to hear the results very shortly and then hopefully begin construction over this spring/summer. Exciting times for Newlands!

The financial implications at the Club are complex to say the least but with the careful management of our financial team and keeping my spending in check the accounts look strong. However, with rising energy costs we are actively looking into an investment into LED lighting in the indoor tennis and squash courts as well as ways to reduce our costs throughout the Club.

2021 saw the return of the West leagues for tennis culminating in a successful season with both our Ladies and Gents 1st teams winning the premier division and our Ladies and Gents 2nd teams gaining promotion to the premier league for this season, showing the depth of strength we have at the Club. Thanks to all our members who have represented the Club at all levels. The Scottish Cup final was played at Newlands with both our Ladies and Gents winning and retaining their titles as champions! What a fabulous day it was, full of atmosphere and a high standard of tennis on show. The Gents first team were also runners up in the British National Premier League competition in London - a great achievement. The Club championships returned this year and we had a well-attended finals day albeit indoors due to the Scottish weather. Steel Tennis and the coaching team have continued to provide an excellent service for our members at all ages and abilities.

Another development this year has been the resurfacing of the mini courts in partnership with The Glasgow Academy. We really appreciate their interest and investment in improving the Club's facilities. This area can now allow us to increase court time for our youngest players.

The squash & racketball section eventually returned to play but then unfortunately had to pause over New Year. Thankfully the sport has now resumed with competitive league and Club matches in full swing! We held a successful Club championship with a busy Finals Day with yet another wet BBQ! Again, thanks to Matt and the coaches. The squash hall has had a makeover and looks more modern and functional. The courts have been repaired and cleaned and we are looking into the heating systems.

The 2 gyms have benefited from new flooring and decoration as well as a raft of new equipment. Again it has been a difficult time with the restrictions but hopefully now that we are fully operational we can look into expanding our range of classes. Thanks to our trainers for their advice on improving our gym offering.

We have introduced a social/functions sub-committee which can plan events for the Club, already we have had a successful family disco night with another planned for 25th February and our Quiz nights are back. We have other ideas in the pipeline so keep an eye out!

The grounds team have worked hard all year and the results speak for themselves. The beer garden has been extended with new seating, planting and a permanent gazebo has been a welcome addition. Visitors and members alike have been remarking on our well-kept grounds.

The bar refurbishment is now complete and we are hoping to increase evening usage with private functions etc and also try to encourage use during the day for coffee mornings, working space or meeting friends. Again, the bar turnover this year has suffered due to the various Covid restrictions we have had to implement but hopefully we can attract members back down to the bar with regular events.

The Clubhouse also has been spruced up with a much larger office being formed and a space downstairs now ready to rent out. We had new roofing installed as well as coping with ongoing repairs and maintenance big and small - from a damaging flood, boiler troubles, various leaks, court repairs – it's a constant task to keep on top of. We also installed a new phone system and upgraded the Wi-fi around the Club which again will lower our costs in this area.

The separate convenors reports will give a more in-depth idea of the work being carried throughout the Club.

The membership levels have risen and are continuing to rise but obviously at this time retaining members is crucial.

The sponsoring and marketing team have worked hard to publicise the Club by updating our website, using social media platforms etc and selling advertising space at the Club. New initiatives are being discussed and implemented at regular meetings.

I'd like to thank my past committee for all their hard work especially Dave Crorie and Alan Dickson who are stepping down this year from the management committee but both of them will still be actively involved in the Club.

As usual Aileen and her team have gone above and beyond in their duties at the Club and I owe them a huge thanks personally for all their work and knowledge of the Club and its members.

Lastly a massive thanks to all the members who give their time and expertise so freely to support the Club at all levels. Without our army of volunteers, sponsors and donors, the Club would simply not be Newlands!

Here's to a successful 2022/23 and an end to the dreaded Covid and it's restrictions!

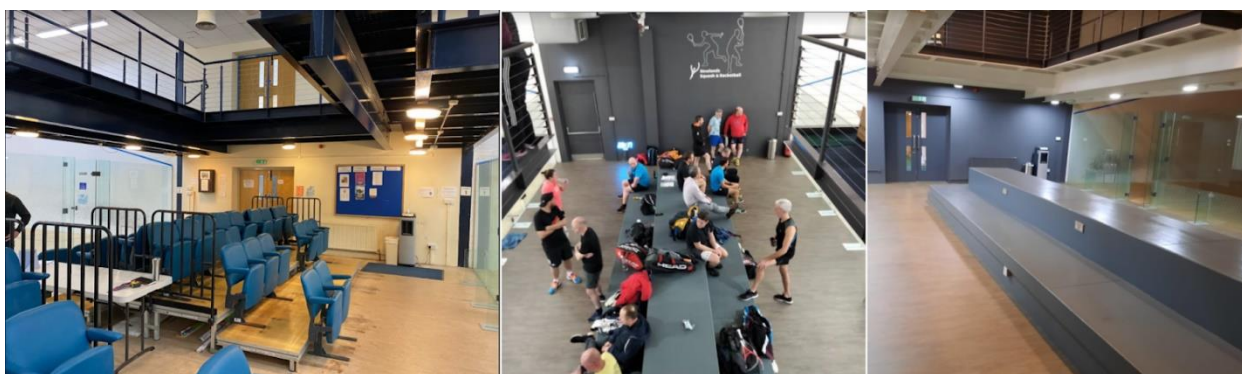
Kind Regards,

Shirley
NLTC President

Squash & Racketball

After a difficult 2020 following the lifting of restrictions, our squash and racketball members have shown huge, renewed enthusiasm for the sports throughout the last year. Newlands' squash section continues to thrive and is happily very active again.

The Club has been able to upgrade the hall to great effect over the previous year and the difference in the appearance of the facilities is massive. The courts have also been recently refurbished. The committee will continue to maintain and improve these facilities going forward.



We were delighted to have welcomed Matt Bedwell, our first full-time squash coach, to the club in 2021. His influence has already made a noticeable difference and regular sessions take place on a weekly basis for all members, including squash and racketball club nights, ladies' night, a beginners' session, and weekend junior coaching. We are grateful to Matt for his efforts since joining the team.

Newlands now have 5 squash teams in the Wednesday West Leagues. Teams 1, 2, and 3 currently sit top of their respective leagues. Teams 4 and 5 are also doing exceptionally well and will challenge for promotion and possibly more. We are pleased to again be represented by a ladies' team for the first time in a few years. Many thanks to all the players and captains who have made this possible.

The squash offering is further complemented by mini leagues which provide some healthy competition to all standards of player within the Club.

While it was disappointing to miss a year's Club champs in 2020, we were delighted to hold a full round of championships in 2021. These competitions provided much entertainment to all who participated or spectated. Congratulations to our squash champions Fraser McCann and Amanda Bruce and to our racketball champion Matt Bedwell.



Newlands would like to take this opportunity to thank our squash and racketball members for the remarkable loyalty shown to the Club during this most difficult of times. We look forward to building upon our strong foundations in the years to come.

Kieran O'Neill
Squash Convenor

House & Grounds

Now well into my third year as House and Grounds convenor, it really is beginning to dawn on me just how large an operation Newlands Tennis Club really is. I am still discovering rooms, cupboards, and alleyways that I never knew existed.

Once again it has been a year of transition, change, and improvement with regards to the Club infrastructure. The main projects cross over into other areas of Club responsibility and will be covered in more detail in other sections of the report. These include:

1. We completed the installation of floodlighting on the remaining outdoor courts 5-7.
2. Re-sanding and general ongoing maintenance of the 7 outdoor tennis courts and 2 mini tennis courts.
3. Continuation of roof repairs after water damage.
4. Completed refurbishment of the main squash court hall. Further improvements are now planned for the courts.
5. Finished re-painting and refurbishment of the main gym and small gym. This included replacing some of the life expired exercise machines. We also did a general repositioning of the equipment to improve space utilisation.
6. Completed re-location of the Tennis West office and the Steel Tennis office as well as expansion of the main reception office. This has freed up the old Tennis West office to allow us to look at renting this out to a suitable business and bring in extra money for future projects.
7. Upgraded wi-fi around the Club including Indoor Tennis Hall and Squash Hall.
8. Continued to progress advertising/revenue-generating billboards around the Club grounds. Thanks to Gordon Kent for his persuasive powers.
9. Completed re-wiring of the mesh fencing on the outdoor courts. More will have to be done on this in the coming year.
10. Completed the extension of the outdoor beer garden by removing the old fencing and plants at the rear of the barbeque area and put up permanent Gazebo structure for shelter.
11. Refurbishment of the upstairs gents' toilets after roof water damage.
12. New digital clocks and smart TV's installed.
13. In partnership with Glasgow Academy we re-surfaced the two outdoor Mini courts.
14. Completed a general tidy up of all the internal building areas including the indoor tennis store, various other store areas and the fire exit alleyway that dissects the squash courts and the tennis hall. We removed a lot of excess equipment that had been collected over the years.

15. Completed the replacement of the old outdoor wooden bar tables with new recycled plastic ones.

16. Continued to work with the contractor on the long-term removal of the Japanese Knotweed infestation at the rear of tennis courts 3-7.

Looking forward to the coming year our major commitment will be the building of the Padel Tennis area. This does not mean that other infrastructure projects will not come up, but we will tackle them as and when required.

1. Padel Tennis. This is covered in detail in other parts of the report. We are hoping to include repair and re-layout of the car park area in this.

2. Replacement of all the life-expired green outdoor tennis windbreaks. The cost for this has already been agreed upon. Hopefully, in the spring we can get together a team to remove the old ones and refit the new ones as this will involve a fair amount of work.

3. Long term vision to make the Club more accessible to all. Bruce Malone has put together a summary of what the Club has already done and intends to incorporate into future plans. The work already in place includes easy access ramps, disabled parking bays, and fully accessible tennis and squash courts.

As well as the above larger projects we have continued to work on general maintenance over the last year. This includes moving and building office furniture, removing old tennis balls and refuse from the outdoor area, ad-hoc repair of tennis nets, height adjusters, curtains and windbreaks etc. I am indebted to a small team of volunteers who work hard on no matter what task I ask them to do. This includes, Spud Inglis, Ike Grant, and Andrew Kenny. Last but not least, can I thank Tom Culshaw. The work he does behind the scenes for the Club is incredible. We are lucky to have him on board. Can I also thank the many various members who give their time and support to help run our Club.

Richard Pearson

House & Grounds Convenor

Bar & Social

It's been a stop/start year for the bar with changing restrictions and regulations to deal with. In spite of this, the lounge bar and beer garden have been upgraded and modernised over the last year and provide a safe and welcoming venue to meet friends and enjoy a drink as well as after or watching sport.

The beer garden was especially successful during the summer when this outside space was essential. However due to Covid regulations and a change in drinking habits the main income from the bar is now generated by private functions and events which have only returned in the last few months. We are hoping to capitalise on these in the coming year. Non-alcoholic drinks are available and we have introduced a contactless coffee machine to match the changing needs of members and visitors. We do have a varied selection of beers, spirits and wine on offer and are happy to accommodate any special requests.

Quiz nights have proved popular and the social committee are looking into regular events large and small for members from race and casino nights, charity ladies lunch, games and family nights and various live music opportunities from ceilidh to live mike to tribute bands.

Thanks to Dave and staff for their contribution and work to enable the smooth running of the bar.

Gym

This has been a difficult year for gym users due to COVID with the absolute necessity to follow Government guidelines and instructions in place for the safety and health and wellbeing of members. A booking system was introduced during the year but with restrictions being eased, bookings are no longer needed. Thanks to all for your full co-operation and patience, hopefully we are now all back to normal and the recent upgrading and modernisation has ensured that both gyms are back to being well used and enjoyed by members, no matter the fitness level!

There has been significant expenditure made in the last 12 months with both gyms completely upgraded with new vinyl flooring, walls repainted with a new logo, new led lighting and 2 new smart tv's installed. New equipment was also purchased including 2 spin bikes, 2 rowing machines, 1 cross training machine, a Smith machine, trunk curl recliner, leg curl exercise recliner, a hex bar, barbells, hand weights and 2 new stretch mats. New mops have been purchased to allow users to wipe any perspiration from the floor.

A volunteer squad rearranged the gym equipment/machines to give us a new layout which maximises the gym floor space. Our 'squad' did a great job reorganising as per plan submitted by Jacquie. Thanks to all involved. The vibro plate and one of the cross trainers were relocated to the small gym in the indoor tennis hall.

The fitness trainers have been busy throughout the year with various fitness/exercise classes during the week and on Saturday mornings regularly advertised in our emails and well attended by members/non-members. Our trainers also have a number of individual clients which is a good source of additional income for our Club and has also led to a number of non-members joining Newlands.

On behalf of all the users, many thanks to the Committee for all the work and support, this is much appreciated.

Bruce Malone
Gym Convenor