

**Newlands Lawn Tennis Club
President's Report**

Dear Members,

As the outgoing President I'd firstly like to thank all the volunteers who have served on the general and sub committees over the last 4 years for their support and commitment to the club and also to the raft of members who regularly give their time and expertise so freely to assist in the smooth running of Newlands. Too many to mention by name but all appreciated greatly by myself.

When I took over in 2019 my target was to attract 100 new members, to open up better communication, to set up a variety of sub committees, to expand the value to members and to invite more volunteers to help with the running of the club. These targets were met in the first year then COVID struck just as subscription renewals were due in 2020!

The members were fantastic supporting the club at this extremely difficult time and again thanks to you all. Little did we know we would be navigating through the restrictions over the next 2 years!

Thankfully we are back to normal operating times and have managed to reinvest and improve facilities over the last couple of years by upgrading the squash hall, gyms, bar, beer garden and grounds, mini courts, lighting and rejuvenating tennis courts to name just a few! Maintenance is ongoing inside and outside the club. We are constantly looking at ways to improve and develop the club.

Our convenors will expand more in their individual reports. Tennis and squash/racketball are booming with major successes in cup and league results and a huge thanks to Elizabeth, Alex, Kieran, and their sub-committee members. Also, thanks to all the coaches involved and lastly of course to all our players on court! The result of this effort and hard work is that Newlands continues to compete at the top level of sport in Scotland.

Thanks to Richard and his grounds team for keeping outside looking pristine. One visitor even commented "the grounds remind me of Wimbledon" - though I feel they had been in our beer garden a while!!

The clubhouse team, now led by Gordon, also keep on top of jobs needing attended to which are never ending it seems.

Douglas, Paul and the finance team have done an amazing job over the last difficult few years and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. Their diligence has kept the club on a solid basis and their foresight and planning means we can move forward with new developments including building 2 Padel courts which hopefully will start building in the spring. Thanks to Alan for all his hard work and patience on this project.

Thanks to Bruce for his work in keeping the gyms in order as well as his painting skills round the club and to all our trainers.

The bar is now run by Tracy who is introducing new drinks and cocktails for the members, thanks to her and the bar staff. The number of social events has increased whether it's a private or member's event and brings in extra revenue for the club so thanks to the social committee for their support and efforts.

Our sponsorship and marketing teams have worked hard in promoting the club as well as bringing in valuable extra revenue so many thanks to you all.

Cafe Dropshot has been an excellent addition to the club and provides a high standard of food and service. The regular supper clubs have proved very popular with members.

I personally would like to thank Aileen our Club Manager for her support over the last 4 years through good and bad times - it was teamwork that got us through it all and thanks to Val and the reception team also for dealing with all our members requests.

Finally, I wish Richard as incoming President best wishes for the next year. I know he'll do a fantastic job and will be working with a strong team around him.

I leave as President with a feeling of pride in our achievements over the last 4 years. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as President and I look forward to still being involved on and off court with the best club - Newlands LTC

Kind Regards,

Shirley
NLTC President

Ps I will be accepting drinks in the bar after AGM!

Squash & Racketball

The squash and racketball section has continued to show very encouraging signs of growth over the last year. The format of regular sessions (including Thursday club social night, Junior coaching, Improvers, Ladies night, and Racketball) is building momentum, and the courts are busier than ever. Thanks to Matt Bedwell for establishing these sessions, which are a huge boost to our squash and racketball offering at Newlands.

During season 2022-23, Newlands entered 6 teams in the Open Wednesday leagues, and one Ladies team. All teams have shown a healthy competitive spirit throughout the league season, and progress at all levels is clear to see. Our 1st, 3rd, and 5th teams currently lead their respective divisions. Many thanks to all team captains for their efforts in organising the teams on a weekly basis. With many new faces being seen around the squash hall we can hopefully increase our team numbers again in season 23-24.

Racketball is continuing to be exceptionally popular within the club. Newlands entered 4 teams in the West Racketball leagues in 2022 and competed strongly in both divisions; no mean feat, especially considering we were the only club to enter more than 2 teams! Last year, the decision was made to split the Racketball champs from the squash event. This proved to be a great success, giving the sport the place it deserves, and allowing us to run more age group events than was previously practical.

Thanks in particular to the application made by club coach Matt Bedwell, Newlands is proud to host Alba Storm, Scotland's PSL team (Professional Squash League) as the venue for this season's home matches. Two matches have been played so far in front of capacity crowds at Newlands. Alba Storm have managed to register wins on both occasions, versus capable teams from Pontefract, and Birmingham University. Another match will take place in April against Crawley (tickets are on sale via Eventbrite). The matches have also allowed the club to host coaching sessions for our junior members, held by the top players in the Scottish team; a real coup.

In addition, the club has been selected to host this season's Senior National Squash Championships, which is clearly a prestigious event, and offers the chance to view fierce competition for the national titles at Newlands.

This year's squash club championships are being held slightly earlier than in previous years, to align closer to the end of the West Squash League season. The event is always well supported by our members, both in terms of participation and spectating. We are already looking forward to a lively finals day on Saturday 25th March.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our squash and racketball members all the best for the coming year, and further, to invite *all* Newlands members to come along and sample these fantastic sports at Newlands!

Kieran O'Neill

Squash Convenor

House Report

Further to Richard's report last year and with him having conned me into standing as House Convenor, I find that it has been an interesting year which I have managed with the great help of our Club Manager Aileen. Special mention must also go to Tom Culshaw for his invaluable help with all jobs that need done around the Club – from replacing light bulbs to fixing locks, building shelves, fixing tractors and more!

As you all know the cost of electricity and gas has increased substantially but we are making inroads into reducing our overheads by changing our lighting to low voltage lighting in many areas, including most recently, the lighting in the downstairs corridors. The indoor tennis courts and squash courts lighting will be replaced once we have raised sufficient funds (in the region of £25k). The central heating has also been revamped by way of a new boiler which heats the ground floor and the squash courts. This is a more efficient, much improved boiler and should save the club money in the long run. In addition, the boilers supplying hot water to the showers have been serviced recently and we found that the expansion tank had to be replaced. This should help with the pressure and temperature of the showers and again will run more efficiently.

As you can imagine, the general running of the club is a costly affair. To this end I've been allowed to pester a lot of people to advertise within the Club and I'm pleased to say that we have managed to raise approximately £25k which will go towards the upkeep of the clubhouse. I would like to thank all of our sponsors and suggest that you look at their panels around the Club (on the indoor and outdoor tennis courts, squash courts and beer garden) and perhaps they might be of help to you in the future. We are always open to new sponsors and now that the Padel courts are to be added to our team of sports, I'm sure there is an opportunity to advertise YOUR company. I look forward to new projects in 2023.

Current sponsors – Belhaven Brewery, The Glasgow Academy, Jones Whyte, Thomas McMaster & Son Ltd, Arnold Clark, H W Tankel, D C Lighting, Corum Property, Verum Wealth, RPJ Energy Solutions, Sportex, Pulse 98.4 and SRB Wealth Management.

Gordon Kent
House Convenor

Grounds

As I entered my fourth year covering House and Grounds, we decided to split the convenor role into two distinct areas of responsibility. With the continued growth of our Club, it was becoming clear that the size of the infrastructure including the outside playing courts and buildings was becoming difficult for one person to cover. Luckily one of our long serving members, Gordon Kent, volunteered to take over the House responsibilities. Gordon has a wealth of experience and contacts in the building trade and has already proven to be a great addition to our committee.

This left me and my small team of volunteers to cover the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds. The last twelve months was more about consolidation after the large expenditure of the last few years e.g installation of floodlights on the outdoor courts 5-7, re-laying of the two mini courts as well as installing lighting and the building of a large outdoor beer garden.

This year our wee band of volunteers covered numerous jobs during our dedicated working day each Tuesday. Spud Inglis, Ike Grant, George McCann and Eddie Waldron turned up in all kinds of weather to help keep the outdoor Club infrastructure tidy and well maintained. Some examples of the work covered included Ike waging an ongoing battle to fill up the car park potholes with cement, George religiously walking around clearing up used tennis balls and assorted litter and Spud keeping me amused with his great jokes as well as turning his hand to building benches and repairing wind breaks. We also worked together to prune trees, tidy up the forest floor next to courts 1 & 2 and lift/re-lay numerous broken path slabs. Can I take this opportunity to thank each of the guys for their great work each Tuesday, sometimes in rather grim weather conditions.

I also need to mention a Club member who turns his hand to some of the most thankless tasks in the club including painting both indoor and outdoor windows, inside walls, washing down skirting boards, windows and jet washing the hundreds of pathway slabs that surround the Club. Bruce Malone also works tirelessly covering the gym, supporting charity events and works closely with our schools and neighbours to keep Newlands car park a safe area for both pedestrians and drivers.

Another long serving member who turns up at the Club, day in day out, is Tom Culshaw. His tireless work covering every task imaginable is incredible. I won't list the jobs he has covered over the years except to say that his contributions have saved our club a fortune.

Lastly a big thank you to our Club Manager Aileen and Reception Manager Val for their hard work and support to the grounds team e.g. supplying us with coffee, cakes and a never-ending list of jobs needing done.

Richard Pearson

Grounds Convenor

Bar & Social

Our lounge bar and beer garden continue to be popular among members and we've worked hard this year to build on last year's refurbishment and provide a welcoming space for everyone, whether it's to meet friends and enjoy a drink or watch premium sporting events. We've introduced a competitively priced selection of spritzers and cocktails to our varied selection of beers, spirits and wine, and provide a wide selection of snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.

Many members utilised the facility this year for private functions and we were happy to accommodate any special requests. Members can of course organise their own catering or entertainment but we can offer suggestions where needed. This year we're hoping to implement a range of packages for private functions to assist our members in ensuring their event is stress-free and a rip-roaring success!

We continued to host some fabulous events in the bar this year from our increasingly popular quiz nights and comedy nights, to jazz afternoons, casino nights, charity lunches and family nights. Cafe Dropshot's Supper Clubs have proved to be hugely successful offering members the opportunity to enjoy exceptional food and paired wines in our cosy lounge bar.

Many thanks to the bar staff for their hard work this year.

Tracy Edward
Bar Convenor

Gym

Membership & Categories

Gym Only	41	Senior with Gym	258	Off Peak with Gym	3
Assoc A with Gym	15	Assoc B with Gym	6	Intermediate with Gym	2
Junior with Gym	62	Restricted A with Gym	5	Student with Gym	40

Usage

Significant increase in use over past year by individual members, various usage from about 6.30a.m. onwards and with variety of machines/equipment etc on site, generally full accessibility for usage. Members make good use of availability of tv, mainly for music, though most tend to use own Bluetooth earphones/iPods etc.

Personal Trainers

Jacque is very busy with individual clients and classes and along with our other trainers, Greig, Matt, Gail, Graham plus Victoria's Friday yoga class - all very successful and enjoyed by participants.

Main Gym

Throughout the year treadmills, cross trainers, spin bikes, rowing machines, various fixed weight strengthening equipment and free-standing weights have been widely used with any necessary repairs being done as required. Ongoing issues with spin bike consoles have been chased up with Origin Fitness eventually agreeing to supply and fit new models of consoles at no cost to Newlands. Occasional bike pedal re-fit, rowing machine footrest and battery replacements have been required but this has been taken care of in-house thanks to Richard and his team. The repair to the door entry system repair is pending.

Small Gym

Moderately busy - used by fitness trainers on occasion and individual members – punchbag the favourite!

General

Both gyms are kept well cleaned, as are machines and equipment. New notices will be in place requesting that gym users spray sanitiser onto paper towel to wipe machines and not to spray sanitiser directly onto machines.

Thank you to all users and members are reminded to let Reception/Gym Convener know of any concerns.

Bruce Malone

Gym Convenor