

WRITTEN REPORTS COMMITTEE 2025/2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that our Club remains in excellent health, with strong activity across the courts, a full programme of competitive and social squash, and a membership that continues to reflect the friendly, inclusive and ambitious spirit of the Club.

One of the most continually encouraging features of the Club is the strength of our junior and ladies' squash, and the past year has been no different on that front. These areas of the Club are not merely healthy; they are noticeably more popular than at many other clubs, and they remain a real point of distinction for Biddenden. The enthusiasm of our younger players, the commitment of their families, and the energy around ladies' squash all demonstrate that the Club is succeeding in welcoming players of all ages and backgrounds.

Our teams have also enjoyed a successful season in the Kent leagues. The results achieved on court are a credit to the players who have represented the Club, but just as importantly they reflect the depth of participation and the positive playing culture we have developed. Competitive squash remains an important part of the Club's identity, and it is pleasing to see Biddenden continuing to compete with confidence and distinction (and also continuing to put on better post-match dinners than any other club we play against).

Court usage has remained strong throughout the year, which is perhaps the clearest evidence that the Club continues to be well used and well valued by its members. Regular bookings, coaching sessions, box league games, club nights and informal friendlies all contribute to a lively atmosphere around the Club. It is particularly notable that this activity is always spread across different groups within the membership rather than being confined to one section of players.

Our tournaments have again been well attended, with strong entries and good support from players and spectators alike. These events are an important part of the Club calendar. They create competitive opportunities, bring members together, and help maintain the sense of community that makes Biddenden such a welcoming place to play.

Membership numbers may be down slightly when compared with previous years, but that is most likely a natural adjustment following the introduction of the new membership categories. It should not be mistaken for any weakening in the Club's position. The underlying signs remain very positive: the courts are busy, our programmes are well supported, our events are attended, and the Club continues to attract and retain committed members.

The Club's finances also remain solid. However, we are entering a period of investment and careful management is going to be needed in order to ensure that we stay within our means. That period of investment is prompted not only by the fact that the Club premises need attention but also by the negotiations with Biddenden Parish Council for a new lease. The Council is requiring repair works to be undertaken and we have a project team working on organising that. My thanks go to all those who are involved in that exercise.

As part of putting in place a new lease of the premises, we need to identify an appropriate tenant to hold the lease, as the pre-existing arrangement was not satisfactory. To that end, we have set up a corporate entity - Biddenden Squash Club Limited. The Committee proposes that the new lease be granted to this entity, and that all club operations transfer to it too (with the precise mechanics and timing of that determined by the Committee - for instance so that we can ensure the company's financial year tallies with what happens at the Club). We will ask members to vote on a resolution to that effect at the AGM. None of it will make any material difference to the terms on which members access and use the club - it will just mean that everything is run through a company rather than being run as an unincorporated association.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee, coaches, team captains, volunteers and all members for their continued support and commitment. The Club's success depends on the efforts of many people, often working quietly behind the scenes, and that contribution is greatly appreciated. I look forward to another positive year for Biddenden Squash Club.

Proposed committee for 2026/2027

Chairman: Tom White
Director of Squash: Tom Swain
Treasurer: Lisa West
Membership Secretary: Anthony Boxall
Ladies Rep: Aimee Butler
Bar Manager: Paula Jirgena
Club / Social Secretary: Jo Davies
Committee Member: Charlie Stow

Tom White
Chairman
tomwhite@biddendensquash.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

Over the past year, our club has seen a change in membership levels, with total membership now standing at **233 members**, compared to **280 members in 2025**. This is likely partly attributable to changes in the membership structure, whereby some previously included family members—who were not regular playing members—opted not to renew.

Our current membership comprises **142 adult playing members, 22 young adults**, and a strong **47 junior members**, alongside **21 social members**. It is particularly encouraging to see the continued strength of the junior section, which remains a vital part of the club's long-term future, as well as a solid core of playing members.

The adjustment in **social membership** aligns with changing local dynamics following the return of alternative venues. Despite this, the club continues to benefit from a committed and engaged membership base.

Following its introduction last year, the **Household Membership model** has provided additional flexibility for families and is expected to continue supporting both retention and recruitment over time. This structure allows the first adult in a household to pay the full fee, with additional household members benefiting from a reduced rate.

Looking ahead to the forthcoming membership year (**July 2026–June 2027**), membership fees are proposed as follows, reflecting a modest increase to support rising operational costs:

- **Adult Playing Member:** £150 (*slight increase*)
- **Young Adult (18–25):** £75
- **Junior (under 18):** £30
- **Social Member:** £20

Household Membership:

- First adult pays full fee (£150)
- Additional household members (in any category, excluding Social members) pay 50% of their applicable category rate

As always, I encourage all members to ensure their details on MyCourts are up to date. Maintaining accurate records helps support effective communication and allows the club to better understand and respond to membership trends.

In summary, the club remains in a positive position, with a strong playing base and an encouraging junior pipeline. With continued focus on engagement and recruitment, we are well placed to build on this foundation in the coming year.

Anthony Boxall

Membership Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Hopefully you have had a chance to look at the accounts that have recently been sent out to you all, the members of the club.

In summary, the club has made a very modest profit this year and remains in a healthy financial position.

We have seen a slight increase in bar sales this year but a drop in membership and lights income. The drop in membership income is partly a reflection of the evolved family to household membership structure. The lights income drop is partly due to the increased level of tournaments and special events held at the club, that do not generate light income. Total income for the year amounted to £80k, compared to £79k the previous year.

Bar costs have decreased slightly, despite the slight increase in bar sales. Prices have been increased in-line with the increase in costs during the year. A shift towards locally sourced large and ales as well as a change in goods being sold have impacted this variance.

The gross profit was £47k for the year, an almost replica of the previous year.

Some other costs include:

- Cleaning – £5,312 has been spent with contract cleaners, including weekly cleans twice a week as well as deep cleans in particular areas of the club where and when needed.
- Computer Expenses – includes the final instalment of the website to allow us to run event bookings online, market upcoming events while also celebrating past events and tournaments. As well as the membership renewals/applications, merchandise purchases and direct enquiries, plus lots more information about our wonderful club; past, present and future.
- Light & Heat – costs have mirrored the court usage. Sourcing the more reasonable fuel prices where we can as these continue to rise.
- Repairs & Maintenance – have been kept to a minimum this year. This also includes a £2k rebate from an expense in the previous year.
- Wages & Pensions – totalling £23.5k during the year. Include rises in the National Living Wage and as well as the usual Auto Enrolment requirements for pensions etc.
- In General - The majority of other costs have continued to rise in line with the rising costs of most expenses.

The Balance Sheet remains in a healthy position, with bank reserves of nearly £23k at 31 March 2026, being marginally above the previous year. Other balances remain fairly consistent with the previous year.

Having increased and restructured the membership fees last year, the decision was to maintain the membership prices (excluding the adult membership which will be proposed to increase from £145 to £150 pa pp). It will also be proposed for the light fees to remain the same. Bar prices will increase in-line with commercial increases, to ensure the bar can be sustained.

Looking forward, we plan to invest in our club considerably over the coming year(s), with various large and small improvements throughout the club; some of which will be noticeable and some not so. In order to be able to do this, we need to raise funds to help maintain and improve our club further. This is where we call on our members and beyond! Improvements rather than maintenance require larger amounts of financial support, but also expertise and resources can be invaluable. Therefore if you have some great ideas for fundraising events and/or can spare anytime to help out, or have any valuable expertise ranging from building and maintenance skills to grant applications, please do contact the committee.

Finally, and on a personal note, I would like to say an enormous thank you to the rest of the committee, who volunteer their time and for their constant hard work to benefit our club and you, the members. There has been an enormous amount of work that has gone on behind the scenes of the club this year (and will into next year too) to secure the future of Biddenden Squash Club. Capitalising on both the committees' professional expertise, as well as maximising on the skills and contacts we already have.

A big thank you also to the staff for running the bar and to all the people that have volunteered their time to get involved in running and donating their time at events, both at the one-off events and those that are run on a regular basis.

Lisa West
Treasurer

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BAR MANAGER REPORT

2025/2026 season for the bar has been another successful and productive year. In line with the price increase the bar saw an overall increase in revenue across the year. Whilst we did not quite reach the record breaking 23/24 season, overall, the year has been extremely positive.

The bar maintained steady sales throughout the year, with several events bringing in more takings than expected. This year we held a range of social and sporting events – 50th anniversary Big Bash, charity tournament in honour of Rob Davis, our annual quiz night, Christmas party and NYE party, to name a few. I would like to thank everyone who put in their time and efforts to make sure these events go ahead.

Like many local hospitality businesses rising costs and general operating expenses have meant we had to slightly adjust the bar prices from this April. A continuous review of costs and pricing have enabled the bar to continue running successfully while providing good value to our members.

As always, the bar team have worked exceptionally well this year. After many years of service, we said goodbye to Tanya Goldsmith who regularly ran the bar on Wednesday evenings. Tanya's continued hard work and dedication towards the bar and club did not go unnoticed. Thank you Tanya! Following Tanya's departure, Earle Pullen joined the bar team and now holds the fort on Friday afternoons and evenings. Hopefully you have all had a chance to pop in and have a chat with him behind the bar.

I would like to thank the rest of the committee for their continued support. The focus for the coming year will be to build on the continuous bar success by increasing event participation and welcoming our new members to the bar. Finally – a big THANK YOU to all members of Biddenden Squash Club who make time to visit the bar. Without you we wouldn't be able to have this space to enjoy a drink or two and create wonderful memories! So, cheers to another year!

Paula Jirgena

Bar Manager

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DIRECTOR OF SQUASH REPORT

Court usage for Individual member bookings has remained steady across the last 2 years.

The club supports a number of sessions across a weekly basis and this feeds into the healthy situation the club is currently in. The table below has a breakdown of these sessions.

Type of Session	Number of Sessions per week	Number of Participants
Racket Tots – parent and toddler sessions – 2-4 year olds	4	30+ different children have done racket tots at the club for at least one term this year
Rapid Rackets –beginners squash sessions	3	35+ children in the last year have completed at least one term
Junior Squash – Year 3 upwards – this includes the Young adult session for 17-24yr olds	7 – 1 extra session	60+ this number has remained steady compared to last year due to limited spaces
Monday Night Ladies and Thursdays	5 – 4 sessions on a Monday – 1 on a Thursday	Over 30 ladies, have attended sessions since September, a number of new players as a result of coming to Racket Tots/ children attending junior sessions and Squaffee
Saturday Morning Training	2	Over 25 different players have attended, with a limit of 16 per week for the squash sessions (8 per session) A number of our older juniors have also been attending
Squaffee Morning	1 session on a Friday	Has a number of regular attendees and some less frequent drop ins, a number of new faces have joined in as well
Greenfields School	1 sessions per week for 2 terms	Children from Greenfields school have attended the sessions as part of their PE curriculum. 7 new children on court playing
Mount Lodge Care Farm	1 coaching session and 2/3 playing sessions per week	Mount Lodge have been coming in and participating in sessions, once a week with TS subsidised by England Squash, other sessions led by B.Davies. 20 young people and adults with a range of additional needs on court playing

Wednesday Night MATS, Team Squash and Events

The take up for MATS has been popular over the last 2 years. Last year 50th anniversary, Club Legends edition was a great success and reintegrated some of the legends back to the club!

This years Traitors version has 9 new faces (to MATS) and 13 ladies taking part (not including those able to step in as Subs).

Thank you to Charlie Stow and Ben Davies for running the teams in the winter and for some MATS matches against other clubs as well. Both teams performed well and got some more of our members playing competitive team squash.

The Kent Junior Leagues have been a bit of a non-event, mainly due to poor showing from other clubs.

Aimee and Polly are currently running a Squash Girls programme, largely funded by England Squash to encourage county wide involvement of girls in our sport.

Box Leagues

Consistently 55+ players in the leagues across the club , with completion of matches consistently being 70%+. Other clubs do seem to struggle to keep box leagues going. A number of our juniors have now 'stepped up' into senior leagues and are performing well.

Our junior box leagues have been less frequent, mainly due to an increase in events at our club and clashes with tournaments/events at other clubs.

3 of our juniors have represented at county level this year.

Club Tournaments

We have been able to complete another full season of tournaments meaning we will be adding some new names and some familiar ones to the club honours boards. The recent Club Closed competitions were well supported by players and spectators with an awesome afternoon of finals. We also resurrected the Under 13 competition for the first time in a number of years, due to an increase in interest.

Tournament Results

Tournament	Winner
Mens Closed	Chris Gorman
Ladies Closed	Aimee Butler
Junior Closed U18	Alfie Swain
Junior Closed U13	Zachary West
Mens Plate	Charlie Stow
Ladies Plate	Jessica West
Junior Plate U18	Max Jacobs
Junior Plate U13	Thomas Watkins
Club Handicap	Peter West
Club Handicap Plate	Earle Pullen
Ladies Handicap	Polly Coxeter
Ladies Handicap Plate	Olivia Selby
Veterans Handicap	Mark Corkan
Veterans Handicap Plate	Herbie Morgan
Junior Handicap	Alfie Swain
Junior Handicap Plate	Vlad Maidanyk

Tom Swain

Director of Squash

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CLUB / SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

2025/2026 has been a year of administration, negotiation, and a great deal of behind-the-scenes work. This has included putting a new lease in place for the club, reviewing and prioritising a list of works to be carried out around the building, installing new security cameras, and managing all the usual day-to-day tasks involved in keeping the club running smoothly.

Following the very sad loss of one of our much-loved members, it was unanimously agreed that one of our courts should be renamed the Rob Davis Show Court. Many thanks go to Rob's family for supporting this idea, to Charlie Stow for organising and to Brad Debona for installing the signage, and also for updating our honours board.

Our thanks also go to Tony Scott, who stepped down from his committee role in January, and to Anthony Boxall, who very kindly took on the position of Membership Secretary. Thanks as well to Tanya Goldsmith, who stepped away from her bar duties after many years of service, and welcome to Earle Pullen, who now runs the bar on Fridays.

Social Events - In June last year, we held the Big Summer Bash to celebrate 50 years of our fantastic club. It was a wonderful occasion featuring games on the field, squash, a bouncy castle, hog roast, a live band, and our annual achievement awards.

The Back to Squash Graded Tournament was held in September and raised money for the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, chosen by the family of Rob Davis.

In March, we enjoyed our always-popular Quiz Night, which was, as ever, great fun. Many thanks to Dan and Tanya Goldsmith for organising and running it.

The club has also hosted a range of other tournaments throughout the year, all of which have been very well attended, along with our Christmas Party and New Year's Eve Party.

Please take a look at the club website for photographs and details of winners from the various events.

Looking Ahead - The MATS tournament is now underway with a 'Traitors' twist and as usual has proved very popular with several new faces.

We also look forward to our Family Summer Party on Saturday 27 June, and hope to see many of you there.

Details of all upcoming events can be found on the Events page of the club website.

If you would like to organise or run a social event, please email info@biddendensquash.co.uk to check calendar availability, or speak to a member of the committee at the club.

Finally, many thanks to everyone involved in organising, helping and running our social events and tournaments, to the bar staff for always looking after us, to the committee for volunteering their time and continuous hard work, and to you, our members, for making this club such a fantastic place to be.

Jo Davies,
Club / Social Secretary
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LADIES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Firstly, sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the continued success of Biddenden Ladies' Squash. Your support - whether as players, parents, or members - has been instrumental in the growth and strength of this ever-expanding section of our club.

Membership among women and girls continues to thrive, with over 70 currently involved in club sessions and activities. The Monday Night ladies continues to strengthen with 20+ members regularly attending over the three groups and extra sessions being run on a Thursday evening. The commitment and participation of our ladies has not only contributed to the success of MNL but is also raising the standard of squash across the club. Participation continues into the weekend, with nearly 10 women regularly attending Saturday morning sessions.

This year's ladies Handicap Tournament was a great success, with 18 ladies entering. The competition was played over 5 rounds, with players enjoying a mix of competitive and closely contested matches throughout. Polly Coxeter successfully retaining her title from last year and our 15 year old junior Olivia Selby taking the Ladies Handicap Plate. This year saw two new names on the board for the Ladies Closed Tournament, with Aimee Butler becoming the latest Ladies Closed winner and Jessica West winning the Ladies Plate at just 13 years old. MATS continues to be a key driver of female participation, with 13 out of 44 members taking part in the 2026 MATS the Traitors Edition.

The number of junior girls at the club has continued to increase across coaching sessions, league games and club competitions. Their consistent involvement in both training sessions and girls sessions sees huge progression in their performances with lots of them entering into the ladies tournaments already. The junior girls section remains an active and expanding part of the club and is exciting to see how much potential there is within this group of girls and where this will take them in future. A huge thank you is extended to the parents of our junior girls, their ongoing support and commitment had made such a difference in the rise in girls squash at Biddenden.

And finally, thank you once again for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. The future of Biddenden Ladies' Squash is bright, and we look forward to continuing this positive momentum together.

Aimee Butler

Ladies Representative

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