

ATLANTIC RACQUET CENTRE

AGM – 6th DECEMBER 2017

St Margaret's School

This past year has seen significant developments across both the build project and the delivery of coaching throughout the local area.

The building is now a watertight shell ready for specialist contractors to complete the internal fit. The indoor tennis courts will be ready for play in January next year. The outdoor courts have been resurfaced under warranty and will be repainted in spring 2018.

The building project has been and continues to be led by Andy Lobato. The trustees are very grateful to Andy for the work on this project and for the support he has given us throughout the year.

As ever we are constrained financially, the trustees have put a huge amount of effort into applying to the LTA initiative Transforming British Tennis Together to secure further grant funding. This has involved a complete rewrite of our business plan together with all the associated financial data; much of this work has been completed by Anoushka who must be thanked for the skill and time she has given the project this year. Dave Vinall has also worked particularly hard with his dealings with members of the LTA, regionally and nationally, he has even managed to secure visits from the outgoing and current Presidents of the LTA.

This work began in the early part of the year and was finally submitted toward the end of summer. We will not know whether we are successful or not until the end of December at the earliest, we are hopeful that we will secure a grant of £365,000. If we are successful work will commence on the clubhouse end of the building.

We have begun to forge a good relationship with Torridge District Council and received a grant that has paid for half the lighting for the indoor courts; another grant has recently been approved for £30,000 which will be put toward the internal fit.

We have been fortunate this year in attracting three further trustees; Mary and Malcolm Harris, both having a background in the leisure industry and, Neil Darnley who brings a wealth of experience in building services, particularly on the Mechanical and Electrical side. All three have worked extremely hard this year and provided the trustees with much needed support and widened our skill base considerably.

Work on the trading side of ARC has risen considerably as the coaching programme continues to flourish. Tom Vinall's enthusiasm and capacity for the delivery of coaching both off and on site is reflected in the ever-increasing numbers of youngsters receiving coaching. Unfortunately, Patrick Wilson left us this year, but I am delighted to say that our misfortune subsequently led to the appointment of Lottie Koval as Community Coach. We have also recently appointed Tom Poole as a trainee coach. All three positions are full time and demonstrate the increase in coaching delivery. The feedback we receive regarding the coaching, including those who are not full time, has always been very positive and a credit to those involved.

As we transition toward the new facility it is apparent that we are running what is now a small business that will mushroom as we open more facilities and increase participation among the local community. In time we will employ more people to manage this but for the moment this work falls

to the trustees, particularly in this case Sarah Powell, who has worked hard throughout the year to ensure things do run smoothly and keep the trustees aware of how we are doing on the trading side.

As we look to the future it is apparent there remains a huge amount of work. If we are successful in our TBTT bid to the LTA we will look to employ a General Manager in the new year whose ultimate responsibility will be to work with the trustees in managing the centre. Attempting to recruit a suitable candidate before the completion of the centre will bring in skills and knowledge as well as a resource to carry out identified work. It is also an opportunity for a GM to put his/her stamp on the centre and have input at what we consider a vital stage. The trustees, as ever, have taken a positive view on our application and recently advertised to fill this post.

As we go into the new year there is a great deal to look forward to, but we are aware that there is a reliance on the TBTT grant. Without it we will have to look at how we can fund the remaining part of the building, not an inconsiderable task. When we know the result of our application members will be informed.

Martin Morris - Trustee