

## PRESIDENTS REPORT 2009

### Open Day

Our season began with the Open Day on Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments were arranged by Sandra, Sheila and Aenea. Aenea was on hand to receive subscriptions and allocate keys to members. The court padlock was changed, and a few hardy members braved a chilly wind to hit some balls about.

### Publicity

A big thank-you to Aenea for composing publicity fliers and the various welcoming and informative posters displayed around the courts. And another great big thank-you to Nicola Harper who managed to print 2,000 of the fliers to advertise club membership and distribute them to all the schools in the area. Nicola also tried to arrange some lovely summer weather.....but she wasn't quite so successful there ! Alex found the "Leader" in Stonehaven very willing to print news and pictures, and Sandra has a hotline to the Clochandichter.

### Portlethen Tennis Club Website

Aenea must be congratulated again for setting up the club website and keeping it up to date with news, events, results and pictures. I hope everyone is using it regularly.

### Club Championships

The committee met on May 7<sup>th</sup> to make the draw for the annual championships. It was decided to try a round robin format for the ladies and mens doubles. This has allowed us to get winners despite the fact that fixtures were not completed. Once again members have let themselves and others down by not picking up the phone to arrange a match. Nevertheless, most of the matches went ahead. Congratulations to all the winners !

### Attracting Junior Members

Thanks to Steve Davidson for arranging matches and coaching for juniors. Steve will give more details about this later. Thanks to Aenea for coming out on Sunday afternoons to supervise the tournaments and thanks to Nicola for liaising with Fishermoss to set up use of the courts during their Health Week.

### Court Maintenance

At last year's AGM Alex had a good moan about lack of support from the council regarding the replacement of floodlight bulbs. Then Councillor Paul Melling took up our case. Suddenly at the end of March a double gate appeared on court 2 as well as a small gate between the courts. Council workers then could gain access to the pylons with a cherry picker and the bulbs were replaced. Well done Paul !

The committee decided steps had to be taken to repair the perimeter fence to keep out non-paying intruders. Jim Harper volunteered to drill fixings to the wall to clasp on to the wire. Martin Walsh assisted.

Thanks to the regular squad of daytime players including Gordon, Les, Randall, Martin and Alex who kept the courts swept, trimmed the hedge and picked up bags of litter.

## Planning for the Future

As we know the Bowling Club took the initiative some years ago in an effort to lease the pavilion and bowling green from the council. The council wished the Tennis Club to be involved in the negotiations and plans were drawn up to redevelop the pavilion to suit both clubs. Since the summer, however, the Bowling Club has made it clear that it does not want to be involved with the lease of the tennis courts.

A meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July attended by Steve Welsh, Community Leisure Team Leader, Councillor Paul Melling, Aenea, Martin and Alex. It was agreed if the Tennis Club leased the courts from the council, the council was responsible for handing over the courts in first-class condition. After an inspection of the courts Steve Welsh undertook to see to making good the boundary fence, installation of CTV, and refurbishing the playing surface.

A further meeting was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 attended by the same parties. Steve Welsh presented us with two estimates for upgrading the surface of the courts. It was suggested that there may be some financial assistance from the council but this could not be promised at present. A considerable amount of money would have to come from grants and club funds. Paul melling made it clear that he is ambitious for the club and he is very keen to see top class tennis facilities in Portlethen.

After another inspection of the courts Steve Welsh agreed that the fence had not been fixed and that he will see to it. He also mentioned the value of CTV but made no promises about its installation.

The new committee will have to decide on the best way forward.

Thanks

We must thank the Bowling Club for allowing us to use the pavilion for meetings and hospitality we offer to visiting teams.

Finally I must thank Sandra, our secretary, Aenea our treasurer, committee members, and everyone in the club for their contribution to the 2009 season.