Reports in advance of the MLTC Annual General Meeting 2025

7. Chair's Report

I was appointed Chair almost 12 months ago and it has been a steep, but enjoyable, learning curve. I have been supported by a great team of people on the Committee plus David Luscombe our Estate Manager, and I would like to thank them all for the work they have done this year, as well as for their patience, support, and general kindness. A huge thank you especially to Alison, the Club Administrator; the Club would not function without her, and we all value her support immensely. Thank you also to all the 'hidden' volunteers; too many to name who enable this Club to function efficiently from purchasing and putting out new tennis balls, washing teacloths and towels, gardening, setting up social events, to buying refreshments; all things that we take for granted.

I have also learned more about plumbing and drainage than I ever thought I would need to in my lifetime, dealt with umpteen complaints about parking which, amongst other issues, has led me to assign Fridays as 'No Complaints' day just so I can play tennis one day of the week without my 'Problem Fixer/Delegator' hat on.

On a serious note, this last year the Committee has achieved a great deal. The Club Rules have been updated, and we are now progressing a change to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and a legal entity in our own right. Several policies have been updated; recently the LTA reviewed our Safeguarding protocols, and all our good work was acknowledged. We have increased the hourly rates for the coaching team, and they now have a bonus policy to facilitate consistency and encourage loyalty. As many of you have seen, there is now a defibrillator outside; this is the culmination of a year-long project, which also serves the Merrow community, but we hope it has minimal usage. For this AGM we have used a Proxy Form for the first time to enable members to vote even if they cannot attend the meeting.

Our many match teams have continued to excel at all levels in the Leagues and many other members have enjoying playing in the Box Leagues, Inbetweeners sessions and various club competitions. Our social events have also been well attended and in terms of club visibility, there are now colourful MLTC hoodies available for purchase.

Our junior members are the future of tennis and the Club, and our excellent coaching team and programmes continues to draw them in. We are embarking on the LTA suggestion of identifying a Young Person Ambassador to provide a voice for our young members. The Committee has also agreed to take tennis into a local school and support one or two of our coaching team to deliver lessons in the Summer term. Tennis is an inclusive but often deemed to be 'privileged' sport, and we need to play our part in facilitating access for more young people.

It is encouraging to see what a difference Court 7 has made to court availability with many members enjoying the choice of playing surface. The Club continues to retain its friendly atmosphere and great reputation such that the waiting list now exceeds 100. But we must never take that reputation for

granted and going forwards we need to develop a strategic plan for the next three to five years, to maximise all the good aspects of our Club whilst planning for the future.

Thank you once again for your support.

Louise Blakeborough (MLTC Chair)
March 2025
chairmerrowtennis@gmail.com

8. Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

I attach the accounts of the Club for the year ended 31 December 2024,and I also show comparisons for the previous 4 years.

The Club made a surplus of £21,245 in 2024; there were no major items of capital expenditure, and minor items have been charged against income and noted below.

Please note the following points arising on the figures:

- Membership subscriptions were about 5.3% higher than the previous year, less than the full 7.5% general increase in rates as a number of members moved to a lower cost category of membership and there were not quite as many junior memberships taken up. (Note that if a junior coaching member has coaching sessions in all 3 terms they only pay 1 membership sub. But if that session is taken by a different junior each term, then the Club receives 3 membership subs.)
- The net surplus on coaching was similar to the previous year. A good proportion of the gross surplus is paid out to coaches in bonuses. The labour market for coaches has not improved over the last year, and naturally we aim to retain existing and encourage new coaches to the Club. Note that we have increased coaching fees and the hourly rates for the coaches with effect from 1 January 2025.
- The insurance premium shows a reduction on the previous year, following a change in brokers. I have just renewed the insurance in the past couple of weeks for the forthcoming 12 months at the same price as 2024.
- We are paying a high price for our electricity; there was little choice as to agreements when we renewed nearly 2 years ago, but the contract ends in May and I am hoping to secure a reduction from our current level of 35p per unit.
- Pavilion repairs includes £900 to replace the lock on the clubhouse door, £565 for drains unblocking, £735 for repairs to the clubhouse floor, and £700 for sundry electrical repairs and testing.
- Grounds materials covers £1200 being the Club's share of road repairs, £1000 for the defib cabinet and electrical wiring, £600 for the cctv for court 7 plus maintenance, and Improvements includes the new footpath between the courts and the patio totalling £11,000, new fencing and repairs at £5100, ball machine shed and concreting at £2800, plus drag mats, post protectors and clay box for court 7.
- The cost of the online booking system increased as we have 7 courts as opposed to the previous 6.
- Misc expenses covers a number of smaller items, the main one being £500 for 28 chairs and 5 tables for use at events, and £125 for cleaning the BBQ.

The Club's accounts at Lloyds, Metro Bank and Skipton Building Society held nearly £125,000.

In the Capital/Sinking Fund there is currently £121,000. Recent estimates suggest a cost of £65k for replacing the surface (not the underlying tarmac) of a bank of 3 courts, and a life of a refurbished court of 10 – 15 years. The LTA recommends a transfer to sinking fund of £2400 per court per year, which provides an adequate total plus contingency.

I have therefore pencilled in the following allocation of the Capital/Sinking Fund:

- For courts 1 – 3, refurbished 2015, 9 years at £7200 = £64,800

- For courts 4 – 6, refurbished 2017, 7 years at £7200 = £50,400
- For court 7, 1 year at £2400 = £2400
- Balance available for clubhouse refurbishment = £3400
- Total £121,000

There is also the question of whether/when to replace the sodium/halogen floodlights on the lower courts with high efficiency LED ones – replacing the lamps only, not the poles. This would cost c £30k.

It is clear that at current rates of surplus the Club will be able to maintain the standard of its courts and playing surfaces, but it's a struggle to find extra for any major plans.

The good news however is that the courts are generally in very good condition and we should be able to get more than 10 years out of them. The transfers to sinking fund in respect of surface replacement should therefore be able to be reduced in the next couple of years, freeing up resources for other projects.

The Club does need each year to make respectable surpluses, and this brings me on to the committee's recommendation for increases in the subscriptions payable by members.

This year we are proposing an increase in line with inflation, about 2.5% , as on the schedule attached. So the matters for the AGM are:
- Approval of the accounts
- Approval of the proposed subscription rates for 2025.

Jeff Saunders
Treasurer
treasurermltc@yahoo.co.uk

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
INCOME	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Membership subscriptions	**90,709**	**86,135**	**80,073**	**82,852**	**41,944**
Match fees	0	0	10	40	5
Visitor fees	500	297	257	300	572
Tournament entry fees	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	65	295	98	17,620	10,856
Other income total	**565**	**592**	**365**	**17,960**	**11,433**
Bar income	1,963	1,864	1,719	526	288
Bar purchases	-1,478	-1,378	-1,209	-432	-238
	485	**486**	**510**	**94**	**50**
Coaching income	98,577	94,365	84,967	63,091	42,706
Coaches fees & admin	-95,827	-91,583	-78,182	-49,063	-39,141
Profit Share from Premier Tennis					0
	2,750	**2,782**	**6,785**	**14,028**	**3,565**
TOTAL NET INCOME	**94,509**	**89,995**	**87,733**	**114,934**	**56,992**
EXPENSES					
Water & refuse	989	1,340	702	31	382
Pavilion admin	2,057	2,247	2,106	1,849	2,121

Insurance	2,687	3,071	2,358	2,358	2,658
Telephone	775	939	1,032	666	470
Electricity	8,800	4,875	3,846	1,701	2,092
Pavilion refurb	0	0	0	0	0
Pavilion repairs	2,981	3,236	1,423	433	6,564
Premises total	**18,289**	**15,708**	**11,467**	**7,038**	**14,287**
Grounds labour	6,535	6,364	4,557	2,947	3,561
Grounds materials	2,895	973	1,228	788	586
Improvements	24,121	154,025	16,231	0	4,500
Floodlights	521	0	0	4,855	0
Online booking	1,008	876	864	864	864
Refurbishment of courts	2,106	1,726	1,752	5,392	3,058
Grounds total	**37,186**	**163,964**	**24,632**	**14,846**	**12,569**
Tennis balls	6,374	6,752	5,387	3,130	1,964
Affiliation fees	980	945	770	720	60
Administration	9,010	8,345	7,552	11,574	13,608
Corporation Tax	644	103	30	200	212
Entry fees	281	277	269	49	223
Engraving etc	445	276	619	168	0
Social events/marketing	1,185	12,711	3,157	145	191
Professional fees	0	0	1,500	3,522	0
Miscellaneous	1,920	4,633	2,003	8,233	606
Other expenditure total	**20,839**	**34,042**	**21,287**	**27,741**	**16,864**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**76,314**	**213,714**	**57,386**	**49,625**	**43,720**
NET INCOME	**18,195**	**-123,719**	**30,347**	**65,309**	**13,272**

Interest received (gross)	3,050	3,376	541	160	1,057
Transfer from Capital Fund	0	139,723			0
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	**21,245**	**19,380**	**30,888**	**65,469**	**14,329**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT	**31/12/2024**	**31/12/2023**	**31/12/2022**	**31/12/2021**	**31/12/2020**	**31/12/2019**
Capital Fund at start of year	99,877	210,800	100,738	80,738	60,738	87,290
General Fund at start of year	982	10,402	89,576	44,107	49,778	58,169
Total funds at start of year	**100,859**	**221,202**	**190,314**	**124,845**	**110,516**	**145,459**
Transfer from Capital Fund	0	139,723	0	0	0	-76,552
Transfer to Capital Fund	21,123	26,800	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Exceptional further transfer	0	2,000	90,062	0		30,000
Transfer to General Fund	122	19,380	30,888	65,469	-5,671	21,609

Capital Fund at end of year	121,000	99,877	210,800	100,738	80,738	60,738
General Fund at end of year	1,104	982	10,402	89,576	44,107	49,778
Total funds at end of year	**122,104**	**100,859**	**221,202**	**190,314**	**124,845**	**110,516**
Represented by:						
Current account	1,225	3,802	54,205	53,983	68,937	7,948
Lloyds deposit account	56,170	4,471				
Metro Bank/Secure Trust	5,809	5,627	85,055	51,000	0	72,494
Skipton Building Society	61,772	89,603	87,270	86,784	86,624	31,624
Cash	4	4	4	4	4	4
Credits for coaching	-2,876	-2,648	-5,332	-1,457	-30,720	-1,554
Total assets	**122,104**	**100,859**	**221,202**	**190,314**	**124,845**	**110,516**

Notes
1. Land and premises have not been included.

Proposed Fees for 2025/6

				Existing 2024/25	Proposed 2025/26
Adult	All Year (Standard	A		**£275**	**£282.50**
	All Year (Couple)	AD	Standard rate less 10% for Co-habiting couple joining/renewing at the same time	**£495**	**£508.50**
	Midweek (Standard)	M		**£198**	**£202.50**
	Midweek (Couple)	MD	This rate is Standard less 10% for Co-habiting couple joining/renewing at the same time	**£356**	**£365.00**
	Over 75	O	Any member over the age of 75 on 1 April 2024 who has been a member for 5 or more years	**£144**	**£150.00**
	Under 25 / Student	AS	For members in Full Time Education (of any age over 18) and for members aged 18 to 24 inclusive (on 1 April 2024)	**£155**	**£160.00**
	Student Holiday	SH	Full time student living away from Merrow in term time. Allowed to play in holiday periods only	**£70**	**£72.50**
	Coaching (12 months)	C	This category allows coaching by MLTC approved coach only.	**£88**	**£92.50**
	Parent Helper	PH	For Parents who wish to play with their children only	**£55**	**£57.50**
	Social	So		**£25**	**£27.50**
Junior	Junior	JO	For players aged 10 to 17 inclusive on 1 April 2024, and those up to and including school Year 13	**£55**	**£56.50**
	Junior	JU	For players aged under 10 on 1 April 2024	**£27.50**	**£28.50**
Family	Family membership (with 2 playing parents)	F	Rate for two adults and all children under 18 on 1 April 2024 (and those up to and including school Year 13) living at the same address	**£535**	**£550.00**
	Family membership (with 1 playing parent)	F1	Rate for one adult and all children under 18 on 1 April 2024 (and those up to and including school Year 13) living at the same address	**£314**	**£325.00**

Joining fees

Adult		payable per adult/ Family with 1 playing parent	**£60**	£60
Junior		Junior/ Student/Parent Helper/ Coaching	**£0**	£0
Family		With 2 playing parents	**£120**	£120

9. Election of Club Officers and Committee

The Officers of the Club shall consist of the President, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Their term of office is 3 years. There shall be up to nine elected Committee members and the Club Coach.

MLTC Club Officers current year (2024/25):

President: Ian Campbell
Chairman: Louise Blakeborough
Secretary: Sue Beardwood
Treasurer: Jeff Saunders

General Committee:
Matt Aitchison
Claire Arthur
David Clarke
Gerry Black
Katie Brennan
Rachael Goodworth – Bar Manager
Julie Pearn – Welfare Officer
James Tufts
Eugenia Wachters – Match Secretary

The nominations sheet for Committee Members is on the noticeboard in the clubhouse. If you would like to nominate yourself for one of the positions, please add your name together with a proposer and seconder. The nominations will close on **Tuesday 25th February.**

Also a Committee Member:
Head Coach: Jorge Martin Munoz

10. General Business

a. Secretary's Report

The committee met 5 times in the year. Any member who wishes to raise an issue is welcome to attend a committee meeting. Merrow successfully re-registered with the LTA for 2024-2025.

During the year the committee approved the following policies:

- Anti-bullying
- Club rules
- Compliments, Complaints and Disciplinary procedures
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Safe Recruitment

All the club's policies can be found on the website at merrowtennis.com/policies.

b. Welfare Officer's Report

MLTC is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all players. As part of our LTA club registration, with the support of the Club Administrator Alison, we continue to ensure that robust safeguarding policies are in place to protect the welfare of every member. As Welfare Officer, along with my colleague Laura Morton, we have tried to be accessible and visible throughout the year, ready to offer support and guidance whenever needed.

Thanks to everyone at the Club for the part they play in helping to keep MLTC a happy and friendly space to meet up and play tennis.

I plan to continue in role, if nominated, until March 2026 but I intend to step aside after what will be approximately 7 years in this post.

Please do get in touch in the coming months if you are interested in becoming a Welfare Officer and I'll be happy to provide a job description if of interest.

Julie Pearn
Welfare officer
welfareofficermltc@gmail.com

c. Administrator's Report

Key notes:

- **Currently MLTC has 733 members** compared to 755 at this time last year. This is mainly due to a decrease in younger junior members (Under 10). The number of adult members remain about the same. However there is an increase of adult members with cheaper membership categories.

Category		Numbers Feb 2024 (2023/24)	Numbers Feb 2025 (2024/25)	Change from 2023/24	% Change from 2023/24
Adult full		131	131	0	0%
Adult discount (Couple)		42	50	+8	+19%
Midweek		29	28	-1	-3%
Midweek discount (Couple)		14	16	+2	+14%
Over 75s		10	14	+4	+40%
Student/ Under 25		1	3	+2	+200%
Student Holiday		6	6	0	0%
Family 2 playing Parents	Adult	32	26	-6	-19%
	Junior	30	25	-5	-17%
Family 1 Playing Parent	Adult	36	35	-1	-3%
	Junior	65	66	+1	+2%
Junior 10 or Over		146	149	+3	+2%
Junior Under 10		110	90	-20	-18%
Parent Helper		34	31	-3	-9%
Coaching		51	49	-2	-4%
Social		13	11	-2	-15%
Coaches		5	3	-2	-40%
TOTAL		755	733	-22	-3%
Adults		404	403	-1	-0.2%
Juniors		351	330	-21	-6%
Adults with full court booking rights (incl. in total adults above)		295	303	+8	+3%

- A total of **109 members did not re-join on 1st April 2024**, 35 Adults and 74 juniors. Of the 47 adults that did not rejoin, only **16 adult members** with full court booking rights did not re-join compared to 32 in 2023.

- Number of members that did not re-join in recent years:

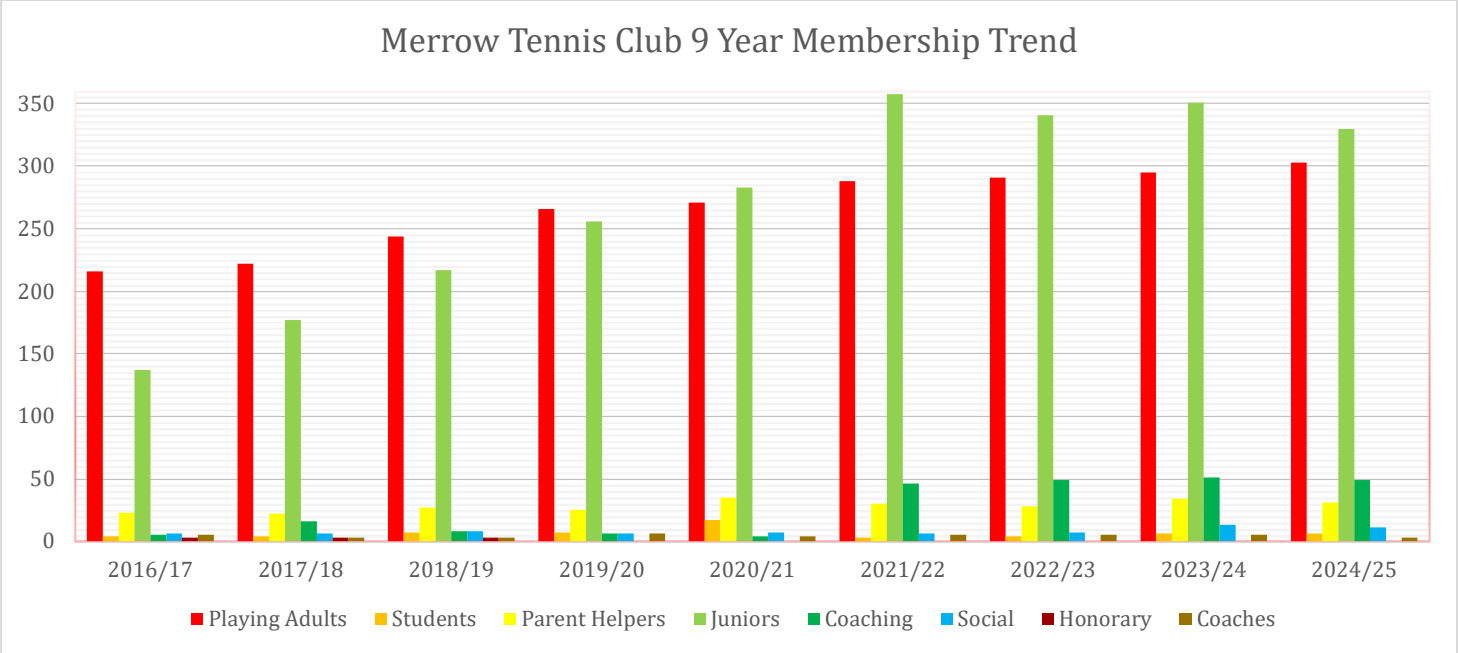
	1st April 2024	1st April 202	1st April 2022	1st April 2021
Senior Members	35	47	63	34
Junior Members	74	85	108	42
Total	109	132	171	76

- Currently there are **133 adults** on the waiting list compared to 100 at this time last year. From experience, not everyone on the waiting list will still be interested in joining when they reach the top. Last year to replace 16 full adult members we offered membership to those up to 51 on the waiting list. Therefore, roughly a third were still interested in joining when they came to the top of the waiting list. Some people had joined elsewhere, some people decided that they wished to remain on the waiting list but joining now wasn't the right time for them.
- We have not held an open day since approximately 2019.
- The adult membership could have increased further but as stated we have a waiting list in place and we are not accepting new adult members at the moment. We have had a waiting list since 2020.

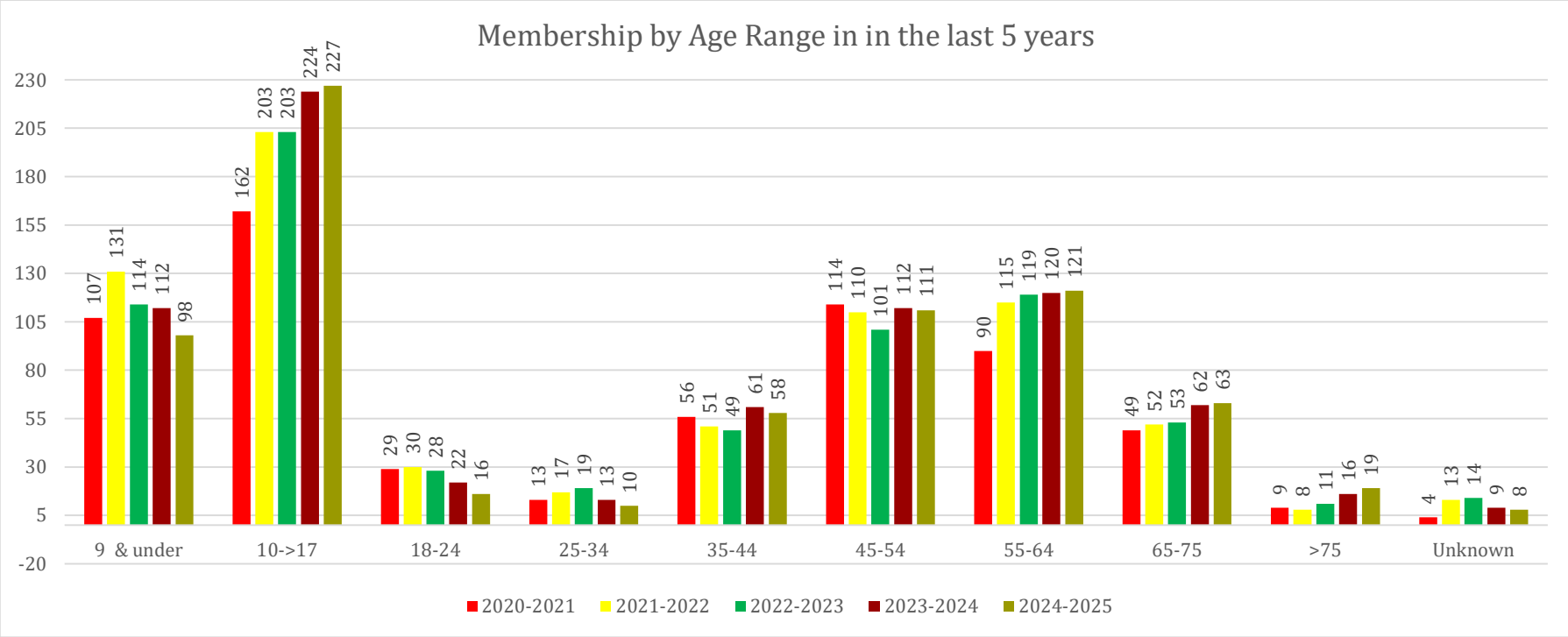
Using the information on the graphs on the following pages I would like to highlight the following points:

- Most adult members are in the 45 to 64 age group.
- The number of members who are 65 and over is increasing. In the last five years the number of members who are 65 and over has increased by 24 (41%). Specifically the Over 75s, who pay a reduced subscription, has increased by 10 (111%).
- During the last five years the number of members in the 18 to 34 age range has decreased by 16 (38%).
- In the last year the number of Under 10 Junior members has decreased. This is because there are less mini red coaching groups and also those attending the groups seem to attend all year round. If a member only attends group coaching for one term and that place is filled the next term by someone else the club receives two membership fees rather than one.
- In 2024/25, of those members that had specified, the club had 161 female junior members, 164 male junior members and 189 adult female members and 207 adult male members. This equates to 49.5% of junior members being female and 50.5% male and 47.7% of adult members being female and 52.3% male.

Alison Faulkner
Club Administrator
merrowltc@gmail.com



	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Playing Adults	216	222	244	266	271	288	291	295	303
Students	4	4	7	7	17	3	4	6	6
Parent Helpers	23	22	27	25	35	30	28	34	31
Juniors	137	177	217	256	283	358	341	351	330
Coaching	5	16	8	6	4	46	49	51	49
Social	6	6	8	6	7	6	7	13	11
Honorary	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coaches	5	3	3	6	4	5	5	5	3
Total	399	453	517	572	621	736	725	755	733


Membership by Age Range in in the last 5 years
230
205
180
155
130
105
80
55
30
5
-20
107 131 114 112 98
162 203 203 224 227
29 30 28 22 16
13 17 19 13 10
56 51 49 61 58
114 110 101 112 111
90 115 119 120 121
49 52 53 62 63
9 8 11 16 19
4 13 14 9 8
9 & under
10->17
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65-75
>75
Unknown
2020-2021
2021-2022
2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025

d. Estate Manager's Report

Works completed:
In 2024, we implemented a number of projects to improve the estate:

- Ball machine enclosure – we have housed the ball machine outside of the clubhouse, with a hard surface path to the tennis courts, to make it more accessible to members and remove it from our internal social environment. This investment will enable more members to use the machine without having to overcome the ramp in and out of the clubhouse - speak to the club secretary to get access.
- Defibrillator – this has been installed for the benefit of members following a review of the risks to health, taking on board LTA advice.
- Tree surgery – we have removed the large branch overhanging the access road in order to improve access for emergency vehicles to the clubhouse and the gym.
- Fencing - improvements are now complete with no further planned works.
- Access road – we contributed to the repair of a length of the road where the potholes were particularly bad. All members are encouraged to take care when driving, riding, or walking on this road.
- Patio area – this external space was extended to improve the social opportunities for the members and to embrace the 'new' court 7.
- Paths – new access path was installed between courts 1-3 and 4-6.
- Parking – we have been in contact with Horizon regarding parking and they are actively looking for additional parking capacity. So far, without success.

Maintenance:
In 2024, we addressed the normal running repairs and upgrades associated with the estate and the clubhouse, including:

- Regular court surface maintenance – next one due March 2025.
- Electrical testing of the circuitry in the clubhouse, required quinquennially.
- Clubhouse floor repaired.
- Floodlight to court 1 repaired.
- Kitchen water heater replaced.
- Drains have been regularly blocked during the summer. The primary cause is abuse of the toilets with excessive paper used to block the system. Steps have been taken to improve this, and the outcomes will continue to be monitored.

In 2025, we will continue with regular maintenance activities including;

- Weekly management of the surface of court 7,
- annual maintenance of court surfaces,
- managing the garden and grounds,
- cleaning and maintaining the clubhouse.

New work planned:
This year, subject to costs, the committee plan to:

- Install a new garden waste enclosure in the bottom car park to provide a cost-effective waste management solution.
- Enhance the planting behind court 7 and additional shrubs between courts 4-6 and the car park.
- Continue to monitor the parking situation with Horizon. Any solution seems to be outside our control, but we are encouraging a resolution. If the issue impacts on members greatly then alternative monitoring solutions could be considered which would police the parking on our land, via number plate recognition etc - but this is not a desirable option.

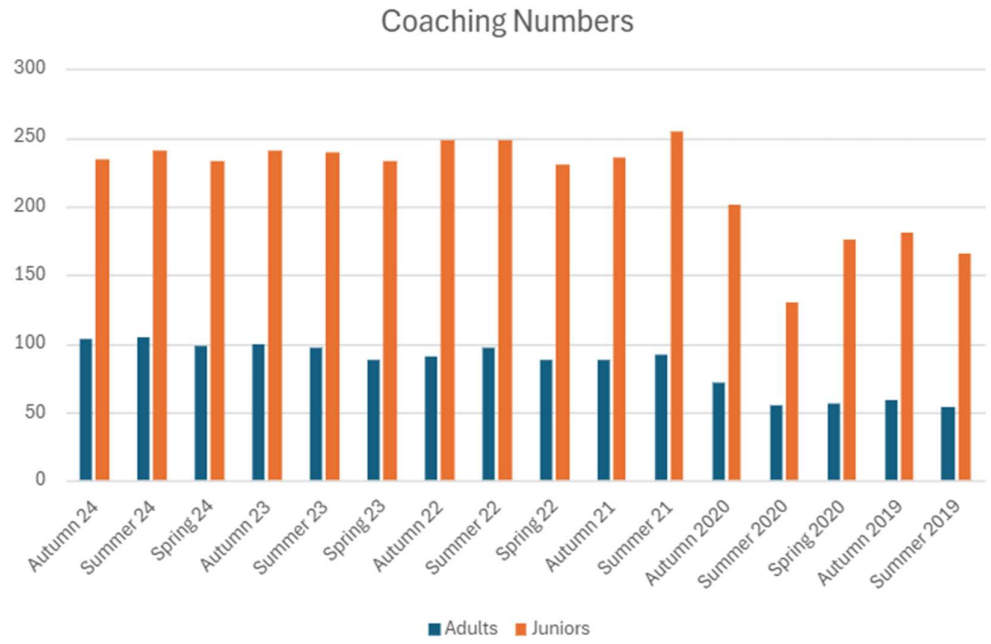
A longer-term plan, which will be subject to affordability tests, is being drawn up for the estate to cover some further significant expenditure that will improve the playing experience:

- Replacement floodlighting to courts 4-6 and 1-3 over the next five years.
- Refurbishment of the surface to courts 1-3 and 4-6 over the next five years.

David Luscombe
Estates Manager, Merrow Lawn Tennis Club
February 2025

e. Head Coach's Report

	Adult places filled per week/ total adult places available per week	Junior places filled per week/ total junior places available per week	**Total Number Attending Coaching**
End Autumn Term 2024	103/121	234/242	**337**
End Summer Term 2024	105/105	241/258	**346**
End Spring Term 2024	98/109	233/252	**331**
End Autumn Term 2023	100/111	241/262	**341**
End Summer Term 2023	97/100	239/248	**336**
End Spring Term 2023	88/95	233/250	**321**
End Autumn Term 2022	91/99	248/254	**339**
End Summer Term 2022	97/100	249/253	**346**
End Spring Term 2022	88/98	231/244	**319**
End Autumn Term 2021	88/93	236/249	**324**
End Summer Term 2021	92/93	255/261	**347**
Spring 2021	No coaching as club closed due to Covid		
End Autumn Term 2020	72/79	201/213	**273**
End of Summer term 2020 (Covid affected)	55/65	130/140	**185**
End Spring term 2020	56/66	176/216	**232**
End Autumn term 2019	59/72	181/204	**240**
End Summer term 2019	54/72	166/180	**220**



Coaching

As shown on the previous page the coaching programme regarding numbers and variety of groups (Junior and adult) looks really good.

We will keep maintaining the high standard of coaching ,motivation, enthusiasm and professionalism in order to continue to be (most probably) the best Tennis Club in Guildford and the surroundings areas.

Junior Club Sessions

The Junior Club sessions on Friday evenings are working really well. The Juniors are able to put in practice their skills and everything learned during the weekly coaching sessions and also and very importantly to develop the social part of the game.

There is a great attendance overall with an average number of 27 juniors attending.

The 13& Over sessions are the most popular at the moment.

We will be putting special attention on the 12&U age group in order to increase the number of children attending the club sessions.

The attendance in 11&U age group (Green and Orange) is a bit low at the moment so we have some ideas in place in order to increase numbers.

We are really keen in getting organised Junior Teams in every age group, 11&U (Green and Orange groups) , 12&U and 13&Over so that the Merrow LTC juniors can compete with other Tennis clubs in the area. It will be most probably friendly matches to start with.

Jorge - Head Coach
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f. Match Secretary's Report 2023-24

Merrow LTC has a thriving interclub team league group of players. In the last summer season, Merrow participated with 11 teams across 3 different leagues: the district-level Woking and Chaucer leagues as well as the county-level Surrey league. In winter, we usually enter with 10 teams across two leagues: the Woking league and Surrey league. Sometimes Merrow enters with a mixed doubles team in the Chaucer Knock out tournament (Chaucer league does not do the regular team league in winter).

Merrow has mens, ladies and mixed doubles teams and our teams play across all divisions in the district leagues and two of our A-teams (ladies, mens) compete in the higher divisions of the Surrey league; District leagues have 3-4 divisions; Surrey league has 20-21 divisions.

This report summarizes the result of our last winter (2023-24) and summer season (2024), with a brief mention of the currently ongoing winter season (2024-25).

Winter 2023-24 was a solid team league performance for Merrow. **We had two (ladies) teams that became champions in their respective divisions in the Woking league, CONGRATS!** Ladies A (captain Jenny) won in division 1 for the second winter in a row and Ladies C (captain Alison) showed a strong come back, winning division 4 and were therefore promoted to division 3 for this winter. Unfortunately, three teams ended second to last and were relegated to a lower division for the current winter season, due to an unlucky mix of strong competition and lack of player availability on our side. The other five teams maintained their positions.

Summer 2024 was another solid season, **with again two ladies teams, winning the division in their respective leagues (Woking, Surrey), CONGRATS!** Our **third mens team,** led by captain Phil, also did very well to land in a 2nd position, thanks to a super close last match and was promoted to a higher division for this summer. Two teams struggled and will be relegated to a lower division and six teams kept their positions.

This winter (2024-25), Merrow entered with same 10 teams across 2 leagues as last winter. However, the weather has been a real challenge this winter!! So far (Valentine's day), 20 league matches have been cancelled due to stormy weather, rain or frost and had to re-scheduled, which means we have a very dense 6 weeks remaining. The Woking league has extended the season for this reason by another 2 weeks. A tough situation for all those involved: for the captains finding new dates & teams, Alison for court re-bookings and Eugenia as Match secretary trying to coordinate it all.

We also entered with a mixed A team (Jenny, Eugenia, Andy, Kentaro) into the Chaucer Knock Out tournament, which has a very strong playing field. Merrow won the first round in a close match vs Oxshott but lost against the number 2 seeded Woking team.

With so many league matches still to be played, it's difficult to say how we're doing but we have a few teams in good positions with chances of becoming champion. Hopefully only good weather from now on!!

Team Results Winter 2023-24

Woking league (weekend)

1. **Ladies A – Division 1** (captain Jenny Marlow) – Ladies A became champion again, champion, like last winter, landing one point above the always strong Woking ladies A team. **CONGRATS!**
2. **Ladies B - Division 2** (captain Delia Searl) – Our Ladies B team had a solid performance in Division 2, landing 4th (out of 7).
3. **Ladies C – Division 4** (captain Alison Faulkner) – Ladies C, who were relegated into Division 4 in the previous winter, made a strong comeback by becoming champion and thus they are back in Division 3 this winter. **CONGRATS!**
4. **Mixed A – Division 1** (captain Eugenia Wachters) – Merrow mixed A team finished in a solid 4th position (4/7) in this tough division, despite struggling for players this winter.
5. **Mixed B – Division 2** (captain Helen Marlow) – Our Mixed B team also struggled for players and unfortunately ended last so is playing in Division 3 this winter where they will be competing against our Mixed C team.
6. **Mixed C – Division 3** (captain Sarah Luscombe) – This team landed in a safe 4th position (out of 7) so well maintained in Division 3.
7. **Mens A – Division 2** (captain Richard Holberton) – Our Mens A team in this league had to fight hard to stay in, landing in a 5th position (out of 7), ensuring they stay in Division 2.
8. **Mens B – Division 4** (captain Phil Burton) – This mens team played a solid season, securing their position by landing 4/7.

Surrey league (weekend)

1. **Ladies 1 – Division 14 (Amanda Miller)** – Our ladies team in this league ended second to last (5/6) and was relegated to Division 15 this winter.
2. **Mens 1 – Division 12 (captain Adey Stell)** – Our first mens team, playing in the Surrey league, also ended second to last (5/6) and are playing one division down this winter.

Team Results Summer 2024

Woking league (midweek)

1. **Ladies A – Division 2** (captain Delia Searl): An excellent summer season for our first ladies team in this league; they became champion, and will be promoted to Division 1 this coming summer. **CONGRATS!**
2. **Ladies B – Division 2** (captain Alison Faulkner): This ladies team was promoted to Division 2 based on last summer's 3rd position and did very well to end in a solid 4th position so will be playing again in this division this coming summer.
3. **Mixed A – Division 2** (captain Jo Bennett): Our 1st mixed team in the Woking league finished in a good third position (narrowly missing promotion into Division 1), so will remain in this division in the coming summer.
4. **Mixed B – Division 4** (captain Sarah Luscombe): Sarah's team also maintained well in a large division of 11 clubs (!), ending 5th.

Chaucer league (weekends)

1. **Mens 1** - **Premier division** - (captain Alex McCulloch): After having been promoted based on last summer's strong results into the highest level in this league, the Premier division, this team showed a solid performance ending 4th (4/7).
2. **Mens 2** – **Division 1** (captain Richard Holberton): Richard's team made a comeback into Division 1 based on last summer's great results, but unfortunately, was very unlucky and based on a very close scoring, landed 7th out of 8, so will be relegated to Division 3 in the coming summer.
3. **Mens 3** – **Division 2** (captain Phil Burton): Phil's team did very well and based on a very close scoring, ended in 2nd position so will they be promoted to Division 1, **CONGRATS!** This means we have a highly unusual situation with our Mens 2 and Mens 3 teams swapping divisions, which will require some careful coordination between the mens captains about which teams to put out for the different league matches.
4. **Mixed 1** – **Division 1** - (captain; Eugenia Wachters): Our mixed A team had another solid summer season, landing 2nd, behind the very strong Dorking team.
5. **Mixed 2** – **Division 2** (captain Helen Marlow): Unfortunately, this team struggled this summer season and ended 5th, so will be relegated to Division 3 in the coming summer.

Surrey League (weekends)

1. **Ladies 1 – Division 7 West** (Jenny Marlow): After a difficult summer in Division 5 last summer, our A ladies were relegated to division 7, but this division turned out to be too easy and the team became champion so the coming summer, they are back in Division 5. **CONGRATS!**
2. **Ladies 2 – Division 18** (captain Amanda Miller): Our 2nd ladies team in the Surrey league had a solid performance, coming 3rd, just missing a promotion.

Last but not least:
Team league play would not be possible without the help of all the **team captains** (especially this winter, not easy!) as well as **Alison Faulkner**, our club administrator, who takes care of all the court bookings and **Jo Bennett**, loyal supplier of match balls for the captains: thank you all for the great work & collaboration!

A special thanks also to those captains who have helped me out over the last seasons attending the always rather stressful fixture planning evenings, it's quite hard work: Helen Marlow, Jo Bennett, Delia Searle, Sarah Luscombe, Richard Holberton and Phil Burton.

It's been really nice to see some of our **juniors** starting to participate in our senior team league play; well done to Lewis, Dom and Jessica for 'stepping up' and playing for Merrow!

Merrow can always use more players for league teams (especially the higher teams) so if you're not involved yet and are interested or want to know more about the different options, please do send me an email at *e_wachters@hotmail.com* or have a chat with me @Merrow!

Eugenia Wachters
Match Secretary
March 25

g. Social Report

There has been a wide range of events over the last 12 months.

We had two fun quiz evenings in February and September last year. The junior members had three tournaments throughout the summer organised according to age groups with either pizza or a BBQ for players and their families. A charity tournament took place in October in aid of Oakleaf, the Guildford-based mental health charity and we raised £2,000 from members playing tennis, having supper, a raffle, and an auction. As usual in December members enjoyed mulled wine being served after a Saturday Club session and the Christmas lunch took place after a Wednesday Club session. The juniors also had a social in December.

Our Club sessions on a Saturday are not well attended and there are now plans to address this.

A huge thank you to all the members that help organise all these events and to all the members for their support.

h. Tournament Winners

Club Tournament Winners 2024

Women's Singles:	**Jenny Condick**
Men's Singles:	**Andy Williams**
Women's Doubles:	**Jenny Condick & Eugenia Wachters**
Men's Doubles:	**Kentaro Wada & Andy Williams**
Mixed Doubles:	**Jenny Condick & Andy Williams**

Plate Winners 2024

Women's Singles:	**Grace Faulkner**
Men's Singles:	**Harry Robin**
Women's Doubles:	**Yuri Marutani & Minglin Zhou**
Men's Doubles:	**Graham Jones & Hiro Marutani**
Mixed Doubles:	**Yuri Marutani & Hiro Marutani**

Vets Tournament Winners 2024

Women's Singles:	**Delia Searle**
Men's Singles:	**Joe Yu**
Women's Doubles:	**Julie Dickson & Alex Orr**
Men's Doubles:	**Darren Heath & Joe Yu**
Mixed Doubles:	**Eugenia Wachters & Richard Holberton**

Super Vets Tournament 2024

Women's Singles:	**Amanda Miller**
Men's Singles:	**Richard Holberton**
Women's Doubles:	**Alison Birch & Helen Farmer**
Men's Doubles:	**Colin Goody & Jaz Woodward**

Junior Tournament 2024

Mini Green:	**Valentin Gao-Heliot**
12 & Under Yellow Ball:	**Lewis Condick**
13 & Over Yellow Ball:	**Ella Dodd**
	Ed Mackinnon