

# Rothbury Tennis Club

Website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RothburyTennisClub>

## Chairman's Report for 2025 AGM

I look forward to welcoming as many of you as can make it to our AGM to be held on

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in the Clubhouse**

I think that this is likely to be my final report. I have been chair of Rothbury Tennis Club for nine years and I have really enjoyed my time as chair. However, I feel it is time for the club to benefit from a new chair with some fresh ideas. I have said that I would like to stand down and we have asked for names of anyone who would be interested in taking over from me as chair. I am delighted that we have at least one person who has expressed an interest. It will be for you to confirm your choice for the next chair at the AGM next Wednesday. I hope to continue to support the club in whatever way I can in the future.

## Membership:

Our membership numbers have declined slightly this year and we currently have 82 members. We always welcome new members, and our courts remain underused for most of the week.

## Membership Fees:

We still believe that our membership fees represent good value. We offer half price membership for new members, so that they check that they enjoy playing tennis, before committing themselves to full price membership in year 2.

We also offer concessionary fees, for members who may find paying the full fees difficult. Please check these out on our website.

Details about membership can be found on the website.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RothburyTennisClub/Membership/Join>

We have started using Google Forms to help with the administration of membership fees. I hope that you are finding these are working well. Do let us know if you are having difficulty with them.

## Club Sessions:

We hold club sessions on **Sunday mornings from 10-12noon** and **Wednesday afternoon from 1.30-3pm**. These sessions have been well attended over the year. Everyone is welcome to come down to these sessions, we mix in with whoever is there and generally have very enjoyable tennis. It is also a great way to meet other tennis players and a good introduction to the club.

## Court Surface:

I am delighted that the courts are still playing well, since the rejuvenation that was done in 2021.

We hope that this will last for 1-2 more years, but we may then need to do a further rejuvenation or replace the court matting. We are putting money aside to help us when this very expensive upgrade is needed.

## Lights:

We invested in new LED lights on courts 2 and 3 this year. Although they were supposed to be equivalent to the Halide lights that they replaced, we have found that they do not give as good light as the old ones. We have discussed this with the contractor, who has offered to replace them with new Halide bulbs, free of charge, if the club will pay for the new bulbs.

I believe that we should accept his offer. The new bulbs will cost £504 for the 12 bulbs needed. I think that this will give us good lighting again and they should last many years. We will be discussing this at the AGM and I hope that you will support me in agreeing to this modest extra expenditure.

## Coaching:

**Grant Watson** continues as our coach. Grant offers **coaching sessions on Monday evenings** for younger and older juniors. He has not had recent take-up for coaching sessions for seniors but is happy to do so if there was a demand. He also runs **Junior Tennis Camps** in the school holidays which are well attended. If anyone is interested in coaching, his contact details are:

Mobile: 07921 078198

Email: [grantmdwatson@gmail.com](mailto:grantmdwatson@gmail.com)

## Finances:

Our treasurer's annual accounts are included in the paperwork for the AGM. I am delighted to report that we continue to make a surplus every year, which we put aside towards the future cost of replacing the court matting and perimeter netting and upgrading the other facilities as required. You will note that our surplus this year was lower than usual, due to the cost of replacing the lights with new LED lights, already referred to. Nevertheless, I think our financial position is healthy.

## League Matches:

Rothbury entered two Men's Vets teams into the Northumberland and Durham Tennis League this year. Both teams thoroughly enjoyed some very competitive matches in their respective divisions. Congratulations to all players who played in these teams and especial thanks to the captains, Steve Cann and Geoff Moore for all the work that they put into organising the matches.

## Other Events:

We continue to run other events and we publish a diary with these events every year. We will agree the plan for 2025 at the committee meeting following this AGM and the list of events will be emailed to all members shortly.

We did not hold an Open Day in 2024. The idea of Open Days is to attract new members to the club, but for several years this has not been very successful. If anyone has any suggestions as to what might be more attractive for potential members, I would be delighted to hear your thoughts.

We have continued to run **American Tournaments** about 4 times during the summer. These replace our usual Sunday morning sessions. They continue to be well attended.

We have continued to hold regular **Mixed Doubles** session on the last Saturday of the month over the summer. These have been very enjoyable, and we would be pleased to hear from anyone else who would like to try them out. If you contact Chris Cann, she will add your name to the WhatsApp group.

We traditionally meet for a **Christmas Meal** but this year we tried to organise a summer barbeque instead. Sadly this did not take place due to too few members being able to attend. We would welcome your feedback on what sorts of social events that you feel our members might enjoy, any thoughts welcome.

I hope that you have enjoyed this brief summary of what is going on in your club. We always welcome any offers of help, and a good way to start might be to join our committee. If you are

interested, just talk to any of your club officers. All our contact details are on the website. We should offer our thanks to your committee and in particular your officers for the considerable amount of work that they all freely give to allow us to enjoy the excellent playing conditions that our club offers.

I wish my successor every success as Chair of our club.

Gordon Cameron  
Chair – Rothbury Tennis Club  
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