



Dear Members

Firstly, may I say that I am honoured to be President and that I am looking forward to working, with the committee, to build upon the steps taken by John Wilson and previous committees to move the club forward.

Our focus points have to be:

- The New Clubhouse and playing surface
- Increasing Membership
- Increasing junior membership and participation
- Increasing the social life of the Club
- Increasing member participation in competitions and tournaments.

New Clubhouse

As we look forward to a new tennis season we are delighted to be in a position to confirm that the long awaited new clubhouse and resurfacing programme will be started and indeed completed!

Planning permission has been granted and funding of £50,000 has been awarded by Sportscotland.

The funding is however dependant on a couple of alterations to our constitution and so an EGM has been called for 23 March – formal notification is enclosed.

Copies of the plans and of the timetable for the development are on display in the clubhouse and on the website www.troontennis.org.uk

The hope is that we can receive a building warrant in time to allow work to commence in May and to be completed no later than October. The committee recognizes that this is during the main playing season but believe that to delay any longer would increase costs and that with 4 courts available we should be able to maintain service as normal.

This is an opportunity for us to create a fit for purpose clubhouse to be enjoyed by all members. To make the most of this opportunity we really need to increase the funds available. There will be a further mail drop advising you how you can contribute. I would also ask that if you can offer any practical help in raising funds that you contact me or any of the committee members. May I also take this opportunity to thank those of you have already pledged to contribute.

Membership

The committee intends to make further use of the local press and our own website to attract new members. It is hoped that by raising the profile of the club adults and juniors will be more inclined to come along and see what we have to offer.

We will also be running an Open Day which not only provides an opportunity to play but is an introduction to the social aspect of the club. Please come along to help welcome new members and get together with club mates.

Junior Membership and Participation

Russell and Graham continue to carry out sterling work in attracting children from local schools to attend their junior coaching programmes which will run throughout the season starting with an Easter Holiday Camp in April (see notice board and website for full details)

We still, however, have difficulty in retaining kids beyond primary school and feel that they need more than coaching sessions. We really need parent/adult member assistance to organise and supervise regular playing time. If you can help in any way please contact the committee.

Increasing the Social Life of the Club

Thanks to the enthusiasm and handwork of Julie, Pauline and Jayne the club has enjoyed a variety of enjoyable social gatherings and I know they are planning many more.

Details will be posted on the notice board and website but look out for:

The open day on 25 April – this will be the last event to be held in the old clubhouse so please come along and enjoy the tennis glass of wine!

Another Ceilidh on 29th May in the South Beach Hotel.

Increasing Member Participation in Competitions and Tournaments

The club will be entering 2 gents and 2 ladies teams in the league this year. All teams need a large pool of players in order to field 3 couples every week for the 10 week season. Please contact committee if you are interested in playing.

As always there will be competition days and the club championships to enjoy over the summer months. Unfortunately these have not been particularly well supported in recent years and I am keen to see some new faces. It is important that such events are open to all members. These events also have a social element to them so even if you don't reach the finals you can come along and watch while enjoying a glass of wine!

Why not come along to Russell's coaching sessions and improve not only your tennis but your confidence! The sessions are relaxed and are also great fun. See website and notice board for dates and times.

We are facing a lot of upheaval this year but it will be worth it when we have our new clubhouse and a vibrant club life, both on and off the courts.

Enjoy your tennis!

Linda Crawford
Club President