

AGM 14th October 2013. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Tennis Year runs from October to October the AGM acting as a marker.

Over the last 12 months a lot has happened from the arrival of the "Spin Doctor" aka Ball machine, as well as visiting tennis stars Tim, Gorvan, John, Tom and Mark, the first ever Grange Racketlon, fantastic team results and the start of the Racquet Development.

Tennis Rules of Does and Don'ts have been updated. The Committee hopes all members familiarise themselves with them especially with regards to footwear, guests and booking courts.

Tennis Membership has fluctuated throughout the year, however, there has been a noticeable net increase in membership. At present there are 250 adult members.

The Junior tennis section has remained strong with an average of 40 members throughout the year. 5 Junior teams participated in the East Scotland Junior Leagues this season. Thank you to David Gibson the Junior and Grange Coach.

Thank you Lee and Tom the Groundsmen and to Neil Ross for overseeing the maintenance and development of all the Tennis courts throughout the year.

Thank you to Neil Ross for instigating and looking after the Ball Machine, which resides in the "kennel" beside current court 7.

In January 2013, Members were asked to complete a questionnaire focusing on likes, dislikes and wishes for the Tennis section and the Grange Club. This has helped the Committee to address any issues and to further develop the section. A similar questionnaire will be repeated again in January 2014.

April 2013, the Tea Hut was spring-cleaned and the Grass courts were declared open to what was to be a spectacular summer of tennis.

The season began with the Gents and Ladies Doubles Championships. This was a trial due to suggestions throughout the past years that the timetable for all the matches to be played in August was tight. However, the feedback received and notes taken of the trial has now resulted in the decision to revert back to all Championship matches being played during August.

The Grass Social season was also busy with a variety of fun tournaments being played. I would like to thank all those members who helped to organise and run some of these events. Heather Anderson will summarise all the events, organisers and winners in the Social Report.

May saw the start of the Ladies and Gents Doubles East Scotland League matches.

Var Mitchell and Stephen Davey successfully captained the teams.

To summarise, the Men's First Team were first and promoted to Division 3, the Seconds were second and promoted to Division 4 and the Thirds, captained by Mark Atkinson were third and remain in Division 8, just missing promotion by set difference.

The Ladies First Team was promoted to play in the East of Scotland Premiere Division next season. The Seconds captained by Lindsay MacDonald are promoted to Division 3. The Thirds captained by Sally Cownie will remain in division 5.

The Captain's reports are to be found on the Grange tennis website.

It has been encouraging to note many new members participating in the teams and the committee appreciates the time and effort of the captains to achieve these outstanding results and the challenges they face, from cajoling members to play and due to the increasing strength and quality of players to give everyone a fair chance to play as well as to select a potentially winning team.

Not only do the Grange Dyvours members participate in the East Scotland Doubles League. The Club also participated in the Gents and Ladies East Scotland Single League, Pringle Cup (Lucy Manico and Stephen Lucas) and East Scotland Mixed Doubles Summer League.

To celebrate the Teams success a Team Dinner was held on July 7th in the Long Room.

June was an especially exciting and fun month for tennis at the Grange. For a few days between 20th – 23rd a total of 7 tennis super stars visited and played on our superb courts – here is just a reminder of who they were: Tim Henman, Mikael Pernfors, Thomas Enquist, Carlos Moya, Mark Philippoussis, Goran Ivanisevic and John McEnroe. Sadly, Greg Rusedski and Wayne Ferriera did not play at the Grange this year. However, some members were lucky enough to play with Mark Philippoussis and Goran Ivanisevic and many more watched them play at the ATP Championship being held in Stockbridge.

Thank you to Viki Mendellson for making this event possible. Thank you to Chris Close who was able to take some superb photographic shots of the players and yourselves and his photographs are displayed in the Club House.

June ended with the Strawberry Cup, themed "Coronation". Thank you again to Stephen Harris and Norman Gibson for organising the competition and to those who participated and dressed regally for the occasion in more ways than one. Douglas Lowe, Chairman of the Grange Trustees, presented the Strawberry Cup and fancy dress prizes.

After a superb summer of tennis Final's Night on 7th September celebrated the success of the Championship players and winners.

September 9th saw the start of the Racquets Development with the last match to be played on Court 3 as we know it on 8th Septemeber.

While we might lament at the loss of a unique grass court. The Section hugely welcomes a new 4th All Weather Court and it is exciting to see so much progress already being made. Thanks to the Grange General Committee for all their hard work, diligence and vision for making the Racquets Development a reality and to Neil Ross for overseeing the specific necessary Tennis requirements.

This season we have seen an improvement in the distribution and advertising of tennis information through the new style newsletters. Thank you to Antonia Lee-Bapty for her patience and expertise in editing and formatting the attractive newsletters.

Thank you too to Fenella Kerr for helping to edit the posters, which have appeared in the Stockbridge Spotlight magazine, advertising the Tennis Section as well as the Grange Club. While we have no specific numbers on how many members join due to the advert I am confident the advert highlights our existence and promotes new members throughout the year.

Grange Tennis hoodies were also worn for the first time this season. Thank you to Var for organising the supply and distribution of the Ladies hoodies and to Alfredo Sulser lately for collating the Gents' orders. Not only are the Grange Tennis Hoodies warm and cosy they help advertise our Club.

Thank you to Colin MacBrayne for administering the Ropey Ladder.

Thank you to Debbie O'Connor for administering and continually updating the Grange Tennis website.

Thank you to all those members who have provided Sunday Teas throughout the Season. They are always beautifully presented, tasty and a welcoming part of the Grange Club.

Thank you to Heather Anderson, Elspeth Bridges, David Gillespie, David Jones and Neil Ross who have given their time and expertise throughout the year on the Committee. It is important to highlight their commitment to making the Tennis Section run smoothly, organize competitions, events and make sure we have the best possible courts. And not forgetting you the members for making the Club fun, competitive and attractive for present and potential members.

Thank you.

Anne Bradbury

President 2012/13

Grange Dyvours LTC

Monday 14th October 2013.