



Note from Our New Chairman

To our current and future dedicated members,

I wanted the opportunity to contact you all and introduce myself as the new Chairman of our wonderful local tennis club. I am honoured to take up the position following the AGM and will try very hard to meet you all personally over the coming months and the upcoming tennis season. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work, loyalty and dedication to our club as members, and on behalf of you all, make a special note of gratitude to the members of the club committee and social committee for all their efforts in ensuring the successful running of the club and ensuring the club is here for what we all love doing, playing the fantastic game of tennis. None more so than Sharon Senn who has done a wonderful job for us all and deserves a great deal of praise for those efforts. She hasn't escaped though, and will remain a key member of the committee.

A little about me – I have been playing tennis since I was 6, initially at Lymm Tennis Club, where I learnt to play under the coaching of Ivo Bouda. A combination of his lovely personality and the great game of tennis had me hooked in no time. I remained at Lymm until I was 15, before moving to Stockton Heath Tennis Club where I helped as a coaching assistant and served as a junior committee member until I left for university. I actively played as a junior and was invited to Cheshire County coaching, played for the senior teams in the Warrington Men's league and represented Bridgewater High School at the National Schools Tennis Finals (at the time the only High School to ever achieve a place in these finals), and represent my university in Nottingham. Tennis had quickly become a sport I loved and I played at every opportunity.

I moved to play at High Legh when I was in my mid 20's, and enjoyed a number of seasons playing at the club, long before the redevelopment (the old courts were very tired and the surface was breaking up). I was involved in the proposals for the club redevelopment and the planning, along with assisting where I could with the grant applications and getting the club website up and running.

In my late 20's my work life took over and I dropped out of the club and tennis altogether. I returned last year after a seven year gap and remembered quickly what I had been missing; my love for tennis and competition was rekindled. I have many friends in tennis from lots of surrounding clubs and I am really enjoying being back.

I am now 37. My partner, Victoria, and I live in Stockton Heath with her 3 boys (all under 7 and football mad). I am the Head of Operations and a shareholder of an IT services business based in Stockport. I have been involved in the business since its early trading and it has been a great experience building a business up from 5 staff to the 54 staff we employ today. I believe I can bring a combination of my optimism and positivity in life, with my business knowledge, and my love of tennis, to the role of Chairman at High Legh, and I will work hard on your behalf to ensure the best for our club.

We have a lot in our favour already. We have “YOU”, great people involved in our club of all ages, we have a supportive local community who value the club, we have a lovely picturesque local facility with genuine good quality courts and floodlights, and we have a brilliant coach in Hanna Wilson who loves the game and invests in us by the bucket load. Without us all, there is no club. The facilities are the platform to play tennis but we make it a club.

I want to share with you my commitment and let you see some of my key objectives for the first 100 days in my new role:

- Simplify the membership categories and ensure everyone who wants to be included and play, can play as part of the club. This includes reducing the membership fee where possible.
- Prepare the way to get the parents of our fantastic juniors to join the club, under a reasonably priced “parent” membership category. Let’s include everyone in HLTC.
- Focus on increasing the club membership as a whole across the categories by 20%. I need us all to be involved in this. “WE” need to find an extra 14 new members for 2016/17.
- Appointing a junior committee member to represent the junior playing section.
- Ensure the courts are utilised more. We can use them at acceptable times to generate revenue through hire, but also offer them to local schools and societies. This will increase our visibility and may drive additional membership.
- Enhance our communication to our members and potential members and push the clubs profile through modern media to make sure as many people as possible know how to find us, who we are and what we are doing.
- Create opportunities and events to provide inclusive social tennis across all ages and abilities. Let us all together make the club busy again.
- Formulate a plan to enter more teams into our competitive leagues and re-enter the JL Arden Senior Handicap Knockout (This is mixed Men and Women and is great fun).
- Provide Hanna, our coach, the support she needs for her initiatives to benefit the club – She is the expert.
- Finally, make sure our members and visitors enjoy playing at our wonderful club, and that we have a successful 2016/17 Season.

I promise to update you with where I am up to on these commitments after the first 100 days is completed, the first week of May.

I hope you are excited as I am for the 2016 season. If any of you have any ideas or wish to discuss anything with me, please feel free to contact me on my mobile 07875028391. I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Matt Bannon