



**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

[welfareofficermmltc@gmail.com](mailto:welfareofficermmltc@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	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Membership subscriptions</b>	<b>86,135</b>	<b>80,073</b>	<b>82,852</b>	<b>41,944</b>	<b>65,125</b>
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
<b>Other income total</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>17,960</b>	<b>11,433</b>	<b>412</b>
Bar income	1,864	1,719	526	288	1,430
Bar purchases	-1,378	-1,209	-432	-238	-898
	<b>486</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>532</b>
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
	<b>2,782</b>	<b>6,785</b>	<b>14,028</b>	<b>3,565</b>	<b>8,520</b>
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME</b>	<b>89,995</b>	<b>87,733</b>	<b>114,934</b>	<b>56,992</b>	<b>74,589</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
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
<b>Premises total</b>	<b>15,708</b>	<b>11,467</b>	<b>7,038</b>	<b>14,287</b>	<b>90,403</b>
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
<b>Grounds total</b>	<b>163,964</b>	<b>24,632</b>	<b>14,846</b>	<b>12,569</b>	<b>6,154</b>
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
<b>Other expenditure total</b>	<b>34,042</b>	<b>21,287</b>	<b>27,741</b>	<b>16,864</b>	<b>14,089</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>213,714</b>	<b>57,386</b>	<b>49,625</b>	<b>43,720</b>	<b>110,646</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-123,719</b>	<b>30,347</b>	<b>65,309</b>	<b>13,272</b>	<b>-36,057</b>
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**

<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>	<b>31/12/2022</b>	<b>31/12/2021</b>	<b>31/12/2020</b>	<b>31/12/2019</b>	<b>31/12/2018</b>
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
<b>Total funds at start of year</b>	<b>221,202</b>	<b>190,314</b>	<b>124,845</b>	<b>110,516</b>	<b>145,459</b>	<b>130,477</b>
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		30,000	
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
<b>Total funds at end of year</b>	<b>100,859</b>	<b>221,202</b>	<b>190,314</b>	<b>124,845</b>	<b>110,516</b>	<b>145,459</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>						
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
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>100,859</b>	<b>221,202</b>	<b>190,314</b>	<b>124,845</b>	<b>110,516</b>	<b>145,459</b>

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 Merrrow 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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>725</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>+30</b>	<b>+4.1%</b>
<b>Adults</b>		<b>384</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>+20</b>	<b>+5.2%</b>
<b>Juniors</b>		<b>341</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>+2.9%</b>
<b>Adults with full court booking rights (incl. in total adults above)</b>		<b>291</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+1.4%</b>

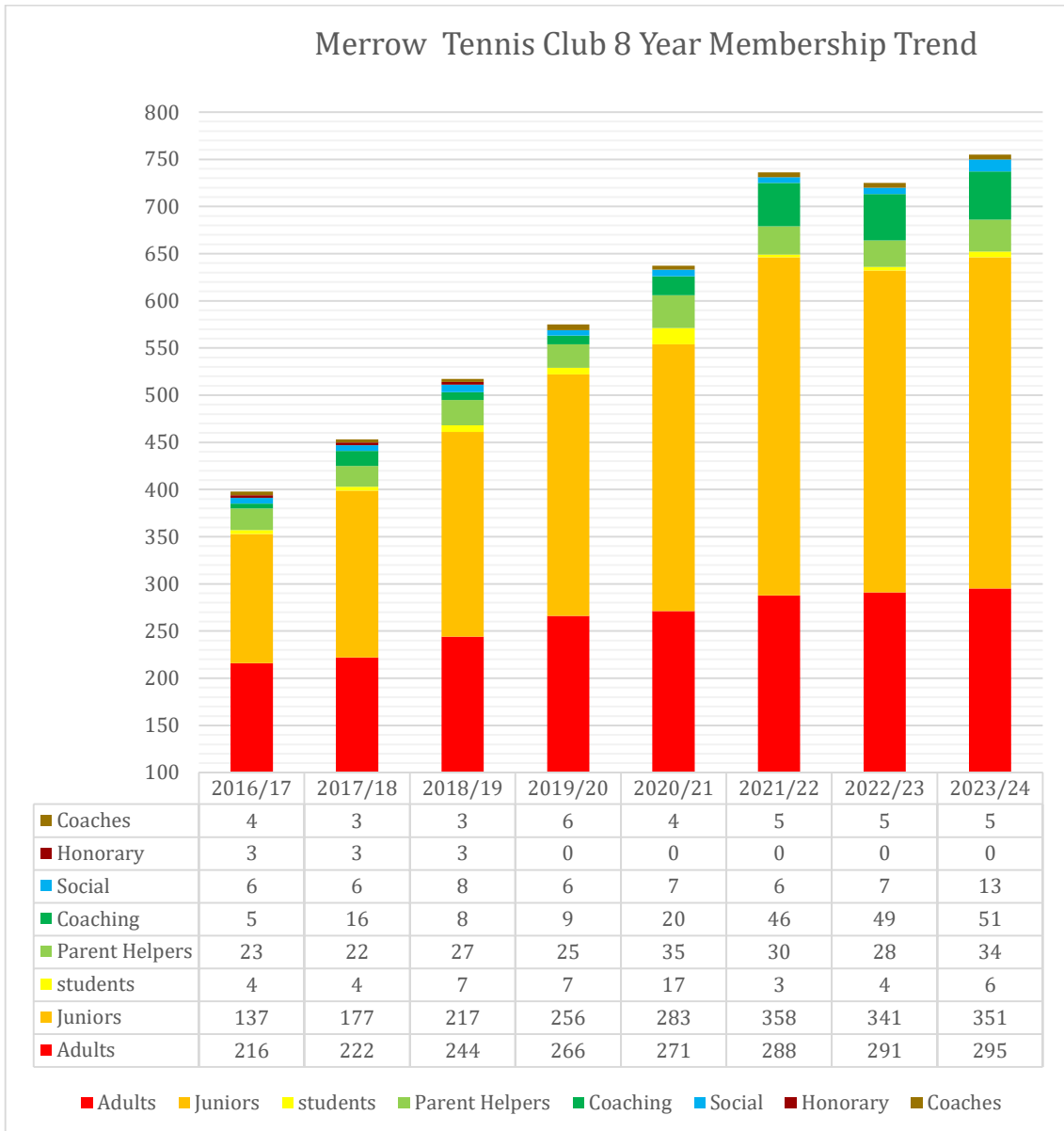
- A total of **132 members did not re-join on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023**, 47 Adults and 85 juniors. Of the 47 adults that did not rejoin, only **32 adult members** with full court booking rights did not re-join compared to 38 in 2022.
- Number of members that did not re-join in recent years:

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020
Senior Members	47	63	34	30
Junior Members	85	108	42	61
Total	132	171	76	91

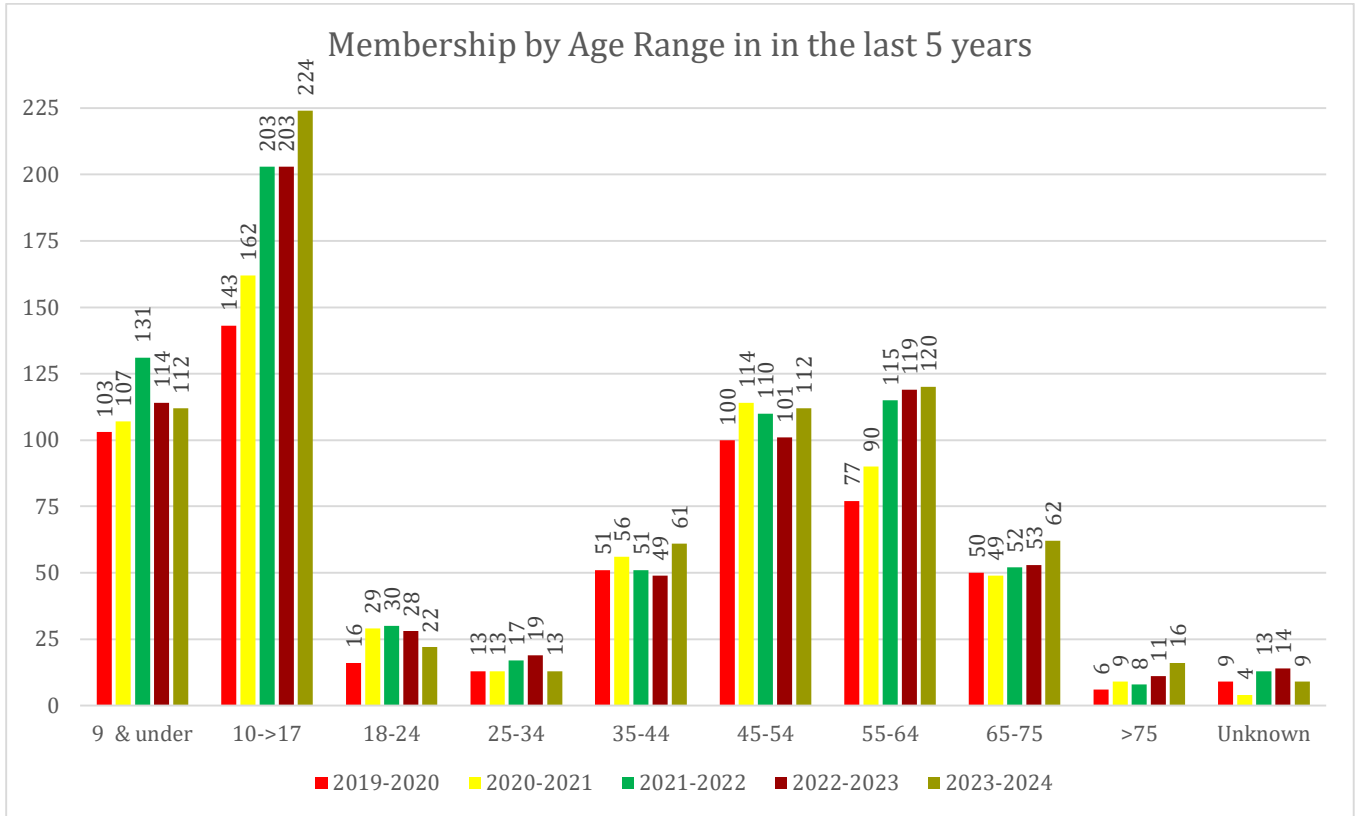
- Currently there are **100 adults** on the waiting list compared to 87 at this time last year. From experience, not everyone on the waiting list will still be interested in joining when they reach the top. Last year to replace 32 full adult members we offered membership to those up to 65 on the waiting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

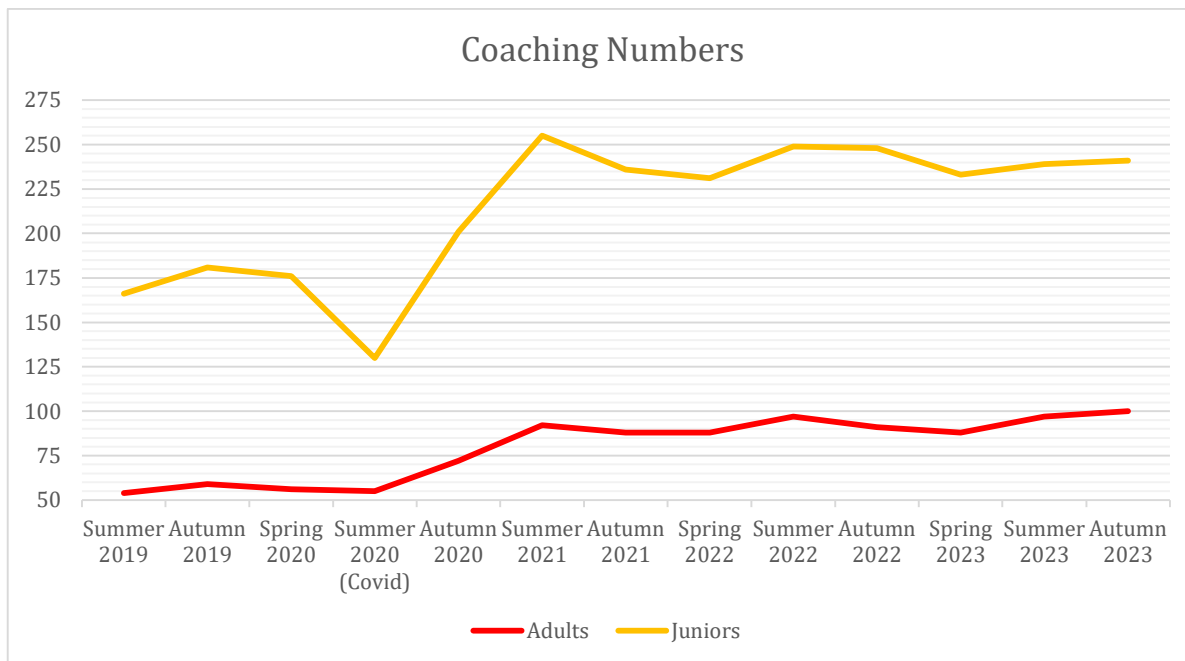
A longer term plan is being drawn up for the estate to cover:

- 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	<b>341</b>
End Summer Term 2023	97/100	239/248	<b>336</b>
End Spring Term 2023	88/95	233/250	<b>321</b>
End Autumn Term 2022	91/99	248/254	<b>339</b>
End Summer Term 2022	97/100	249/253	<b>346</b>
End Spring Term 2022	88/98	231/244	<b>319</b>
End Autumn Term 2021	88/93	236/249	<b>324</b>
End Summer Term 2021	92/93	255/261	<b>347</b>
Spring 2021	No coaching as club closed due to Covid		
End Autumn Term 2020	72/79	201/213	<b>273</b>
End of Summer term 2020 (Covid affected)	55/65	130/140	<b>185</b>
End Spring term 2020	56/66	176/216	<b>232</b>
End Autumn term 2019	59/72	181/204	<b>240</b>
End Summer term 2019	54/72	166/180	<b>220</b>







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 Morrow 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 Morrow LTC is most probably the best tennis club in the area of Guildford and beyond.

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

We are all very proud to belong to Morrow LTC.

**Jorge - Head Coach**

[munozjorgemartin@yahoo.com](mailto:munozjorgemartin@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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> position this summer, just losing the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> position out of 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Merrrow 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, Merrrow 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, Merrrow 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 Merrrow 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](mailto:e_wachters@hotmail.com) or have a chat with me @Merrrow!

**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