



ANNUAL REPORT

2020/21

Contents:	Page number:
President's report	2
Treasurer's report	3
Tennis report	6
Squash and Racketball report	8
Croquet report	9
Facilities report	9

President's Report

This is nominally the Club President's annual report for 2020 but in practice, it covers the past 14 months of activity since our last AGM in September 2020. Since then, we have been in and out of Covid-related restrictions, which impacted some members more than others, but we've largely managed to maintain 'business as usual' for much of the past six months. It is a testament to the hard work of the committee and staff that we have been able to enjoy the facilities as much as we have, and that the club has such a bright future.

There has been a great deal of change in the staffing of the office and backroom in the past few months. I would personally like to thank **John Fuller** for all the work he has done in various finance roles for 20 years, and wish him continued good health and fun playing tennis here for years to come. I also want to thank **Philip Torjussen** for his 10 years as General Manager of the club, for his ready smile and availability to members; we wish him and **Pamela** all the best in their life together following their wedding a few weeks ago.

Many of you will by now have met **Natalie Curtis**, who is getting up to speed with office administration. She and the new committee will be working on club management and growth tasks over the coming months and I'm sure members will join me in welcoming her and supporting her in the role. I'd also like to draw your attention to the success **Jo Bray** has made of her new role as Bar Manager whilst maintaining a first-rate catering service for the club. Thanks Jo and keep up the great work!

As you read through the enclosed reports, you will see that the club is in a very good situation both in terms of its facilities and its finances. One of the improvements under consideration, which you will be asked to vote on at the AGM, is the addition of padel tennis courts. Personally, I am excited at the prospect of future-proofing the club in this way, since padel is currently the fastest growing racket sport in the world. You will see more information about this proposal around the club and in various communications leading up to the AGM and I very much hope you will agree to support it.

You will also see that we have built up a significant sinking fund, or cash reserve, to fund future improvements. **Mark Groves** reports that it currently stands at approximately £500,000. To put that into context: preparing the underlying ground base and providing clay courts several years ago cost approximately £180,000; improvements to the clubhouse and squash area currently under consideration by the development sub-committee could involve a capital spend of between £150,000 and almost £1 million; and to develop courts 8-10 could involve a spend of many hundreds of thousands of pounds. Having the sinking fund is not simply a luxury, it is a necessity that gives us options and protects us from unforeseen expense without the need to ask members for additional funds. We have benefitted greatly from the leadership and oversight of Mark, **Andy Ewings** and **James Scully** to put us in this strong position.

As usual, we will be electing our committee at the AGM and you will see notices for committee member nominations circulating in due course. I'm grateful to **Rupert Larkin** for his significant contribution both as Tennis Secretary and as a member of the Covid Response team over the last two years. Also, many thanks are due to **Jean Wilson** for her long service on the committee in various roles. Neither Rupert nor Jean will be standing for re-election. I'd like to encourage all members to consider whether they could support the club by joining the committee for the coming year. All full, adult members are eligible and most welcome to put themselves forward. If you'd like to chat with me (07825 773757) or any current committee member about what is involved, please do so in the coming few weeks before nominations close on 9th November.

If you have a Resolution to propose, please submit it as soon as possible since any Resolution adds significantly to the work of the office in the lead up to the AGM. The deadline for submission is 26th

October. Everything you need for the AGM, together with updates for all activities, can be found in the following information pack. The meeting will be conducted both in person and via Zoom this year.

I hope you will join us at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 16th November.

Jeremy Goulding
11 October 2021

Treasurer's Report

This provides you with a report on the statutory accounts for 2020 for the AGM but also a brief update on our current position.

We have experienced the worst trading conditions that most of us can remember but I am pleased to report that we have weathered the storm through some sensible financial disciplines. We have been wisely counselled by **John Fuller** as our accountant not only over the last two turbulent years but over a 20 year period. With the retirement of John, we conducted a process to appoint new accountants which involved receiving quotes and meeting with three potential accountancy firms. We decided to re-appoint Fuller & Roper which is the practice that John was a partner in, thus hoping that there can be a seamless transition.

Our subscription income was down by 38% to £174k from £278k in 2019. There was a provision of £89k in 2020 to allow for the subscription rebates to members.

We did manage to secure a business support grant of £25k which is shown in Other Income. The category Other Sporting Income is mainly coaching fees and this income was down by 49 % from £36k to £18k.

The clubroom saw revenues of only £64k versus £159k in 2019. We made staff cost cuts and received £29k in furlough payments but even with staff savings and furlough monies we still suffered a loss of £22k, versus the loss in 2019 of £9k. In the first half of 2021 the loss was £5k so at least the losses are getting back to pre Covid levels.

In order to reduce the impact of this loss of revenues we have cut costs wherever possible. We reduced our administration costs by £30k and we reduced our General Costs by £8k and we reduced our facilities expenditure excluding maintenance by £8k.

We spent significantly more on sports and grounds and clubroom maintenance with an increase from £59k to £126k. This was largely driven by the upgrading of the changing rooms and corridors of £55k, residual expenditure on the bar refurbishment of £10k, £11k on a new boiler, £10k on painting of courts 8,9 and 10, £6k on a new front door and over £5k on the car park re-surfacing.

On the balance sheet, we have an interest free LTA loan which at the 2020 year end stood at £64k am pleased to report that at the end of 2020 our cash balance was £396k and by the end of June 2021 we had over £500k in the bank.

Over the last couple of years we have;

- Completely refurbished the changing rooms and corridors
- Given the bar a thorough facelift
- Replaced tennis courts 1 to 3
- Maintained all other tennis courts and the squash courts to a high standard

So despite Covid and some major capital expenditure we still have a very healthy bank balance so we need to think carefully about the financial future of the club.

Mark Groves
3 October 2021

LANSDOWN TENNIS, SQUASH & CROQUET CLUB LIMITED
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Subscriptions - playing		173,921		278,165
Other sporting income		18,418		35,570
Clubroom activities (net)		(21,866)		(9,033)
Other		28,975		5,443
		<u>199,448</u>		<u>310,145</u>
Expenditure				
Premises				
Business & water rates		3,511		6,881
Gas & electricity		14,771		22,805
Insurance		2,203		2,024
Cleaning & waste disposal		14,689		11,312
Sports & grounds maintenance		33,951		16,928
Clubhouse maintenance		92,134		39,981
		<u>161,258</u>		<u>99,931</u>
Staff				
Management & reception		40,785		70,255
Coaching		9,656		9,200
Recruitment & other costs		1,026		1,695
		<u>51,467</u>		<u>81,150</u>
General				
Affiliation & match fees		931		7,566
Licences & TV rental		1,309		2,035
Marketing		3,607		9,513
Postage & stationery		331		1,223
Telephone & computer		6,149		7,009
Audit & accountancy		9,800		9,800
Legal & professional		2,496		1,233
Bank charges & non recoverable VAT		21,771		14,179
Office & other		871		2,648
		<u>47,266</u>		<u>55,206</u>
Total expenditure		259,991		236,287
Surplus on general club activities		(60,543)		73,858
Bank interest received		589		1,150
Asset appropriations				
Depreciation		(49,193)		(50,670)
Reserves & grant release		18,000		18,000
Transfer (to)/from Sinking Fund		(20,000)		(20,000)
		(51,193)		(52,670)
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year		(111,147)		22,338
General reserve brought forward		299,075		276,737
Balance per Balance Sheet		<u>187,928</u>		<u>299,075</u>

**CLUBROOM INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020 £		2019 £	
Income				
Beverages	27,854		67,771	
Food & hot drinks	32,663		82,091	
Snacks	3,109		9,667	
	<u>63,626</u>		<u>159,529</u>	
Cost of sales				
Beverages	13,059		31,428	
Food & hot drinks	10,555		28,138	
Snacks	2,311		4,892	
	<u>25,925</u>		<u>64,458</u>	
Gross profit	37,701	59.3%	95,071	59.6%
Other income				
Clubroom hire & pool table	0		315	
Social events	1,363		4,764	
Non-playing subscriptions	1,002		2,506	
	<u>2,365</u>		<u>7,585</u>	
Direct costs				
Staff costs	54,654		103,517	
Other direct	7,278		8,172	
	<u>61,932</u>		<u>111,689</u>	
Result for the year	<u>(21,866)</u>		<u>(9,033)</u>	

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	£	£
Fixed assets		
Net book value	<u>295,864</u>	<u>345,057</u>
Current assets		
Stock & debtors	11,555	11,948
Cash & bank	395,665	389,996
	<u>407,221</u>	<u>401,944</u>
Current liabilities		
Creditors & accruals	<u>(117,119)</u>	<u>(45,089)</u>
LTA loan	<u>(63,600)</u>	<u>(70,400)</u>
Net assets	<u>522,365</u>	<u>631,512</u>
Reserves		
Property replacement reserve	180,000	198,000
General reserve	187,928	299,076
	<u>367,928</u>	<u>497,076</u>
Sinking fund / Designated reserve	154,436	134,436
	<u>522,365</u>	<u>631,512</u>

The figures shown above are extracted from the Statutory Accounts and may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Club. For further information the full Annual Accounts should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from the Club Office.

Chairman: A J Ewings

Original Agreed and Signed on 20 May 2021

Treasurer: M J Groves

Tennis Report

It has been a great year of tennis at Lansdown against the backdrop of the continuing pandemic. Brian Levine has acted as Tennis Secretary for the last three months since newly-appointed Men's Doubles champ Rupert Larkin stood down. Brian is ably assisted by Chris Bannister, Eleanor Bird, James Scully, Vivienne Maddox and Jeremy Labram, plus men's captain Seth Cunningham, holder of men's singles, doubles and mixed titles, the closest we have to a Lansdown Grand Slammer. Our primary objective is unchanged: the provision of social, accessible and inclusive tennis for all members, regardless of playing standard. It has been great to see members taking advantage of what we have on offer, so please do get involved and all ideas are welcome – just ask any of us on the tennis committee and we'll be glad to help!

New Astro Turf on Courts 1-3

This was one of the biggest projects we took on over the past 12 months, researching various surface and supplier options and installing the courts in late April. We're very pleased with the resulting surface - Tiger Turf Advantage Pro - a high-quality surface for many years to come.

Clay Court rejuvenation

More recently we've undertaken rejuvenation work on the clay courts: rotobrushing and deep cleaning over two separate days. This will prolong the life of the courts and improve drainage. You may have noticed excess sand on the courts after this process, but this was simply due to the compacted sand underneath being rotobrushed, as no additional sand was added.

Coaching: Tennis Improvement Programme and Blue Sky Tennis

The coaching programme at the Club continues to be run by Blue Sky, led by Tom Therrien, giving the Club access to his team's coaching expertise. Our contract with Blue Sky Tennis expires in early 2022 and the Committee is following best practice, as advised by the LTA, in order to ensure that the Club, and its coaching provider, get the most out of the relationship. Best practice indicates that we should put the coaching provision of the Club out to tender, but clearly Blue Sky and Tom, as the current incumbents and with a wealth of Lansdown experience, stand in pole position to continue delivering for the Club. The Committee will provide further news as and when available.

Clubplay and social tournaments

The Club Mixer sessions introduced during Covid have gone so successfully that they have been retained rather than reverting to old-style Clubplay, even as Covid restrictions lift. These provide social doubles, rotating players through courts at regular intervals to ensure good social mixing and a variety of game experience. The sessions now run on a Tuesday evening (two sessions – Mellow, for a more "relaxed" experience and Mighty, for more of a team-standard but still highly social tennis experience), Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon. If you haven't yet tried a Mixer, do come along and join in the fun – information and sign-up is available on a Google Sheet accessed via www.lansdownclub.co.uk/ClubMixer

Social tournaments have been paused since Covid struck, but there was a tennis tournament as part of the Welcome Back party, which was great fun. The "end of summer league" Team Evening was great fun and many thanks to James Scully for organising—there was a great turnout.

Teams

Lansdown has a number of teams in various winter and summer leagues, offering members a chance to play friendly but competitive tennis against nearby clubs. Our teams are open to all members and we are always hopeful for new players so if you are interested in team tennis then please contact either Seth Cunningham (Men's Captain) or Jess Fullman (Ladies Captain) who will be delighted to get you involved.

We had two teams in the Avon Winter Friendly league but this came to an abrupt end almost as soon as it started due to lockdown. The 1sts and 2nds were doing well in their divisions and look forward to resuming

for the 2021/22 season. In the Avon LTA 2021 Summer League the Men's 1sts scorched to promotion to Division 1 and the Men's 2nds held their own in Division 2, almost joining the firsts. The Men's 3rds finished strongly, beating teams 10-0 that they'd previously lost to 10-0, but regrettably their late surge wasn't enough to avoid relegation from Division 4 to Division 5. The Men's Fourths held their own admirably in Division 8.

The Ladies 1st and 2nd teams did well to retain their positions in divisions 2A and 3B – there are 7 divisions in total so both teams are at a high level. Eleanor Bird started the season as captains for both teams, talent-spotting new members at Mighty Mixer and drawing them in gradually to the 2nd team. Eleanor then focussed on Mixers and Singles Boxes and the reins for the 1st team were picked up by Jess Fullman, with Joan McLoughlin stepping up to assist with the 2nd team by the end of the season.

Teams were also fielded in the Chippenham & District Tennis League Summer 2021, Ladies A&B (Penny Gibson & Clare Martland), Ladies C (Sarah Toogood), Mens' (Nick Smith) who got promoted from Division 5 to Division 4 and Mixed Doubles (Alison Cooper). Last but not least, junior teams thrived under the expert tutelage and stewardship of Tom Therrien, who also organised the successful junior tournament in September 2021.

Next up for the teams is training, which should resume shortly, with some exciting new players coming through and then of course the Winter League 2021/22 begins again, Covid-permitting.

Singles Box Leagues

The Box leagues continue to thrive, coordinated by Eleanor Bird, as she has done since 2017. Recently resuming after a break for the Club Tournament there are now a record number of 107 players spread over 19 boxes (A-S). The Boxes are a great opportunity to stretch your legs with friendly singles matches so why not sign up today? Contact Eleanor Bird on landowntennisboxes@outlook.com if you fancy some good fun games with players your own standard!

Club Tournament

The 2021 tournament, superbly-run by Jeremy Labram, was blessed with excellent weather for Finals Day. The ten finals provided highly entertaining and competitive tennis all day with over half the matches being really close encounters. With 420 entries and 449 matches played over eleven weeks, well done to everyone for making this happen. Seth Cunningham did the triple, but new faces picked up titles and contested finals, notably new members Tamsin Sandy who got to the ladies singles final, pipped at the post by Nicola Maddox, Miles Edmeston, who won the men's seniors singles and doubles (with Jeremy Du Toit) and Godfrey Evans (ranked no.8 in the UK in his age group) in the men's veterans.

More familiar faces made a resurgence: Tim Markall and Sara Latif narrowly lost out to Seth and Jess Fullman in the mixed, and there was a tightly-contested ladies doubles final match out on far-flung court 4, late in the day, eventually won by Marjan van Gelderen and Sophie Andell over three sets. Congratulations to Karen King for sneaking into the senior ladies singles and edging past Debbie Bradley and it was good to see top coach Simon Blakeley team up for the men's doubles final with Tim Calvert-Jones, losing out to Seth and Rupert. The presentations were made by Bath's own top rugby star, Francois Louw. The junior tournament run by Blue Sky was also a resounding success and a full report on this will appear elsewhere.

Final thought

Despite a challenging year, we're well-placed to offer all members a fantastic playing and social experience, and, as we head into autumn with 2022 around the corner, everyone on the tennis committee looks forward to seeing everyone on (and off) court. The LTA thinks of Lansdown in the same breath as the West Hants LTC and East Gloucs Club, each of which have 30+ courts (including grass) and each of which stage national tournaments. So Lansdown is definitely punching above its weight and we would like to thank everyone at the Club for helping to make this happen and for making it a fun and rewarding place to be. Here's to 2022!

Squash and Racketball Report

Covid Overview

Since the last AGM, a significant period has been spent facing Covid restrictions, preventing squash and racketball activities. There has been a mix of full court closure, 'socially distanced' squash in the form of condition games, and full court squash. This affect has been felt even more heavily for squash than tennis due to government guidelines.

An initiative was launched through a 'welcome back' pack to make up for a section of the extra court closure time. This included some free squash equipment (balls and grips), and some heavily subsidised squash lessons with Elite Squash, which at the time was the only squash activity allowed outside solo practice or within a household. 68 members took up this offer in some form, making the most of the opportunity to get back on court as soon as possible.

Resumption of full activities

Squash activities were allowed to resume almost fully from mid-May, and all usual club activities have been restarted. Club play on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and Sundays first required registers to meet the capacity limits to comply with maximum capacity around the courts. At team level, a full Summer League has now been completed, and the Mixed Autumn and Ladies Autumn leagues have both restarted. Lansdown have entered 4 mixed and 1 women's team, the same as before Covid and are looking to continue the high standard set before the pandemic.

Squash box leagues were restarted after a short delay to allow players to get into playing. There are 11 boxes of 4 players in each, with a high volume of matches being played in most of the boxes. These are now run by John Welton and I, taking over from Andy Christie, who the club would like to thank once again for running the boxes for so many years. Andy does run the racketball boxes, which have also restarted and have 13 active players split up in 3 boxes.

A welcome back event was held in September, which involved a 3 hour tournament, dividing members into 6 teams of 4 players and playing some social but highly competitive matches over the course of the afternoon. The club also took part in the England Squash Ladies Week with an event on the 19th of September.

Juniors

There are 40 active junior players at the club, ranging from 6 to 18 years old and of a variety of ability levels. This has been a good return of junior player after the pandemic. Squads are run on Wednesday evening and Saturday mornings, with a new session for 6-9 year-olds added which has 6 new young players.

On Sunday the 29th of September, the club hosted the Avon Junior Count Closed, bringing 40 of the county's best players to compete for the county titles in their age categories. Lansdown had 12 players take part in the event, recording three 3rd place finishes, 2 runner ups and 3 winners! Massive congratulations to all Lansdown's juniors taking part, and in particular **Emanuel Cox** (BU13), **Isaac Hall** (BU17) and **Annie Noyce** (GU17) for their wins!

The next major junior event at Lansdown will be an England Squash tournament on the 19th of March 2022.

Coaching Contract

The coaching contract with Elite Squash will expire at the end of 2021. An RFP has been advertised, and we are following a timeline to secure a new contract before 2022.

Facilities

Heaters were installed on courts 2 and 3, in a similar arrangement to those on courts 1 and 4. Thank you to Dave Barnes for organising this. Ironically, they were installed during a summer heatwave, but these will prove beneficial over the upcoming colder months and will also help move away from members preferring to play on courts 1 and 4. The courts have been maintained as usual, please get in touch with the committee if there are any comments on court conditions.

Sub-Committee

A squash sub-committee has been created to support the squash secretary with club activities. We have had several catch ups sharing ideas, with the intention of allowing the club to organise more frequent and better activities and events. If you are interested in supporting squash and racketball then please get in touch!

*Mark Radley
4 October 2021*

Croquet Report

This year our membership has increased by eleven new players, seven are new to The Club and four are from the tennis section. Sadly, we have lost two of our long-standing members and two more have been forced to retire due to health reasons. So we have a net increase of seven, which is more than I have experienced in any one year.

The refurbishment to the existing infrastructure of the croquet area was completed this year with the replacement of broken paving slabs around the croquet hut. All play will cease in mid-October for routine lawn maintenance, which normally takes about six weeks. This year special attention will be given to the damaged part of the lawn and to the area where, for years, the lawn has not grown properly.

There were no interclub matches this year due to Covid. Some of the clubs we usually play have been closed for most of the year. Many of our members are on the 'high risk' register so very sensibly they are taking no unnecessary chances.

Croquet is an ideal sport for playing outdoors with social spacing, which has allowed some internal events to take place. The last event of the year was the Men's Singles final that was watched by large crowd of members and was won by David Owen, one of our longest standing members. The afternoon was completed with tea and a slice of Jo's delicious cake.

*Howard Grove
30/09/2021*

Facilities (Grounds and Clubhouse) Report

Introduction.

Again, another unprecedented year. Covid19 has dragged on and at one stage it looked like it was in for another year. "But" change has come and we are gradually returning to a normal way of life, "as it used to be". Let's be optimistic and plan as a club for a better and more enterprising future.

Every day running of the club.

Robust procedures in place to meet our statutory compliance obligations.

Maintenance contracts in place for Mechanical / Electrical (ME) services.

External / Internal inspection of the building carried out yearly, urgent work addressed, report filed.

Major works.

Club Main Entrance:

- New Access Control Barrier installed (insurance claim).
- Entrance resurfaced.

- New safety footpath established around Barrier.
- New security Lighting installed.
- New landscaping.

Squash Courts 1 and 4:

- New radiant heaters installed.
- New Extraction fans installed.

Tennis Courts:

- New automatic programmable time clock installed (main board) for all floodlight courts. Preset for coming on and switching off.
- Courts 1, 2 and 3 replaced with new surface.
- Maintenance completed on clay courts 4 to 8.

Forward Looking Works to Enhance the Facilities.

- Quote received for pollarding the large goat willow in the car car park.
- Move refuge bin area and re-establish on opposite side of car park.
- Quotes awaiting for re surfacing of terrace area around club building.
- Quotes awaiting for replacing lounge windows, which are in poor condition (this will give us a good idea of the cost if we have to replace).
- Quotes awaiting for Awning, south side lounge area, better outside experience for members.

All of the above to be sanctioned by the committee.

Conclusion.

Again, another unprecedented year “YES” but with all of us working together I believe, as I'm sure all members do, as well, we will come through these trying times stronger and more positive.

David Barnes
29-9-2021