Hazel Grove Bowling & Tennis Club

Tennis Section Annual Report

Secretary's Report – 2025/2026 AGM

23 February 2026

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1. Introduction

The past year has been a positive, progressive and strategically important one for the Tennis Section at Hazel Grove Bowling & Tennis Club.

We have continued to compete strongly in league tennis across both summer and winter competitions, expanded the number of teams we field, enhanced our social offering, secured external funding to grow community participation, and set clear strategic priorities to ensure the long-term sustainability of the section.

Importantly, the increase in the number of teams we now field is relatively recent. Competing consistently across multiple divisions in established and highly competitive regional leagues represents genuine structural growth for the section.

Our focus remains on delivering:

- Competitive team tennis
- Quality coaching and player development
- Inclusive social opportunities
- Sustainable membership growth

2. League Tennis

We continue to field:

- Men's Teams in the Summer Leagues
- Ladies' Teams in the Summer Leagues
- Five Mixed Teams in the Winter League

This level of representation demonstrates the strength and depth within the section.

Summer League Tennis – 2025

We competed across two leagues:

North East Cheshire Lawn Tennis League

Men's 1st Team – Division 7 – 9th (1W, 2D, 6L)

Men's 2nd Team – Division 11 – 9th (3W, 2D, 6L)

Ladies' 1st Team – Division 4 – 5th (3W, 4D, 3L)

Ladies' 2nd Team – Division 9 – 4th (5W, 5L)

South West Manchester Summer League

Ladies' 3rd Team – Division 3 – Champions (Unbeaten)

Men's 3rd Team – Division 6 – 6th (improved win record on 2024)

The standout achievement of the summer was the Ladies' 3rd Team winning Division 3 unbeaten.

In 2024, the team finished 3rd (8W, 1D, 3L).

In 2025, they progressed to 1st with 11 wins and 1 draw from 12 matches — an exceptional achievement in a highly competitive league.

The Men's 3rd Team also demonstrated measurable progression, increasing their win total compared to 2024 and strengthening competitiveness following a challenging previous season.

Competing across six summer teams, in multiple divisions, reflects both participation growth and improved squad depth.

We extend our sincere thanks to all captains and players for their commitment, organisation and sportsmanship throughout the season.

Winter League – East Cheshire Mixed Winter League 2025/2026

Winter tennis continues to be a major strength of the section, with five mixed teams entered:

Mixed 1st Team – Division 3 – 10th

Mixed 2nd Team – Division 10 – 2nd (Runners-Up)

Mixed 3rd Team – Division 13 – 3rd

Mixed 4th Team – Division 15B – 7th

Mixed 5th Team – Division 15A – 8th

The Mixed 2nd Team's runners-up finish and the Mixed 3rd Team's strong 3rd place reflect genuine competitiveness and depth.

Fielding five winter teams demonstrates year-round engagement and strong organisational leadership.

Again, our thanks go to all winter captains and players.

3. Coaching & Player Development

We are extremely fortunate to work alongside Faris McGrath – Top Spin Tennis Academy, who leads our professional coaching programme.

Faris and his coaching team provide year-round training opportunities for:

- Adults of all standards
- Junior players across multiple age groups
- Beginners through to competitive team players

The structured coaching pathway is central to our development strategy, supporting player progression and building a sustainable pipeline of future team players.

Faris will be in attendance at the AGM to provide a verbal report and this will provide anyone with an opportunity to put questions to him.

4. Facilities & Equipment

The Tennis Section continues to benefit from excellent facilities:

- Two TigerTurf courts (relatively new and in excellent condition)
- Two tarmac courts
- Floodlighting to support year-round play
- A world-class Spinfire Pro 2 ball machine available for member use

The ball machine remains a fantastic asset, allowing members to practise independently and develop their skills outside organised sessions.

We did experience challenges this year with floodlighting, which impacted winter usage. These issues are recognised and being addressed.

Ongoing maintenance and investment in our facilities remain essential.

5. Social & Fundraising Initiatives

One of the greatest strengths of our section is its social culture.

Friday Night BBQ Evenings

This season we introduced Friday Night BBQs alongside home league matches.

The aims were to:

- Encourage members, families and guests to attend matches

- Increase social interaction
- Generate additional funds for the club

These evenings have been extremely well received, enhancing atmosphere and generating valuable additional income at a time when fundraising is increasingly important.

We thank all volunteers who organised and supported these events.

Monthly Book Club

We launched a monthly Tennis Section Book Club, held in the clubhouse.

The Book Club:

- Encourages interaction beyond match play
- Supports inclusion of non-league members
- Increases clubhouse engagement and bar activity

This initiative strengthens the community feel within the section.

6. Community Outreach & Grant Funding

We are delighted to report that the Tennis Section has been awarded a grant enabling us to offer free tennis sessions to the wider community.

This funding allows us to:

- Remove barriers to participation
- Increase local access to tennis
- Invest in junior tennis equipment
- Strengthen our junior development pathway

The purchase of junior rackets, balls and training equipment significantly enhances our ability to introduce young players to the sport.

We would particularly like to thank Jim and Lydia Maud for their support and involvement in progressing this initiative.

7. Growth, Communication & Membership Development

Recruiting new members — particularly juniors and younger players — remains a key strategic priority.

This year we also recognised the need to improve communication within the wider tennis section.

To support growth, we will:

- Increase social media activity to promote results, coaching and events
- Strengthen engagement with local primary and secondary schools
- Promote free community sessions as a pathway into membership
- Continue fostering a welcoming, inclusive and family-friendly environment

Building a strong junior base is essential for long-term sustainability.

8. Commercial & Local Business Partnerships

We are exploring partnership opportunities with local businesses to create mutually beneficial arrangements.

The aim is to develop “quid pro quo” initiatives whereby:

- Members receive discounts or offers
- Businesses gain exposure to our membership
- The club strengthens its local presence

These partnerships will add tangible value to membership.

9. Governance & Committee

Challenges this year included:

- Recruiting new members
- Floodlighting issues
- Communication improvements

However, we now benefit from a strong and collaborative Tennis Committee comprising:

Caroline Green;Martin Reynolds;Chris Howarth;Tony Street;Jim Maud;Trevor Boswell

The committee meets regularly (at least every two months) and works constructively to improve the section, enhance value for members and support fundraising initiatives.

As this has been my first year serving as Tennis Secretary, I would like to personally thank the committee for their support, experience and guidance. Their contribution has been invaluable.

10. Looking Ahead

The Tennis Section is in a strong and developing position, with:

- Expanded league participation
- Competitive success
- High-quality coaching
- Strong facilities
- Growing social initiatives
- Community grant support
- Clear growth ambitions

Our focus now is to consolidate progress, grow membership — particularly juniors — strengthen communication, and continue enhancing both the social and competitive life of the section.

11. Closing Remarks

I would like to thank:

- All team captains and players
- Faris McGrath and his coaching team
- Jim and Lydia Maud
- All volunteers supporting events and fundraising
- The General Committee for their ongoing support

The past year has shown that the Tennis Section is active, ambitious and forward-looking. With continued collaboration and commitment, we are well placed to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for tennis at Hazel Grove Bowling & Tennis Club.