

**Annual General Meeting
 Wednesday, September 30th 2026
 At the Clubhouse**

Present:

Robert Bell	Martin Collins	Steve Coppard	Andrew Coveney
Adam Desai	Colin Fletcher	Jean Froggatt	Grahame Gargini
Tony Gratton	Heather Green	Steve Green	Angela Henry
Dave Hughes	Oliver Jones	Rob Lathbury	Andy Last
Rachel Lockwood	Andrea Lockett	John Matthews	Colin Morris
Dave Murkin	Jonathan Parker	Mel Short	Gary Stewart
Martyn Storer	Noel Whittaker		

Apologies:

Tom Blagdon	Carly Dakin	Catherine Eastwood	Wendy Earp
Jake Green	David Heptonstall	Philip Holt	Ian Hughes
Dick Lathbury	Jane Lathbury	Nick Lathbury	Di Millar
Steve Nicholson	Kristian Stentoff	Paul Tattersall	Anna Tyler
Helen Walley	Dave Watson	Linda Whittaker	

John Matthews [John], Chair, opened the meeting at 19:30 by welcoming those present and thanking them for attending. He asked everyone to sign the attendance register. Some apologies have been received; these have been recorded in the Minutes. There were sufficient members present to reach the constitutionally required quorum figure.

1. Chair's Report

John thanked Shelly and Jase Morton who keep the clubhouse clean and tidy, Adrian Murphy who has been the club's Derby Tennis League Representative for 30 plus years (Adrian is stepping down after this coming winter season ends), Nigel Stilgoe for his work on the internal squash and racketball box leagues, Jane Lathbury for her work organising singles & doubles tennis box leagues and Liam Morton for again organising the Squash 305 (Millie Tomlinson) tournament which is a prestigious event for the club to host. On behalf of Steve Green, he thanked all the bar staff and then thanked Steve for keeping excellent beers and keeping the bar stocked as well as organising the opening and staffing of the bar, both regularly and for events.

John also thanked Doug Whitfield for his work in promoting and encouraging squash and racketball. Thanks too to Neill Martin Hoare for giving us the benefit of his IT expertise. He also thanked the sports team captains and coaches, including the newly appointed Colin Morris. Finally, John gave thanks to Alison Bradley who is doing an excellent job keeping the club financial accounts in order.

On the **social side**, one of the highlights has been visits from local group The Racket, who have played at the club three times now, always going down a storm and bring many of their family and friends to the club, boosting bar takings. We've also had karaoke evenings organised by Noel at the end of the tennis season and then again at Christmas organised by Social Secretary Andrea Luckett, both good evenings with lots of laughter and good audience participation even if the right notes proved elusive occasionally.

The Rolls Royce brass band visited shortly before Christmas – this is turning into a regular event which we very much look forward to. The band provide carol sheets, but they are struggling to get more printed. If anyone can help with this, please contact Heather Gargini. As in previous years, junior member, Cameron Hughes made a guest appearance on saxophone. We are looking forward to welcoming a part of the band, Stein Brass, on October 17th for an evening entitled “The Sound of Munich”, for which there are still a few tickets available. More below ...

The club walk was unfortunately timed due to bad weather, but we hope to do more walks of varying lengths starting next spring. Walking is excellent for all participants, boosting general welfare and promoting chats and new friendships. Also planned are a couple of quiz nights in November, possibly even a music one.

Thanks in large parts to Dave Hughes and Steve Green, BTSC made it onto the Burton Ale Trail in early June and did well financially because of it. We experienced plenty of footfall and received lots of positive feedback on the beers (of course – we have an excellent cellarman) as well as on the warm welcome from our staff and other customers. We hope to participate again in 2027.

Mark Hipwell ran a Wimbledon predictor and Dave Murkin a World Cup sweepstake. We also organised a charity funday in summer, raising funds for a local young child who needs medical treatment only available abroad. Thanks to efforts from many on this, we raised £900.

Upcoming events include Stein Brass (Sound of Munich) evening on October 17th. With an Oktoberfest theme, music, food and beer will be the order of the night. There are still a few tickets left, at £7.50 each, for this. An email reminder will be sent to all members shortly.

On the theme of **safeguarding**, the LTA safeguarding representative came to the club in February. Thanks to Heather Green for ensuring we are compliant in every one of a significant number of requirements within the LTA standard. We have hosted CPR and de-fibrillation training sessions and have bought and install a new defibrillator. Many of the excellent Newsletters (put together by Club Secretary Angela Henry) included advice as to how to deal with the extreme heat experienced this summer.

There are new Safe to Play posters and other signage around the club.

John thanked the incumbent Committee members for all getting their DBS (Disclosure Barring Service) checks completed and for completing mandatory LTA Safeguarding training. John thanked those members who have stepped forward as responsible adults in support of our on-court coaches.

On the **grounds and premises** side, Jonathan Parker and Dave Murkin are our leads. Although much of what they do goes unnoticed, a recent dedicated G&P Newsletter included details of a drone survey of the club roof which proved fascinating. We all owe Jonathan and Dave much thanks.

Treasurer's Report: Our Treasurer, Paul Jobson, gave a financial review. Up to the end of March 2026 (the end of our financial year), income was down by 10%, mainly from a reduction in the number of membership and court booking fees. The trading profit slightly increased but the deficit for the year was about £3,000.

Our fuel (gas and electric) bills are huge at about £25,000 per year. We've negotiated a new contract as the old agreement expired in August 2026 (now have a 25% reduction in the unit rate). Our telecoms have been migrated to Daisy from BT at far more favourable rates. The new LED tennis lights are contributing to cost savings as they are much more energy efficient.

An energy report was commissioned and this indicated that squash court 1 was being over-heated, which has now been rectified. Thermometers and other telemetry have been installed to monitor ambient temperatures and humidity. G&P have also blocked many airbricks which has caused a 15% reduction in energy costs.

Paul wanted to thank the grounds and premises team who have installed LED lights on squash courts 2-4 which will improve energy efficiency, and we are now insulating the clubhouse ceilings which should pay for itself in about three years. Paul mused that maybe heat pumps may be effective in the future, and that grants may become available.

The glass in the clubhouse is all single glazed. Double glazing would be more efficient but very expensive and the return on investment is around 10 years.

One job that is pressing is tennis court resurfacing, at a likely cost of some £50,000.

Paul noted that there is a continued decline in squash, partly because more youngsters are playing padel, although there may be an uplift in squash post the 2028 Olympics at which squash is being included.

He also mentioned a potential expense for car park barrier repairs.

We now have two table tennis tables and are looking to start a social night in the winter months.

Trustees: John advised that all three Trustees have passed away but legally and constitutionally we always need Trustees in place. Four people have agreed to be Trustees and now the Deeds of Land and buildings are in the process of being transferred into the ownership of the Trustees. This is necessary in case we need to, for instance, raise a loan or remortgage the club premises. If the Club fails, we must divest the club assets as per the Constitution (Rule 18). The Trustees are Steve Nicholson, Jonathan Parker, Angela Henry and Steve Green.

Tennis Coaching: Mel Short from i2C (inspire to coach) reported that it's now 12 months since Alison Smith moved on and our excellent coaching team is now headed by Andrew Coveney with Helen Walley & Rachel Ortiz providing many coaching opportunities. In that time i2C have ensured all junior members have been placed into appropriate age groups. There are currently 57 junior player places filled across 12 classes.

Summer camps ran for 8 days with 67 bookings – there will be a new improved format for camps in 2027. The July 2026 Intro to tennis (a 4-week short course) brought in 5 new players and Learn.Train.Play beginner (weekly) 3 players.

i2C have also run regular ladies team clinics throughout 2026. The next session will be on Monday 2nd November for an hour from 18:00 for men's teams and from 19:00 for ladies' teams.

Coaches have received ongoing mentoring with i2C Director Richard Marklow and in April 2026 they achieved their PTR U110s qualification through i2C. Adult coaching qualifications will be completed in early 2027. The junior age groups will change with effect from 1st January, and programme planning has already started. Date to be confirmed, but it is planned for Junior Club Nights to be held monthly on Fridays, from 17:00 for 2 hours and regular matchplay sessions will be added to the programme.

For adults, there will be extra sessions to create a player pathway and an expansion of the one-off clinics on offer. i2C will work in partnership with the club to target an additional 30 new members through various initiatives. They also say a massive thank you to all our club volunteers and excellent coaching team (Andrew, Helen and Rachel) for all their tireless efforts and hard work.

Squash Report: Steve Coppard (Vice Chair) reported that we entered 3 teams into the Leicestershire Squash winter leagues with the first team in Division 2 captained by Patrick Langley. The team finished bottom of an 8-team league with 5 wins from 21 games. It was a tough division. The second team was in Division 3 and finished 9th of 11 teams, with 9 wins out of 20. The captain was Jake Green, and this team finished 80 points above the 10th place and 30 points behind the 5th placed team. Our third team was in Division 4 under the captaincy of Rob Lathbury, and finished 6th of 11 teams with 10 wins out of 20 games. We entered one team in the Derbyshire winter & spring leagues, captained by Jim Allen in Division 2. The team finished last of 5 teams – this was a team formed with the aim of introducing new players to team squash. We also entered a team into the summer league but again finished last of 5 team in Division 2.

Racketball Report: We entered a team in the racketball league started in Leicestershire. Captained by Dave Elliott & Sam Marsden, the team finished runners-up with 13 wins out of 6 games. We entered a team into the Leicestershire winter, spring and summer leagues. In the winter league, we were in division 2 and came last with 1 win, so relegation to division 3 for the spring league where we finished 4th out of 5 teams, but with 3 wins. In the summer league, we finished 3rd of 6 teams with 7 wins from 10 games. The team gained 90 points, one less than the runner up and 3 less than the winners. Great effort! Big thanks to all players and all captains for running teams. It often feels a thankless task.

Tennis Report: Tennis captain Andrew Coveney reported that 3 new teams were entered into Derby and Burton leagues: Ladies A and Men's B in the Derby League, and Ladies C in the Burton League. The club now has six men's, four ladies' and three mixed teams. Around 70 members represented Burton in league tennis. The teams won three league titles, and all three Burton League B teams secured promotion spots in Division 3. Highlights included the Mixed A's unbeaten season and Men's B securing 19 of the final 20 points available. Finals days and a new handicap tournament format were trialled successfully. Junior tournaments are still in progress. The club currently runs 10 doubles leagues, five singles leagues and social tennis on five days each week. Andrew thanked all players, captains and volunteers, particularly Jane Lathbury for organising the internal leagues. Sophie, Ozzie and Reece were recognised for representing the club as juniors. The club will continue to develop inclusive tennis, opportunities for members to compete at different levels, and junior involvement. Wendy's team had lots of fun.

John thanked those who addressed the members as detailed above. Discussion was invited from attendees.

Squash Court Heating - Paul Jobson wished to make a proposal regarding the heating of squash courts during weekday daytime hours. There is very low squash usage during weekdays 0900-1500, all bookings could be accommodated on court 1.

Proposal is to leave Court 1 heated all day as currently; Courts 2-4 will only be heated if there is a weekday daytime booking; There will be a facility to pre-heat courts via the eWeLink APP. The temperature will not drop below 12 degrees C; it is believed this will prevent any condensation forming, but this will be closely monitored if members vote to adopt the change on a trial basis. The committee is aware of concerns that there may be some concerns from members that this change would result in a reduction in the quality of the playing facilities.

The change is estimated to save approx. £5k/year; if not adopted other options to make up the deficit would need to be found.

An email with a link to vote electronically will be sent to members in October.

Squash Scoring Proposal - Squash players have suggested a scoring change for internal box leagues.

Proposal is

Keep default Point a Rally to 11

Change default Point a Rally to 15

Allow players to agree scoring prior to their match commencing

An electronic vote will be sent to all members in October.

Election of Officers: There were no nominations from the membership to take on Committee roles, however, all incumbent committee members agreed to continue in office.

The members present individually and unanimously voted in the following positions, and the present incumbents individually agreed to take on the roles:

Chair	John Matthews
Vice Chair	Steve Coppard
Treasurer	Paul Jobson
Secretary	Angela Henry
Bar Secretary	Steve Green
Grounds & Premises	Jonathan Parker & Dave Murkin
Membership	Dick Lathbury
Welfare & Safeguarding	Heather Green
Marketing, Social Media & Press	position vacant
Social Secretary	Andrea Lockett
Squash / Racketball Team Captain	Tom Blagdon & Colin Morris
Tennis Team Captain	Andrew Coveney

President (an honorary position elected by the Committee from time to time) - Steve Green

The meeting closed at 20:45