

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - John Glendinning

As I reported at this time last year following on from the pandemic, the situation for all of us would remain challenging for some time to come. The financial pressures on our Club have increased mainly due to factors out with our control but nonetheless we, as the management committee, must ensure we address these issues to ensure the continued viability of the Club. As everyone knows energy costs have increased significantly in recent times and although we have benefitted in the past from having long term contracts in place these have all come to an end in the past few months. In short we have three different energy contracts and we have agents working on our behalf to make sure we get the best deal at the time of contract renewal. We consume large amounts of energy and our costs have increased by over 30% in the last year and this is likely to continue until the summer of next year when we hope we will see some reduction in costs when new contracts come in to effect. To further reduce our overheads we have taken the decision not to renew our contract with Sky and this alone will save us around £8000 a year. On a positive note our membership numbers remain strong and our underlying financial position is robust. The five sports that are based at the Club all contribute towards the running costs and their support is important particularly in these more difficult financial times. However the operating loss we have shown this year must be addressed and we ask all our members to continue to support the Club as best they can particularly by using the bar facility more and increasing court fees through greater usage of the tennis and squash courts.

At this time we always review our membership fees and in light of my earlier comments the management committee have recommended that there be an increase of £20 to the full membership annual fee with similar pro rata increases across the various membership categories. We offer great facilities at our Club and our intention is that this continues in the years ahead and we hope that members agree that the increase in fees recommended is at a reasonable level and that will continue to allow us to offer our members excellent value for money.

Our individual section reports provide an update for each of our sports but I would like to take the opportunity to highlight one particularly excellent achievement this year. Dominik Czopek, who is a member of our junior tennis coaching programme, has recently won the Tennis Europe under 12 title. Dominik is also currently ranked at number 1 for his age group in Scotland. Well done Dominik and praise also for the efforts of our tennis coaches.

Finally thanks go once again to my fellow committee members for the amazing amount of work they undertake in what little free time they have all for the benefit of the Club.