



**Merrow Lawn Tennis Club
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 5th March 2024
19.45 in the Clubhouse**

Agenda

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 14th March 2023 (pages 2-7)**
- 3. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2023 AGM**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the EGM held on 15th May 2023 (pages 8-10)**
- 5. Matters arising from the minutes of the May 2023 EGM**
- 6. Chairman's Report (page 12)**
- 7. Secretary & Welfare Officer Report (page 13)**
- 8. Treasurer's report for year to 31st December 2022 (pages 14-20)**
 - a. Approval of accounts for year ended 31st December 2023
 - b. Approval of proposed subscriptions for 2024-25
- 9. Administrator's Report (includes Membership) (pages 21-23)**
- 10. Tournament Winners (Page 24)**
- 11. Estate Manager's Report (page 25)**
- 12. Coaching Report (page 26-27)**
- 13. Match Secretary Report (pages 28-29)**
- 14. Social Report (pages 30-31)**
- 15. Election of Officers (page 31)**
- 16. Any Other Business**

Notes:

- Voting is confined to Senior Members present (those aged over sixteen who have paid a subscription for all year or mid-week play).
- The Officers of the Club are the President and a committee comprised of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, up to nine others and the Club Coach
- All Senior Club members of not less than one year's standing are entitled to be nominated for election to the committee.
- A quorum at the AGM shall consist of 20 members.



Merrow Lawn Tennis Club Annual General Meeting Minutes

14th March 2023
At the MLTC Clubhouse

28 members were present and therefore the meeting was **quorate**.

Ian Campbell, the club President welcomed everyone to the AGM meeting in the club's 100th year. He highlighted the centenary events that the club had planned for the year ahead.

1. **Apologies for absence:**

Susan Beardwood, Margaret Clifford, Alison Craze, Susie Duncan, Helen Farmer, Roger Humphries, Erez Kaplan, Helen Marlow, Amanda Miller, Joan Palmer, Robert Stewart, Di Stewart, Cindy Simnett, Steve Simnett and Peter Tappin.

Several members had thanked the committee members for all of their hard working in running the club.

However, the Chairman advised that he had heard from an anonymous source that some felt that the club officers remained in post for too long and that individuals were reluctant to put their names forward or nominate others in their place for fear of causing offence to those currently in post.

The Chairman stressed that all those in post would happily make room for others who wanted to serve, provided they enjoyed the confidence of the members, were duly elected and able to give the necessary time and commitment. There was a process for nomination which was encouraged. This had been communicated on several occasions. The Chairman added that any member could attend committee meetings if they wished to see what happened and to think about standing for election next year.

Indications were that generally there was satisfaction with the way that the club was managed and the achievements of recent years, but members were encouraged to speak up if they felt that was not the case.

2. **Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

- It was asked if Club Solution could send a reminder to members 15 minutes before their court booking time. There was a cost involved with implementing

this and it had been decided not to proceed with this but instead to leave the responsibility with each member.

- There was a new pothole in the access road and the club would be discussing this with Horizon Leisure, the firm now leasing what was Sports Direct gym. The Chairman had hoped that someone from Horizon would have been at the AGM to speak to members. The club wanted to build a positive relationship with Horizon.
- The Chairman informed the meeting that Alison Craze was writing about the history of the club for the centenary year.
- The club had successfully appealed against the refusal of the planning permission for the 7th court. However one of the conditions of the planning was that the “finished playing surface of the tennis court hereby approved shall be an artificial grass/carpet. This shall be retained for the lifetime of the development.” Some members had said they would like the 7th court to have a clay surface. Members would be consulted again as to whether it should be artificial clay or an artificial grass. The club would have to apply for a variation of the condition of planning if they wished to have an artificial clay court surface.

Q- A member asked how long the planning permission lasted for the 7th court - Building of the 7th court needed to start within 3 years of the planning application being approved.

4. Chairman’s summary comments

The Chairman wanted to again thank everyone who helped run the club.

He added that an intention was to establish a social committee with individuals taking responsibility for specific events. Anyone interested was asked to get in touch.

The Chairman advised that following the recent members questionnaire committee had set up a Strategy Group to develop a strategic plan which covered the next 3 to 5 years. Members could get involved if they wished to. The final plan would be considered at the 2024 AGM and reviewed annually thereafter.

It was also mentioned that there had been a decline in attendance at club sessions due to members arranging to play in their own groups. Members were asked to attend some club sessions too as these were an important part of the club.

5. Secretary & Estates Comments

The estate developments that had taken place during 2022 were highlighted.

The club had received three tenders from LTA recommended contractors for installing the 7th court.

The club would like to start the building works as soon as possible, ideally in July after the marquee event. However if the club decided to have an artificial clay court then the application to vary the planning condition might delay matters. There were several questions from members about the 7th court and associated courts.

Q - Would the cost of an artificial clay court be different from that of artificial grass? The club had received a quote showing that artificial clay was £6k more.

Q- How much did it cost to maintain clay courts? One member thought that it was no more than artificial grass.

Q- Was there a difference in how long artificial clay courts and artificial grass courts lasted? Probably not.

Q- Were LTA grants available to build the new court? The Treasurer had looked into this and loans were available but only if the courts were also opened for public use.

Dave Clarke highlighted how much time he had spent on estates works and asked if anyone could help.

Q - Why had there been a gate installed by court 1. This since there was concern that people were using the club grounds as a shortcut. There will shortly be a sign on the gate stating 'members only'.

Q- Was the hitting wall being removed? The hitting wall was staying in place for the time being. However, less than 10 people had stated that they wished for it to remain. The club were looking at alternative options as the hitting wall in its current place was not ideal – it was noisy and when playing or having coaching on court 5 it could be dangerous when balls rebounded.

The Chairman repeated his appreciation for all the estates work Dave Clarke had undertaken.

6. Treasurer's comments

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 had been circulated.

The highlights were:

- A surplus of just over £30k. This was less than the previous year when the club had received several government grants.
- Over £200k was in cash held at Lloyds, Skipton, and Metro banks. The Treasurer had not looked at transferring money elsewhere as the club would need a large amount of money for the 7th court.
- The Treasurer had introduced a formal sinking fund for the refurbishment of the courts and clubhouse. The club needed to transfer £24k per court per year into the fund.

The Treasurer had taken into account that the LTA recommended budget of £70k to build a new court. However as stated earlier the court would cost considerably more than that.

As well as the quotes mentioned by the Secretary earlier in the meeting, there would be the costs for earth removal and those associated with accessing the site and making good at the end. Therefore, the Treasurer estimated that the total cost could be £140,000.

Q - Did the cost include floodlights. It was confirmed that it did.

Q - How much longer the current artificial grass courts would last? The top three courts were resurfaced in 2015 and the bottom three in 2017. It was thought that the courts would last between 10 and 15 years.

Q - If the club spent £140k on the 7th court would there be sufficient funds to refurbish the other courts? The maintenance programme for the current courts was currently working. It may be that membership fees might have to rise more in the future. The committee was recommending that membership fees increased by 2.5% this year and last year they had not been increased.

Q - How much did it cost to resurface the 3 courts in 2017. It was thought around £50k but this should be checked.

The Chairman confirmed that the club could afford to build the 7th court and meet the costs of future resurfacing of the current courts. A new clubhouse would require additional funding.

The Treasurer expressed his appreciation for the book keeping of the Club Administrator and to Philip Corning for reviewing the accounts.

a. Approval of accounts for year ended 31st December 2022

Chris Smith proposed the approval of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 which was seconded by David Clegg. The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 were **approved**.

b. Approval of proposed subscriptions for year from 1st April 2023

The Treasurer recommended that the subscription rates for 23-24 be increased by 2.5% (rounded up). There had not been any increases in 2022-23. Rachael Goodworth proposed the subscriptions for 23-24 and was seconded by Justin Hovington. The subscription rates for 23-24 were **approved**.

c. Approval of 7th Court Expenditure

Adrian Rees proposed that expenditure of up £140k (including VAT) for construction of the 7th court be agreed. This was seconded by Tony Hall and **approved nem. con.**

The court surface would be a matter for further consideration.

Q - Would membership numbers be increased once the 7th court was built? The Chairman advised that this was not planned, the construction of the 7th court being to ease court booking pressures and allow junior coaching to continue at its present level.

7. Administrator's Comments

The Administrator highlighted the following:

- There were similar membership numbers to the previous year.
- There were 91 people on the waiting list currently which included some that were currently members of Pit Farm, Horsley and David Lloyd tennis clubs.

8. Coaching

The coaching report was noted.

Q – How many coaches were there at MLTC? - 6.

Q – If the juniors wanted to compete more, would there be space for this on court? They would not be competing in many matches and as prior to Covid, these would happen mainly on Sunday afternoons when there was usually space.

9. Matches

The club had 12 teams competing in Summer 2022 across three different leagues. Two teams were champions of their leagues - the Woking Mixed A team and Surrey Ladies 1. There were a couple of weeks remaining in the Winter 22-23 season with possibly two or three teams becoming champions of their leagues. MLTC had 10 teams competing in the winter competitions.

Eugenia thanked all the team captains for their hard work and the Chairman in turn thanked her organising.

10. Social

It was reiterated that the club needed members to organise social events at the club.

11. Election of Officers

The following officers and committee members were elected unanimously:
Ian Campbell (President), Adrian Rees (Chairman), Dave Clarke (Secretary), Jeff Saunders (Treasurer).

Committee: Louise Blakeborough, Julie Dickson, Rachael Goodworth, Julie Pearn, James Tufts and Eugenia Wachters.

Jorge martin Munoz by virtue of his position as Head Coach.

12. Any Other Business

Ball Machine



Q. A member had asked if a new ball machine could be purchased? The current one was being repaired but if it broke again a new machine would be purchased.

There was no other business.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm

Alison Faulkner
Club Administrator

Members present: A Birch, D Birkett, L. Blakeborough, I Campbell, C Campbell, D Clarke, D Clegg, , J Condick, J Dickson, A Faulkner, M Hall, T Hall, J Hovington, R Lambie, K Lewis, P Morton, J Pearn, A Rees, J Reid, D Reid, J Saunders, D Searle, C Smith, M Spiring, M Stones, I Strawson, A Strawson, and E Wachters.

**Extraordinary General Meeting
Monday 15th May 2023 at 8.00pm
In the Clubhouse**

MLTC Members present: S Beardwood, A Birch, L Blakeborough, M Brown, D Clarke, D Clegg, S England, W England, A Faulkner, K Goodrich, T. Hall, R Holberton, N Lecoutre, H Marlow, A Miller, N O’Driscoll, J Pearn, A Rees, A Strawson, I Strawson, J Tufts, E Wachters and D Wright.

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | <p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from P Barnes, D Birkett, P Burton, J Davies, H Farmer, M Hall, P Hollands, A Kell, S Luscombe, D Luscombe, L Myers, J Reid, D Reid, A Robinson, G Sutton, K Sutton, P Tappin and N Trobridge.</p> |
| 2. | <p>7th Court</p> <p>Adrian Rees, the club Chairman welcomed everyone to the EGM which had been called to give members the opportunity to hear the committee’s views and voice their opinions on the need, cost, and surface of the proposed 7th court.</p> <p>There had been a small but quorate attendance at the recent AGM when the approval for expenditure on the 7th court had been given.</p> <p>i. <u>Why the need for a 7th Court?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past nine years the adult membership had grown by 200 adults (not all of these have court booking rights) and 250 junior members. • This had substantially increased the club’s income and consequently annual surpluses. • The club had resurfaced the courts and refurbished the clubhouse and still maintained a healthy bank balance. • Despite the increase in members and coaching provision for both adults and juniors the club had largely coped with the demand for courts but there were pinch times on weekday evenings and at weekends. • The committee felt that the 7th court would ease the pinch points and mean that coaching need not be reduced. • The club had the land and the money to build the court and would recoup the costs in the next few years. Therefore, the Chairman asked the question of not why build the 7th court, but why not? Questions or comments were invited. <p><u>Members Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if there were no pinch points a member agreed, why not build a 7th court? • Weekday mornings were also busy. <p>The consensus was that there was need for the 7th court and there was no reason not to build it.</p> |

ii. What will be the cost of the 7th court?

- The cost will not exceed £140K, broken down as (excluding VAT):
 - £67k for the court (£48k quoted 2019)
 - £20k for lighting.
 - £20k contingency. This might be for soil removal or access to the site.
 - £7.5k for clay.
- Costs will not get cheaper.
- After spending £140k there would still be £100k in the Merrow Tennis bank account.
- The club had sufficient funds to meet any emergencies not covered by the insurance.
- Courts 1-3 were resurfaced in August 2015 and courts 4-6 in August 2017. Tiger Turf advise that the courts will not need resurfacing for 10 – 15 years.
- A growing population means demands for tennis facilities is unlikely to reduce.
- The popularity of our Club will not diminish provided the culture is maintained.

Members Comments

- A member questioned whether a full-size doubles court could be built on the site. The answer was that a survey using LTA dimensions confirmed this as possible and planning permission for such a court had been granted.
- One member felt it important the court be built soon as costs were rising.

iii. How will the court be constructed and what surface should the club choose?

- Work will begin in September 2023.
- Agreement had been reached with Horizon Leisure (HL) to access the site behind the clubhouse. The barrier will be removed early June to help with the 1/07 plans. There will be a HL membership discount for MLTC members.
- The court fencing will be against the trees on the western side. On the eastern side (the gym) there will be a gap between the wall and the fencing.
- On appeal against the GBC refusal to grant permission for the 7th court, the club was advised that success would be more likely if the application was made on the basis that the surface would be the same on the courts currently in use. Even so the chance of success on appeal had been deemed to be 50/50.
- David Clegg was thanked for his work which led to the Planning Inspector accepting the appeal, but a condition was that the surface be the same as those currently in use i.e. - "The finished playing surface of the tennis court hereby approved shall be an artificial grass/carpet. This shall be retained for the lifetime of the development."
- If the members wanted a clay surface, there was a need to formally apply for the planning condition to be waived - even though it would still be a type of carpet. (Examples of court surfaces were available for members to see).
- Applying to vary the planning condition would cost approximately £200-£300.
- In support of the application the club would have to demonstrate that artificial clay was no noisier than artificial grass.
- It was not known how long Guildford Borough Council would take to decide on the application.
- The construction of the court would not interfere with current activities at the club.

- The court can be built to base level while the club waits to see if there is a choice as to which surface the club can use and a decision by members then made.
- Lights will be installed at the time of the court construction.

Members Comments

- A member asked if refusal of an application to vary the planning condition would affect the possibility of having clay on the current 6 courts. It was explained that they were two different issues. For the 7th court the club needed to apply for a planning condition to be waived. It was not known if an application to change the other surfaces would be necessary if desired in due course - it was a decision for individual local authorities. Some authorities had not required a formal application.
- One member stated that although they would prefer the 7th court to be clay, if it was going to take perhaps 18 months or to obtain this permission, this might alter their view.
- Another member stated that many joined because they liked the artificial grass courts.
- It was also said that when the club had previously considered court surfaces a decision against clay had been made due to the proximity of the trees and falling leaves etc.
- One member asked why if the 7th court was simply to relieve the stress on court availability, a different surface was being discussed. It was suggested that as there were maybe 50 or so members wanting clay then as they would choose, when possible, to play on the 7th court it would still free up some of the remaining courts.
- The 7th court was also an opportunity for members to play on a different surface and able to make an informed decision about whether to change any more courts to clay.
- The construction period for building the court was approximately 2 months.
- If the 7th court was clay it would allow club team members to practice on the surface on which they often play when at other clubs.

Summary

It was agreed that there was a need for the 7th court; that the cost of construction was acceptable and that it be ascertained whether an artificial clay/carpet surface was an option.

If it was established that there would be a lengthy period before a decision as to the clay option could be given by GBC, the membership would be consulted again as to whether the preference was to await this or lay an artificial grass/carpet surface.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm.



Reports in advance
of the
MLTC Annual General Meeting
2024

I. Chairman's Introduction

As this is my last chairman's report, my thoughts are not only of the last twelve months but the past nine years during which I have been helped by many when managing and developing the club. It has been a pleasure and privilege. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has given time and energy in supporting me.

I would also like to thank Horizon Leisure again for allowing use of their land to access the 7th court construction site and by doing so not only saving us money but preventing a great deal of inconvenience and distraction. Having vehicles etc. passing in front of the clubhouse and churning up the area would have been problematic to put it mildly.

What has been the most satisfying about the past nine years? I think membership growth. This amongst other things, enabled us to finance the clubhouse refurbishment, improve the grounds, subsidise our Centenary Year celebrations and create the additional court. How was this achieved?

Contributory factors could be the introduction of a successful coaching programme and maintenance of the friendly 'small club' culture in which individual members, coaches and groundsman are respected. Also, that the needs and wants of all have been considered, ranging from helping beginners to opportunities for playing high standard tennis internally and externally. That we are a friendly and welcoming club has also become well known, hence a full membership and waiting list of one hundred.

Social activities have provided a bonus, which, as well as being enjoyable, reinforce the feeling of wellbeing, something enjoyed in spades during the 2023 Centenary Year.

However, it has not always been easy. There have been problems and issues, two being Covid19 and the death of HM Queen Elizabeth. Covid prevented the club from functioning as normal with the resulting development of 'WhatsApp' groups adversely impacting on club sessions. The Queen's funeral divided member opinion. Many wanted the club closed for the day and others not at all. A compromise was closure until the Westminster ceremony ended; a reminder that whilst members have much in common, our values vary, and necessary at times to find solutions acceptable to all.

Turning specifically to 2023, as can be seen from the reports below, the club is functioning effectively. This is aided greatly by the work of our Administrator, the creation of this position in a growing club being logical with hindsight, but the decision when made, was quite radical for MLTC.

As I have said, when reflecting on the past nine years I have concluded that membership growth was most satisfying, but the interaction with individual members has given me most pleasure and enjoyment. Long may this continue!

Finally, I wish to extend my very best wishes to my successor and all MLTC club members.

Adrian Rees

II. Secretary and Welfare Officer's Report

Secretary Report:

- I assumed the role late in the membership year when Dave Clarke stood down in July, He left the role in a strong position having been instrumental in getting the new Court 7 progressed. I'd like to add my thanks to Dave and David Luscombe for all their hard work and professionalism.
- I was delighted to witness and be a part of such a successful Centenary year and am sure you will agree that MLTC goes from strength to strength in bringing members together on and off court. My thanks to the Centenary Committee for organising the events last year and to Louise Blakeborough and her helpers for organising social events in 2024. These events help to play such a key role in bringing members together.
- I will not be standing for re-election as Secretary at this time and wish my successor the best of luck on their new appointment.

Welfare Officer Report:

This is my 5th year as WO. Safeguarding is an important part of the culture at MLTC and our registration with the LTA, the governing body of tennis, means that we commit to promoting a set of standards and procedures to help make tennis safe, accessible, enjoyable and welcoming for all of our members.

Our coaches are all DBS checked and have received necessary training to be registered with the LTA and I am pleased to confirm the appointment of a Deputy WO, Laura Morton in January.

We continually monitor and update our policies in line with LTA guidelines and introduced a safeguarding newsletter in January which was sent to all adult members. For updates and information please refer to the dedicated notice board inside the club house next to the shower room.

We have been notified by the LTA of a planned support visit during 2024 and have circulated their survey to our members at their request.

We look forward to welcoming them in due course to get feedback and make improvements as required.

Finally, my thanks to Alison for all the work she does in supporting the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and the Coaching Teams! She is a superstar!

Julie Pearn, Secretary/Welfare Officer

welfareofficermלטc@gmail.com

III. Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The accounts of the Club for the year ended 31 December 2023 are attached to this report, together with comparative figures for the previous 4 years. The operating surplus for the year was £19,380 after having adjusted for the expenditure on the new court. These latter costs have been charged to the sinking/capital fund.

The operating surplus as above is stated also after charging £12,711 subsidy in respect of the centenary celebrations. Such a subsidy is not likely to be repeated until the Club's bicentenary in 100 years time. The surplus on a normal operational basis could therefore be stated as £32,091, as opposed to £30,888 in the previous year.

I would like to comment on the following points:

- Membership subscriptions showed a healthy increase over 2022, as also did coaching income. But the surplus on coaching was much reduced, following the committee's decision to pay out in bonuses to the coaches much of the surplus being generated. This decision was partly driven by the need to retain the current and encourage new coaches in a difficult labour market.
- We had to pay an increased insurance premium. The renewal quotation from Howdens, the LTA's preferred broker, for the current year 2024 was c. £1000 above 2023's figure, but I have been able to get the same cover for less than last year by going to different brokers.
- Electricity unit costs increased from 16p to 34p during the year
- Pavilion repairs includes £700 for repairing burst pipes, £1500 for installing pipe lagging and trace heating to prevent burst pipes, and £500 for resetting paving stones dislodged by members struggling with the new ball machine.
- Improvements includes, as well as the new court, £4500 for the new ball machine and £4000 for additional fencing and repairs to existing.
- The cost of tennis balls increased considerably during the year, as well as becoming difficult to source.
- Misc expenses includes £700 for the booklet Merrow Through The Aces (with sales of over £200), £750 for new patio sets, £500 for new scoreboards.
- And interest received was higher, reflecting the higher rates available on deposits

As at 31 December 2023 the Club had cash resources of £103,500, held variously at Lloyds Bank, Metro Bank and Skipton Building Society.

The operating surplus of £19,380 as above has been transferred to the general fund.

Members will recall from my report last year that the Club is following the LTA's recommendations as to how much to transfer each year to a sinking fund/capital fund for the eventual refurbishment of the courts and of the clubhouse. The recommended transfers are £2400 for each court (so £16,800 p.a. for 7 courts) and £10,000 p.a. for the clubhouse, therefore £26,800 which is the figure shown as the transfer to the capital fund on the balance sheet. In total at the end of 2023 the balance in the sinking/capital fund should be £167,600,



being the cumulative recommended transfers. However, the figure in the accounts is only £99,877. This is because the LTA's estimate of the cost of a new court, which was the figure we provided for last year, was hopelessly inadequate – they suggested £70,000, it ended up costing c. £140,000 – and therefore the capital fund is currently under resourced.

I hope however, by means of exceptional further transfers to the capital fund from annual surpluses, to reduce this underfunding over the next years. But in order to do this we need each year to make respectable surpluses, which leads to the committee's recommendation for increases in the subscriptions payable by members.

We have seen above how the club has suffered, and is continuing to suffer, increases in its cost base, and to cover these and still make a respectable surplus the committee recommends an increase of c. 7.5% in subscriptions. To put this into context, since April 2020 inflation on the CPI measure has been 21.8%, whereas the Club has increased subs by only 5.5%. The proposals are listed in detail on the schedule attached.

So the matters for the AGM are:

- Approval of the accounts
- Approval of the proposed subscription rates for 2024.

Jeff Saunders
Treasurer



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Membership subscriptions | 86,135 | 80,073 | 82,852 | 41,944 | 65,125 |
| Match fees | 0 | 10 | 40 | 5 | 10 |
| Visitor fees | 297 | 257 | 300 | 572 | 330 |
| Tournament entry fees | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Miscellaneous | 295 | 98 | 17,620 | 10,856 | 65 |
| Other income total | 592 | 365 | 17,960 | 11,433 | 412 |
| Bar income | 1,864 | 1,719 | 526 | 288 | 1,430 |
| Bar purchases | -1,378 | -1,209 | -432 | -238 | -898 |
| | 486 | 510 | 94 | 50 | 532 |
| Coaching income | 94,365 | 84,967 | 63,091 | 42,706 | 59,075 |
| Coaches fees & admin | -91,583 | -78,182 | -49,063 | -39,141 | -50,555 |
| Profit Share from Premier Tennis | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | 2,782 | 6,785 | 14,028 | 3,565 | 8,520 |
| TOTAL NET INCOME | 89,995 | 87,733 | 114,934 | 56,992 | 74,589 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Water & refuse | 1,340 | 702 | 31 | 382 | 198 |
| Pavilion admin | 2,247 | 2,106 | 1,849 | 2,121 | 2,317 |
| Insurance | 3,071 | 2,358 | 2,358 | 2,658 | 3,050 |



| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Telephone | 939 | 1,032 | 666 | 470 | 911 |
| Electricity | 4,875 | 3,846 | 1,701 | 2,092 | 4,092 |
| Pavilion refurb | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 79,701 |
| Pavilion repairs | 3,236 | 1,423 | 433 | 6,564 | 134 |
| Premises total | 15,708 | 11,467 | 7,038 | 14,287 | 90,403 |
| Grounds labour | 6,364 | 4,557 | 2,947 | 3,561 | 3,798 |
| Grounds materials | 973 | 1,228 | 788 | 586 | 813 |
| Improvements | 154,025 | 16,231 | 0 | 4,500 | 679 |
| Floodlights | 0 | 0 | 4,855 | 0 | 0 |
| Online booking | 876 | 864 | 864 | 864 | 864 |
| Refurbishment of courts | 1,726 | 1,752 | 5,392 | 3,058 | 0 |
| Grounds total | 163,964 | 24,632 | 14,846 | 12,569 | 6,154 |
| Tennis balls | 6,752 | 5,387 | 3,130 | 1,964 | 2,538 |
| Affiliation fees | 945 | 770 | 720 | 60 | 685 |
| Administration | 8,345 | 7,552 | 11,574 | 13,608 | 8,757 |
| Corporation Tax | 103 | 30 | 200 | 212 | 506 |
| Entry fees | 277 | 269 | 49 | 223 | 140 |
| Engraving etc | 276 | 619 | 168 | 0 | 129 |
| Social events/marketing | 12,711 | 3,157 | 145 | 191 | 190 |
| Professional fees | 0 | 1,500 | 3,522 | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous | 4,633 | 2,003 | 8,233 | 606 | 1,144 |
| Other expenditure total | 34,042 | 21,287 | 27,741 | 16,864 | 14,089 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 213,714 | 57,386 | 49,625 | 43,720 | 110,646 |
| NET INCOME | -123,719 | 30,347 | 65,309 | 13,272 | -36,057 |
| Interest received (gross) | 3,376 | 541 | 160 | 1,057 | 1,114 |



Transfer from Capital Fund

139,723

0

76,552

OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR

19,380

30,888

65,469

14,329

41,609

BALANCE SHEET AS AT

31/12/2023

31/12/2022

31/12/2021

31/12/2020

31/12/2019

31/12/2018

Capital Fund at start of year

210,800

100,738

80,738

60,738

87,290

89,430

General Fund at start of year

10,402

89,576

44,107

49,778

58,169

41,047

Total funds at start of year

221,202

190,314

124,845

110,516

145,459

130,477

Transfer from Capital Fund

139,723

0

0

0

-76,552

-22,140

Transfer to Capital Fund

26,800

20,000

20,000

20,000

20,000

20,000

Exceptional further transfer

2,000

90,062

0

0

30,000

0

Transfer to General Fund

19,380

30,888

65,469

-5,671

21,609

17,122

Capital Fund at end of year

99,877

210,800

100,738

80,738

60,738

87,290

General Fund at end of year

982

10,402

89,576

44,107

49,778

58,169

Total funds at end of year

100,859

221,202

190,314

124,845

110,516

145,459

Represented by:

Current account

3,802

54,205

53,983

68,937

7,948

18,207



| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Lloyds deposit account | 4,471 | | | | | | |
| Metro Bank/Secure Trust | 5,627 | 85,055 | 51,000 | 0 | 72,494 | 71,788 | |
| Skipton Building Society | 89,603 | 87,270 | 86,784 | 86,624 | 31,624 | 56,216 | |
| Cash | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| Credits for coaching and subs | -2,648 | -5,332 | -1,457 | -30,720 | -1,554 | -756 | |
| Total assets | 100,859 | 221,202 | 190,314 | 124,845 | 110,516 | 145,459 | |

Notes

1. Land and premises have not been included.

Proposed Fees for 2024/5

| | | | | Existing 2023/24 | Proposed 2024/25 |
|--------|--|----|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Senior | All Year (Standard) | A | | £257 | £275 |
| | All Year (Couple) | AD | Standard rate less 10% for Co-habiting couple joining/renewing at the same time | £463 | £495 |
| | Midweek (Standard) | M | | £185 | £198 |
| | Midweek (Couple) | MD | This rate is Standard less 10% for Co-habiting couple joining/renewing at the same time | £333 | £356 |
| | Over 75 (Senior) | O | Any member over the age of 75 on 1 April 2024 who has been a member for 5 or more years | £134 | £144 |
| | Under 25 / Student | AS | For members in Full Time Education (of any age over 18) and for members aged 18 to 24 inclusive (on 1 April 2024) | £149 | £155 |
| | Student Holiday | SH | Full time student living away from Merrow in term time. Allowed to play in holiday periods only | £67 | £70 |
| | Coaching (12 months) | C | This category allows coaching by MLTC approved coach only. | £82 | £88 |
| | Parent Helper | PH | For Parents who wish to play with their children only | £52 | £55 |
| | Social | So | | £20 | £25 |
| Junior | Junior | JO | For players aged 10 to 17 inclusive on 1 April 2024, and those up to and including school Year 13 | £52 | £55 |
| | Junior | JU | For players aged under 10 on 1 April 2024 | £26 | £27.50 |
| Family | Family membership (with 2 playing parents) | F | Rate for two adults and all children under 18 on 1 April 2024 (and those up to and including school Year 13) living at the same address | £498 | £535 |
| | Family membership (with 1 playing parent) | F1 | Rate for one adult and all children under 18 on 1 April 2024 (and those up to and including school Year 13) living at the same address | £293 | £314 |

Joining fees

| | | | | |
|--------|--|---|------|------|
| Adult | | payable per adult/ Family with 1 playing parent | £60 | £60 |
| Junior | | Junior/ Student/Parent Helper/ Coaching | £0 | £0 |
| Family | | With 2 playing parents | £120 | £120 |

IV. Administrator's Report

Key notes:

- **Currently MLTC has 755 members** compared to 725 at this time last year. However, the number of adult members with full court booking rights remain approximately the same at 295 members. Social members almost doubled.

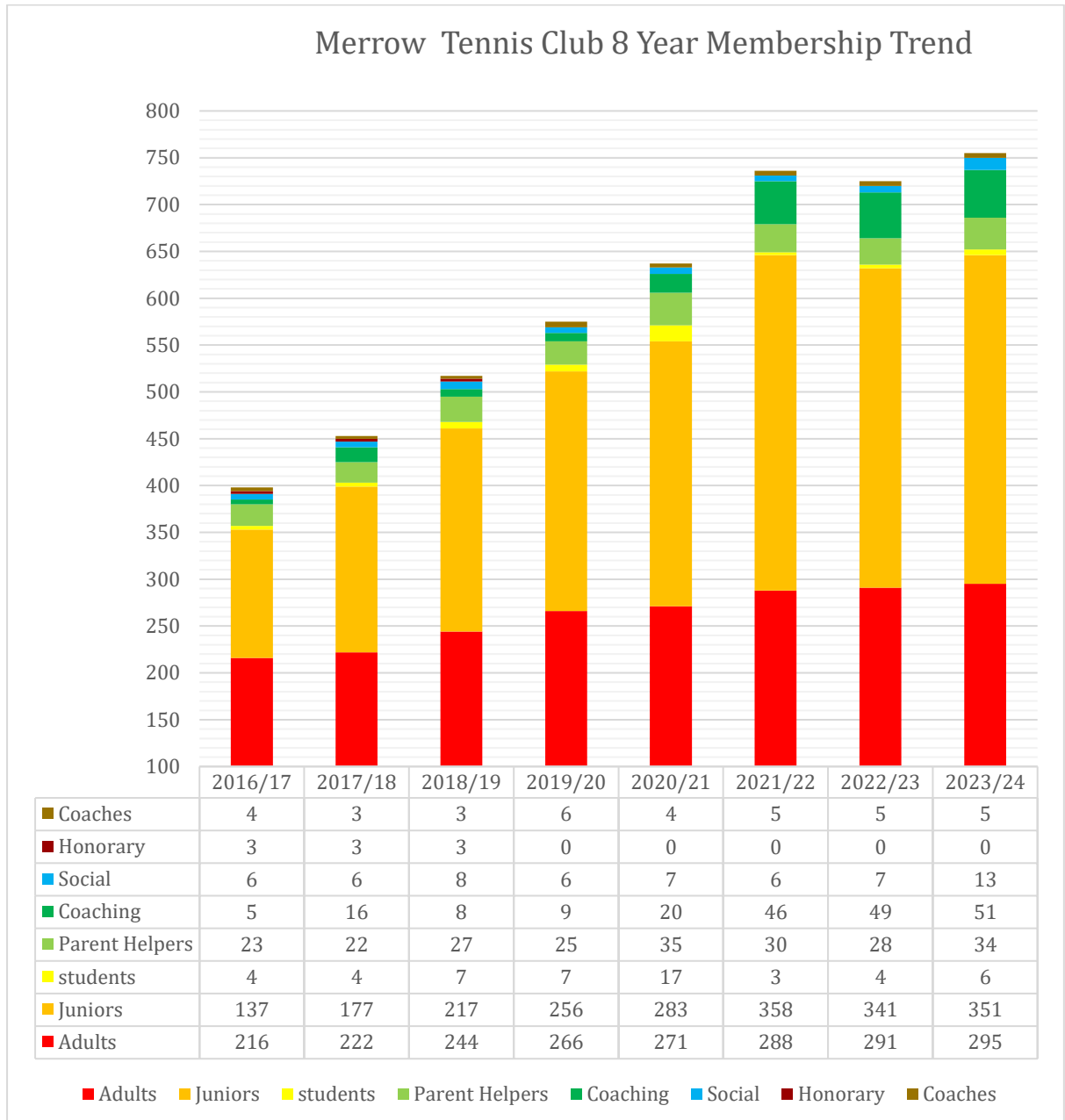
| Category | | Numbers Feb 2023 (2022/23) | Numbers Feb 2024 (2023/24) | Change from 2022/23 | % Change from 2022/23 |
|--|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Adult full | | 130 | 131 | +1 | +0.8% |
| Adult discount (Couple) | | 38 | 42 | +4 | +10.5% |
| Midweek | | 30 | 29 | -1 | -3.3% |
| Midweek discount (Couple) | | 12 | 14 | +2 | +16.6% |
| Over 75s | | 11 | 10 | -1 | -9.1% |
| Student/ Under 25 | | 4 | 1 | -3 | -75% |
| Student Holiday | | 4 | 6 | +2 | +50% |
| Family 2 playing Parents | Adult | 32 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| | Junior | 30 | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Family 1 Playing Parent | Adult | 34 | 36 | +2 | +5.9% |
| | Junior | 58 | 65 | +7 | +12.1% |
| Junior 10 or Over | | 132 | 146 | +14 | +10.6% |
| Junior Under 10 | | 121 | 110 | -11 | -9.1% |
| Parent Helper | | 28 | 34 | +6 | +21.4% |
| Coaching | | 49 | 51 | +2 | +4.1% |
| Social | | 7 | 13 | +6 | +85.7% |
| Coaches | | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 725 | 755 | +30 | +4.1% |
| Adults | | 384 | 404 | +20 | +5.2% |
| Juniors | | 341 | 351 | +10 | +2.9% |
| Adults with full court booking rights (incl. in total adults above) | | 291 | 295 | +4 | +1.4% |

- A total of **132 members did not re-join on 1st April 2023**, 47 Adults and 85 juniors. Of the 47 adults that did not rejoin, only **32 adult members** with full court booking rights did not re-join compared to 38 in 2022.
- Number of members that did not re-join in recent years:

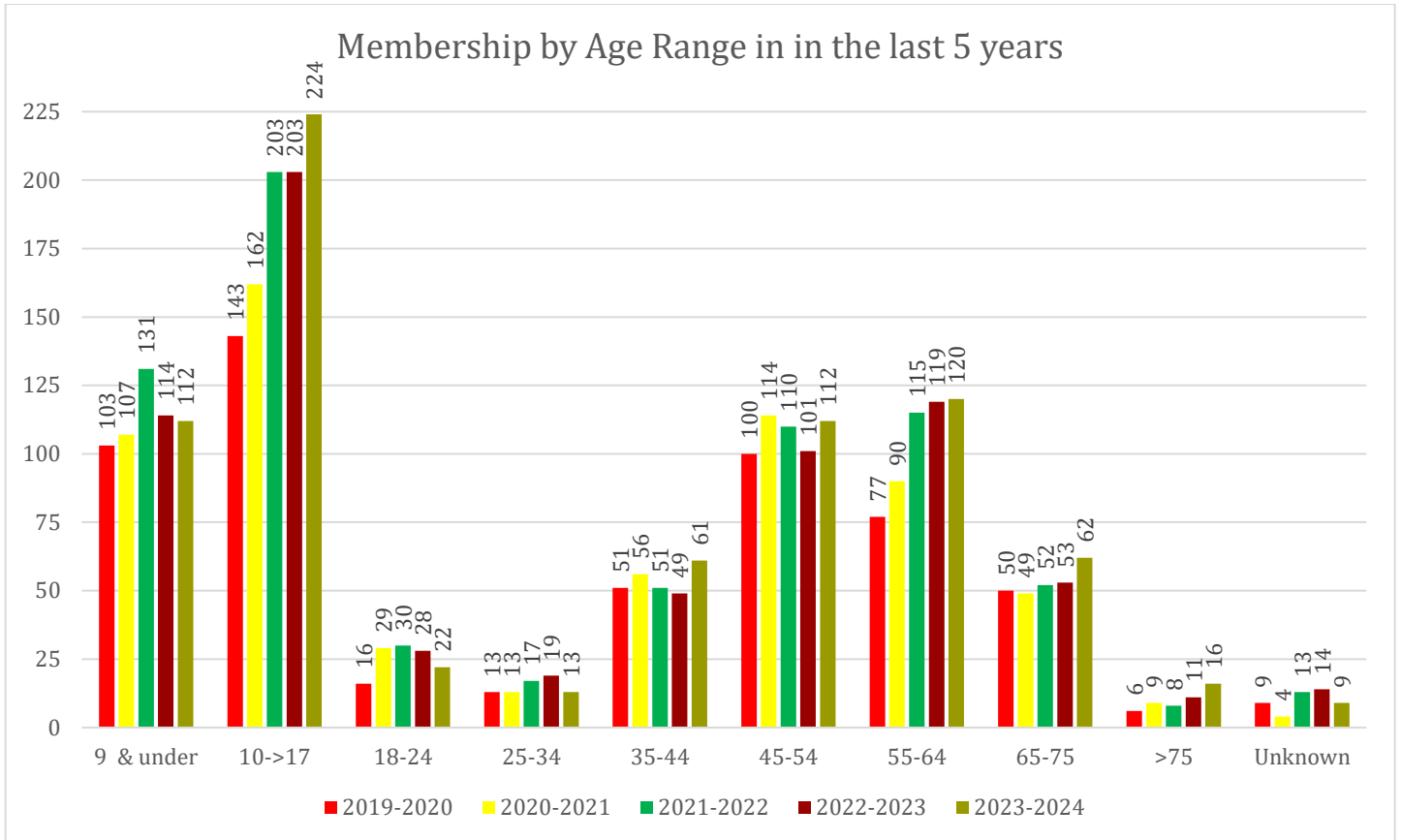
| | 1 st April 2023 | 1 st April 2022 | 1 st April 2021 | 1 st April 2020 |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Senior Members | 47 | 63 | 34 | 30 |
| Junior Members | 85 | 108 | 42 | 61 |
| Total | 132 | 171 | 76 | 91 |

- Currently there are **100 adults** on the waiting list compared to 87 at this time last year. From experience, not everyone on the waiting list will still be interested in joining when they reach the top. Last year to replace 32 full adult members we offered membership to those up to 65 on the waiting list. Therefore, roughly half were still

- interested in joining when they came to the top of the waiting list. I have started to contact those on the waiting list to see if they are still interested in joining.
- We have not held an open day since approximately 2019.



- The adult membership could have increased further but as stated we have a waiting list in place and we are not accepting new adult members at the moment.
- Since the 2016/17 membership year Junior membership has increased by 256%, Adult membership has increased by 137% and coaching membership by 1020%.



- The age of the adult membership remains fairly consistent. The smallest age groups being 18 to 34 year olds and 75 and Over.
- In 2023/24 the club had 157 female junior members, 176 male junior members, 195 female adult members and 220 male adult members which was very similar to the numbers in 2022/23.

General

The committee met 6 times in the year. Any member who wishes to raise an issue is welcome to attend a committee meeting. Merrow successfully re-registered with the LTA for 2023/4.

Alison Faulkner
Club Administrator
merrowltc@gmail.com

V. Tournament Winners

Club Tournament Winners 2023

Ladies Singles: **Eugenia Wachters**
Mens Singles: **Alex McCulloch**
Ladies Doubles: **Jenny Condick & Eugenia Wachters**
Mens Doubles: **Kentaro Wada & Andy Williams**
Mixed Doubles: **Jenny Condick & Andy Williams**

Plate Winners 2023

Ladies Singles: **Anna Chalk**
Mens Singles: **David Wright**
Ladies Doubles: **Claire Arthur & Barbara Lewington**
Mens Doubles: **Alastair Reed & Dan Whitehead**
Mixed Doubles: **Alison Birch & Rob Lamble**

Vets Tournament Winners 2023

Ladies Singles: **Kirsten Williams**
Mens Singles: **Peter Morton**
Ladies Doubles: **Helen Marlow & Kerstin Williams**
Mens Doubles: **Tom Faulkner & Peter Morton**
Mixed Doubles: **Alison Birch & Rob Lamble**

Super Vets Tournament 2023

Ladies Singles: **Louise Blakeborough**
Mens Singles: **Rob Lamble**
Ladies Doubles: **Alison Birch & Helen Farmer**
Mens Doubles: **Phil Burton & Matt Stones**

Junior Tournament 2023

Mini Orange: **Edward Morton**
Mini Green: **Antoni Kurczyk**
Yellow Ball: **Lucas Bauer**
Rebecca Yu
Performance Group: **Miran Ipek**
Jessica Yu

VI. Estate Manager's Report

Court 7:

The main work this year has been to install the new court 7 which got delayed through Guildford Planning. The court was completed before Christmas with an artificial clay surface, as requested following member consultation. Thanks have been given to the contractor for the timely delivery.

Seeding of the grass area outside the court will be implemented in the spring, together with hedge screening of the bag of spare clay.

Members need to remember to

- 'drag' the court after play and,
- brush their shoes to avoid contamination with the artificial grass surface.

Maintenance:

During 2023 the fencing was repaired and the courts maintained.

In 2024, in addition to the normal running repairs and upgrades associated with the estate and the clubhouse, we will address:

- Potholes in the road – negotiations with Horizon Leisure and the Cricket Club are ongoing, including looking at how to limit our future liabilities.
- Court maintenance will continue to take place twice a year.
- Fence maintenance, as required.

New work planned:

This year, subject to costs, the committee plan to:

- extend the paved area outside the clubhouse towards the housing hedge line to provide space for seating between courts 1 & 7.
- install a path between courts 5/6 and 2/3 to provide safe, clean access to the mid-point gates for these courts, joining to the steps between them.

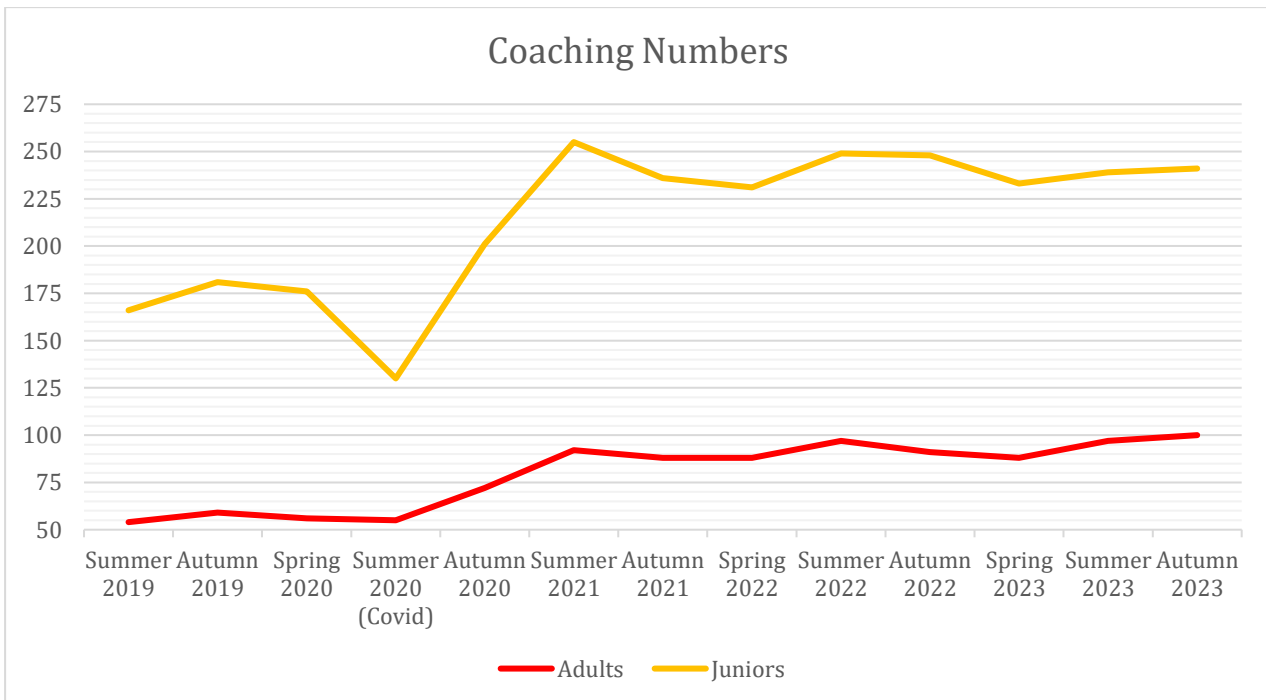
A longer term plan is being drawn up for the estate to cover:

- Replacement floodlighting to courts 4-6 and 1-3
- Refurbishment of the surface to courts 1-6.
- Fencing and security issues.

David Luscombe
Estates Manager

VII. Head Coach's Report

| | Adult places filled per week/ total adult places available per week | Junior places filled per week/ total junior places available per week | Total Number Attending Coaching |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| End Autumn Term 2023 | 100/111 | 241/262 | 341 |
| End Summer Term 2023 | 97/100 | 239/248 | 336 |
| End Spring Term 2023 | 88/95 | 233/250 | 321 |
| End Autumn Term 2022 | 91/99 | 248/254 | 339 |
| End Summer Term 2022 | 97/100 | 249/253 | 346 |
| End Spring Term 2022 | 88/98 | 231/244 | 319 |
| End Autumn Term 2021 | 88/93 | 236/249 | 324 |
| End Summer Term 2021 | 92/93 | 255/261 | 347 |
| Spring 2021 | No coaching as club closed due to Covid | | |
| End Autumn Term 2020 | 72/79 | 201/213 | 273 |
| End of Summer term 2020 (Covid affected) | 55/65 | 130/140 | 185 |
| End Spring term 2020 | 56/66 | 176/216 | 232 |
| End Autumn term 2019 | 59/72 | 181/204 | 240 |
| End Summer term 2019 | 54/72 | 166/180 | 220 |





I am delighted to let you know that the Autumn term 2023 term had our highest number of children /adults attending our fantastic coaching programme in an autumn term(341 players).

So the numbers just talk by themselves, we are doing brilliantly, keeping a great standard of coaching and no dropping in enthusiasm, motivation and dedication . We have a fantastic group of coaches currently working at Merrow LTC , from the most experienced (Cosmin) to the youngsters always eager to keep learning and improving (Shane and Luke) and also our fantastic assistant coaches Grace Faulkner and Hannah Morton.

One more year I am extremely happy to say that Merrow LTC is most probably the best tennis club in the area of Guildford and beyond.

Many thanks to the chairman, committee and members of Merrow LTC for their unconditional support and encouragement.

We are all very proud to belong to Merrow LTC.

Jorge - Head Coach

munoziorgemartin@yahoo.com

VIII. MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023-24

Summer 2023 was yet another strong team league season for Merrow with 12 teams in total in action across three different leagues. Despite some challenges, a rainy summer and several injured players, Merrow LTC had a good result overall, with most teams maintaining their position in their respective divisions. The first two men's teams in the Chaucer league, that were unfortunate last summer and got relegated, both did very well this summer, putting them back into the divisions they played in summer 2022. Our Woking 1 mixed team, that got promoted last year into Division 1 however faced very strong competition in this league and will be playing one division lower again the coming summer.

Below an overview of the **summer 2023 results** as well as a **preliminary overview of this winter season '23-'24**, which runs until the end of March.

Summer 2023

Woking league (midweek)

1. **Ladies A – Division 2** (captain Delia Searle): After summer 2022, Merrow requested to play in Division 2 with this team and Delia Searle took over the captainship from Jane Holmes. The team did well, ending in a respectable 4th position (out of 10); 12 ladies in total contributed to this result.
2. **Ladies B – Division 3** (captain Alison Faulkner): This lady's team was relegated to Division 3 based on last summer's results and ended in a very strong 3rd position this summer, just losing the 2nd position based on set average to Onslow and hence will play in Division 3 again this coming summer.
3. **Mixed A – Division 1** (captain Laura Sliney/Kerstin Williams): After being promoted back into Division 1 based on last summer's results, this team – led by Kerstin Williams who took over from Laura Sliney – had a very tough season, in a strong division 1 and was struggling to put together strong squads; this team ended in a 5th position out of 6th and will hence be playing in Division 2 again the coming summer.
4. **Mixed B – Division 4** (captain Sarah Luscombe): This mixed team ended in a respectable 4th position out of 11, thus maintaining its position in this division for the coming summer season.

Chaucer league (weekends)

1. **Men's 1 - Division 1** - (captain Adey Stell): After not having been able to maintain a position in the very strong Premier division last summer ('22), this team became champions in Division 1 and will therefore be competing again in the Premier division this coming summer. **Excellent result, congratulations to all those who played for this team and team captain Adey** who will be handing over the captainship to Alex McCulloch for the coming summer.
2. **Men's 2 – Division 2** (captain Richard Holberton): This team, that due to an unlucky situation couldn't maintain its position in Division 1 last summer '22, proved it belongs in Division 1 by coming 2nd behind a strong Dorking this summer and therefore will be back in Division 1 in the coming summer. **Congrats to the team & captain Richard.**
3. **Men's 2 – Division 2** (captain Phil Burton): The team came 5th in their division and will enter again in this division the coming season.

4. **Mixed 1 – Division 1** - (captain; Eugenia Wachters): Another season in this very strong division 1 and yet again the Merrow team came close to becoming champions but was beaten by the very strong Dorking team despite putting a strong team out ourselves; overall a very good result.
5. **Mixed 2 – Division 2** (captain Helen Marlow): A good result for this 2nd mixed team, coming third out of 6; some new male players have started playing for this team, great additions to the team.

Surrey League (weekends)

1. **Ladies 1 – Division 5 West** (captain Laura Sliney/Jenny Marlow): After a too easy first summer season in 2022 in Division 13, we were 'bumped up' to Division 5, which turned out to be very strong, a bit too strong for us, already somewhat handicapped by limited number players for this team with both Laura (pregnant) and Gill (injured) dropping out. This coming summer we'll hopefully find our 'right' level in this Surrey league.
2. **Ladies 2** (captain Amanda Miller): Another solid result for this team last summer, ending 3rd and thus consolidating their position in this division for the coming summer.
3. **Men's Vets 45+ – Division 2** (captain Jaz Woodward): Under the new captainship of Jaz, this team struggled again in this small but strong division and for this coming summer season, Merrow will request a place in the Vets 55+ for this team as all team members have now reached this age threshold 😊 (sorry gents).

Winter 2023-24 update

With just under two more months to go, the winter league season is well on its way, still a few more weeks to go until the end of March. Like last winter, we are competing in 2 different leagues with 10 teams (Woking league/8 teams and Surrey league/2 teams). For most teams it's too early to say where they will end as there are still quite a few matches to be played but Ladies A in the Woking league has good chances of becoming champions again - this would be the third winter in a row. Hopefully our 3 mixed teams can maintain, as all three are a bit close to the bottom at the moment (with Mixed A & B struggling for male players this winter).

Last but not least:

Team league play would not be possible without the help of all the **team captains** as well as **Alison Faulkner**, our club administrator, who takes care of all the court bookings and **Jo Bennett**, my loyal supplier of match balls: thank you all for the great work & collaboration!

Over the years, since I've been Match Secretary, Merrow has collected quite a few Championship certificates; we are currently looking to see whether these can be framed and displayed in our clubhouse to show off our Merrow team league performances.

If anyone is interested in league play and/or wants to know more, please do send me an email at e.wachters@hotmail.com or have a chat with me @Merrow!

Eugenia Wachters
Match Secretary

IX. Social Report

MLTC celebrated its centenary in 2023; it was an extremely busy and sociable 12 months with a Centenary Committee formed to plan and organise events throughout the year.

A Vintage Tournament was planned for the 23rd April to launch the centenary, and true to form the weather ensured it was postponed! The amazing centenary cake baked for the event by Amanda M was put in the freezer, and those planning to take part in the tournament put their vintage outfits away.

In June there was a fun Quiz night with tennis fast fours and curries supplied by Ashuka Tandoori together with the defrosted centenary cake which proved to many that freezing a decorated cake is feasible! The excellent quiz, based on events that took place during the decades of the last hundred years, was organised by Richard H.

The 1st July was the main event for the year with a party for over 200 in a marquee erected to make sure the rain could not interfere. Members and partners were served a glass of prosecco on arrival and seated at tables to feast on a hog roast, provided and served by local butcher F Conisbee & Son with a choice of puddings. Local band Belter played music that got everyone on the dance floor and George Abbot School pupils helped throughout the evening.

MLTC's young members and their parents had their own events with a tournament and BBQ on the 15th and 16th July. Unfortunately, the bouncy castle was cancelled due to the wind, but it did not prevent everyone from having fun throughout the day.

When the Vintage Tournament finally took place in the Autumn sunshine, the participants used wooden racquets, played with white tennis balls, and looked amazing with their outfits reflecting a different era. How did women play tennis in long skirts?

A Black-Tie Dinner at Guildford's County Club took place on the 11th November with guests enjoying a four-course dinner and unrecognisable out of their normal tennis attire. Entertainment was provided by the Surrey Fringe.

In December, the annual Christmas Lunch took place in a full club house. This was closely followed by the traditional mince pies and mulled wine after a Saturday Club Session, only this year the day also marked the opening of Court 7.

The events this year were all branded with a centenary logo, expertly designed by Bill M, and the venues decorated using the club's colours and, amongst other creative 'decs,' tennis balls in baubles on string and helium balloons. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the planning, organisation and promotion of the events particularly the Centenary Committee Ian C (Chair), Louise B, Catherine C, Philip C, Richard H and Jeff S, ably assisted by Alanna C, Laura M, Chris S, Eugenia W and Minglin Z, and of course to Alison F for her unwavering support and to all those members who attended and enjoyed the celebrations.



2024

Events for 2024 are already underway. A fun quiz hosted by Richard H was held on the 9th February with a waiting list of members wanting to attend and Simply Delicious provided the food. There will be another Quiz evening in October and a Volunteers "Thank You" drinks/nibbles social in April. A Summer Party in June/July is a possibility, and the young members will have a tournament and BBQ fun day in the summer.

Louise Blakeborough Ian Campbell
Social Co-ordinator Centenary Committee Chair

X. Election of Officers

The Officers of the Club are the President and a committee comprised of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to nine others and the Club Coach.

MLTC Club Officers current year (2023/24):

President: Ian Campbell

Chairman: Adrian Rees

Secretary & Estates Manager: David Clarke until July 23 (and then remained as a Committee member)

Treasurer: Jeff Saunders

General Committee:

Julie Dickson

Rachael Goodworth – Bar Manager

Julie Pearn – Welfare Officer and **Secretary from July 23**

James Tufts

Eugenia Wachters – Match Secretary

The nominations sheet for Committee Members is on the noticeboard in the clubhouse.

Also a Committee Member -

Head Coach: Jorge Martin Munoz