



New Chair Update - Darius Mayhew

September 12, 2025



Let's move forward

Last night saw an amazing turnout at our Annual General Meeting with some 133 people in attendance - a record we believe for any AGM at the club. This demonstrates the passion that our members have and how close they feel to the club and its future.

It's both an honor and a privilege to have been elected as the new Chair of the Board of Directors for our Club. I want to begin by thanking all of you – members, staff, coaches, volunteers, and fellow board members for the trust you've placed in me. This role is not about one individual or just the Board; it's about what we can achieve together as a community.

For those of you who don't know me, I am usually at the club about 4 times a week, at different times (and a lot in the bar!) and I try to do the mix-ins about every other Thursday and Tuesday. I am always up for a knock regardless of tennis ability and always try to meet and play with some of the people Becky introduces me to. I have been wearing hats since I was about 18 and it has stuck over the years especially when I lost my hair! I will be at Tim's amazing Acoustic Night and hope to see some of you there.

Our club has always been more than just a place to play tennis or pickleball. It is a home for friendships, a stage for competition, and a safe space where people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds come together with a shared passion. What makes this place so special are the values we stand for – **togetherness, inclusiveness, and collaboration.**

Togetherness means that we celebrate each other's successes and lift each other up in moments of challenge. **Inclusiveness** means that everyone has a place here. Tennis and Pickleball are often called sports for life. From juniors picking up a racket for the first time, to seasoned players inspiring us, to social members who simply enjoy being part of the atmosphere and bar – everyone belongs. Every person matters. And **collaboration** reminds us that none of this happens in isolation. It takes the fantastic team, coaches, volunteers, board members, families, and players working together to keep our club thriving.

I want to say a massive thank you to the entire team for all their hard work. None of this would be possible without them. Thank you Irene, Adam, Maddie, Becky, Kari, Dee, Kevin, Steve, George, and all the coaches, junior coaches and bar assistants. A special thanks to Maddie for her work on the voting system for the AGM - simply phenomenal.



Immediate next steps

In the coming weeks and months, the new Board will meet to discuss priorities and what our objectives are for the new period - this also includes how we move forward with detailed proposals on Padel which has fractured our club recently. I intend to approach this in a sensitive way where we can have proper insightful conversation and clear options for you the members to decide on. Separately, there is still an awful lot to do and I am keen to ensure as a Board we keep you updated on how we are moving forward. I will also ensure that you know who your Board members are and what each of them are working on to make your experience at this club better and how their work adds value to the sustainability of this club - watch this space.

We say thank you to our departing Chair & Secretary



Last night Alper and Brigid, as you know, stepped down as Chair and Secretary of the club. Last night, for me, was a very sad night. After their dedication, hours and hours of work in the background sorting out our banking arrangements, financial reporting processes, governance and hundreds of activities no one sees, we say goodbye to two people I consider my friends.

Under their leadership in the last few years working in collaboration with the staff, the coaches, the rest of the board, and you the membership, their achievements will not go unnoticed because we will live and breathe it everyday as we take the next step on our journey. From the likes of our beautiful bathrooms, amazing social atmosphere, to sorting out our legal structure, and keeping us protected from financial, commercial and tax risks, we lose two strong and dedicated volunteers who have changed the fabric of the Club. On behalf of the entire Club, thank you Alper and Brigid and we wish you both the nice relaxing hassle free period you can now enjoy playing your tennis and pickleball.



Where we move forward from - together: Recap of the new Chair's speech at the AGM on Thursday 11th September.

When the current Board was originally elected, we set out on this journey to make progress. Progress for you the membership. Progress for our beloved club. And progress towards a sustainable future. I want to summarise in a different way how we made this progress (from the great presentations provided by the Board members) for you so we can set this as the basis on which we move forward together. What does this progress look like?

- New members who have joined the club now feel welcomed, supported and are

Togetherness / Inclusiveness / Collaboration
Giving our members the best sporting experience

Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club



introduced to tennis buddies so that they are not isolated and can easily gain friendships.

- ▶ A fantastic variety of social events and community spirit so our club is a home away from home for our existing members - comedy, magic, cocktails, and Tim's fantastic music nights.
- ▶ A valued Club Manager that balances a complex variety of demands, regulations and manages a dedicated team that try to make your experiences at the club hassle free.
- ▶ A coaching program led by a great Head Coach bringing variety to our programme, investing in the youth, and bringing a sense of togetherness with our coaches.
- ▶ When we prioritised the bathroom refurbishment we also appointed a membership led committee called the Spruce it up Committee, to choose the design and fittings for our beautiful bathrooms we now have today.
- ▶ After several years of neglect, the Club Manager did work to replace the dilapidated gutters, the fascias, the balcony tiles, and fencing across the grounds
- ▶ With the help of Paul Harvey we now have a group of wonderful sponsors who support us and believe in the club.
- ▶ We continually invested in our membership platform to integrate our membership journey, coaching programme, social events and for the first time this year a digital voting process for the AGM so that more members can be easily involved in the decisions for the club.
- ▶ We introduced Pickleball which has become a success and this brings variety to the club, a vibrant community and offers more options for our current membership.
- ▶ Finally, we are a board that works as a team and have worked to try to maintain our great community spirit, promote friendships and togetherness, present options to our members even if difficult or are not always popular - some of which are not even our personal preferences. We do this because, we, as a board, need to put you the members and the future of the club - first.
- ▶ We are not complacent though - there is still an awful lot to do. Number one is to rebuild respect and togetherness in the club - divisiveness doesn't have a home here. A big part of this is communication and treating people kindly using the right language. In more practical terms, we have to redecorate our club-house, rebuild our sinking fund, put further structures in place around our financial governance, support our tennis teams further, and continue to build even further variety of bar options for our members including the social events some of you have come to enjoy.
- ▶ For those of us who the membership have voted to be elected to the Board, as a member myself, I hope they believe in the spirit of this club and will engender the values of togetherness, inclusiveness and collaboration so that you the membership have a club that you continue to love.

Togetherness / Inclusiveness / Collaboration
Giving our members the best sporting experience



Results of the AGM - total number voting: 306 (a record number)

Resolutions	%	Status
To approve the minutes of the minutes held on the 12th September 2024	100%	Pass
To appoint Kevin van Doren as the Club's auditor	100%	Pass
To approve Darius Mayhew as the new Chair and director of the club	89%	Pass
To approve Paul Stewart as the new Company Secretary & director of the club	89%	Pass
To approve James Barton as the new Treasurer and director of the club	82%	Pass
To approve Anthony Byers as a new director to the Board	71%	Pass
To approve Paul Darby as an existing director on the Board	92%	Pass
To approve Louise Dubec as a new director on the Board	73%	Pass
To approve Paul Healey as an existing director on the Board	93%	Pass
To approve James Nicholl as a new director to the Board	67%	Pass
To approve Justin West as a new director to the Board	69%	Pass
That the Board is authorised to continue developing a detailed proposal for the introduction of padel at the Club, to be brought back to members for a final vote before any decision is made	51%	Pass