

RTC AGM March 2026



Chairman's report:

Good evening and welcome to the RTC AGM. Thank you for taking the time to attend tonight. It's a pleasure to see so many members here showing their continued support for the club. This meeting gives us an opportunity to reflect on our achievements, thank those that have been proactive in helping to develop the club further and to those who have helped run the club smoothly as well as a chance to look ahead to an exciting summer season.

This past year has been one of significant change for the club. We have worked hard to modernise and strengthen our foundations, introducing new systems, refreshing our facilities with the limited funds we've had and reviewing how we operate to ensure we are fit for the future. Change can sometimes be challenging but it has also brought new energy and fresh ideas. Thanks to the commitment and constant support of our committee, volunteers and members, we have been able to navigate smoothly those developments positively and have as a result put the club in a stronger position for the years ahead.

Here's an overview of the key developments that have happened over the last 12 months:

Viewing area:

Following the re-development of the viewing areas that took place in December 2024 we've since purchased a few club essentials such as some bistro style tables and chairs outside the clubhouse. Solar lights have been added to the raised beds as well as two new kites to scare away the pigeons (currently being stored inside over the winter). The beds have been planted, benches and the table given a new lease of life as well improving the look of the noticeboard. We've purchased a cantilever style sun shade and have re-seeded the grass in that area to improve the overall look of the viewing area. We've also purchased some brand-new orange and green balls for juniors which can be used for club socials as well as cardio tennis sessions, feel free to borrow any of these, they're located in the new drawers next to the steps as well as the spare rackets that are there for juniors or new members to use (feel free to donate any old rackets that you have).

We've also purchased a few club essentials such as a new lawnmower, strimmer, patio storage container and clubhouse hoover. We've installed a key storage lock as well which means all members will have access to the clubhouse via a code and we won't have to cut any more keys. All of this was paid for by money raised from the Easter bonus ball so thank you to everyone who took part and to Steve P for organising it.

Court maintenance:

Tennis Court Care visited twice during early spring 2025 and completed stage 1 and then stage 2 of our court care programme. All 4 courts were treated for moss and then a deep clean followed which left the courts looking as good as new! A few cracks and

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holes have since been filled in and will shortly be painted which will finish the job off nicely. A moss treatment is planned before this season starts and we'll tie in a spot jet wash session to ensure the courts are in the best condition they can be.

We've also spent a long time working on court one recently, trying to flatten the lumps that have appeared. It's not perfect but hopefully a little better than it was, the touch up paint may look a little patchy but hopefully it'll weather. You may also have noticed a number of cracks running on the outside of all of the courts, we've spent time filling these in as well which works really well.

We've also had worked carried out on some overgrown conifers and hedges which will help keep the courts moss free and long term gives us some extra space. We'll be continuing to work on these over the next 6 months to really get on top of these.

Online Banking:

We have moved to online banking which has helped with making prompt payments and checking membership and match fee payments. This move has helped us to:

- Have better financial control;
- Save time for committee members;
- Offer easier membership payments;
- Improve security;
- Ensure transparency and accountability.

Social Media:

After our Facebook account was deleted, we have worked hard to rebuild our social media presence and this has been extended to include Instagram and X. Updates and announcements are regularly posted and followers have built to around 90 – please share our page with your own social media contacts to help boost numbers. We have also updated our website to show the latest information.

Club Championships:

Our inaugural Club Championships were held over the weekend of April 4th-6th 2025. Saturday began with a mixed doubles tournament which was followed by a Men's Singles tournament. It was decided to continue this into Sunday after the men's doubles tournament as the men were quite simply on their last legs! We had a great weekend, helped massively by the fantastic weather. Thanks to Steve P for organising the event which proved to be a huge success. The winners and runners up for 2025 were as follows:

Mixed Doubles:

Winners - Ben Drummond and Oxanne Wilson

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Runners up – Andrew Dunning and Jayne Lees

Men's Doubles:

Winners - Ben Drummond and Dave Stewart
Runners Up – Steve Davis and Leon Speck

Men's Singles:

Winner - Ben Drummond
Runner up – Steve Davis

Following the success of last years' events will be holding a series of tournaments over the weekend of 18th/19th April. We will begin with a mixed doubles tournament over the weekend and hope to hold a men's doubles and ladies doubles tournament during the mid-summer league break.

Spring clean-up day:

Members joined forces on Good Friday and managed to get though some big jobs helping to make the club look as good as it can be. The clubhouse was given a complete clear out with the kitchen cupboards and the kit room having a complete overhaul. Conifers were cut back to enable easier access to the meter reading box as well the patio being jet-washed. Outside furniture was painted and trees were trimmed. All of the old tennis balls were sorted out and a new system of using old match balls was installed. Raised borders were all weeded, ready to be planted up, entrance mats were cleaned and vacuumed and all the windows were given a good polish. We also sprayed weed killer around the edges of the courts to help manage moss build up.

Members will be joining forces on **Friday 3rd April** to give the clubhouse, courts and surrounding area a spring clean in preparation for a great summer of tennis. If you can spare a few hours that would be greatly appreciated – we will be creating a list of jobs in advance and displaying it in the clubhouse.

Padel developments:

We are now hopefully at the final stages of planning permission which has included a never-ending list of conditions that we have had to meet. The process has now taken almost a year but thankfully the discharge of conditions (Noise Impact Assessment, Noise Management Plan and Construction Environmental Plan) have been submitted which hopefully answers all the questions the planning department had. We will find out whether these conditions are appropriate and acceptable by 13th March (we are hopeful that there will be no further issues). We really hope this is successful as the money raised from this will go a long way to securing the future of the club and gives us a chance to begin the plans of rebuilding all 3 courts.

It has taken a significant amount of time and effort to get to the stage we are now at. This has included gaining permission from the RSA, installing the help of a local



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architect, creating the environmental report, sound and lighting plan as well as a construction plan.

This has included sourcing sound panels to cover the entire length of the north side of the court fences. Hopefully we'll be able to update on the dates for construction in the next week or so.

Coaching:

In a significant change to the club, we parted company with Sasha Taylor and Andrew Long (Over the Net Tennis Foundation) in August and installed Jack Wood as our new Head Coach. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Sasha and Andrew for all the work they put into the club over the years but we did feel that it was time for a change. Navigating this was challenging however we now have a settled junior and adult programme that is going from strength to strength (coaching report to follow).

Series of Friday Night Socials

We've held a number of Spring, Summer, Autumn, Halloween and Christmas socials over the last year which have all been a huge success - the Christmas one was particularly good! The clubhouse looked amazing with all the decorations and disco lights. Throughout all of the events lots of juniors and adult members played together; a few competitive doubles matches took place as well as some fun games for the kids'; these were great events for both members and non-members. A number of new memberships have come from these events. We also held an 'Open Day' which tied in with the Riccall Carnival which generated membership interest. Our next 'Start of Season' social is planned for Friday 24th April.

Bonus ball fundraisers:

Thanks to Steve Packer for organising the Easter and Valentine bonus ball fundraiser, whilst money is tight, events like this make a huge difference until we can hopefully generate some funds from the Padel court development.

Clothing range:

We're currently looking at offering a range of Riccall Tennis Club clothing ranging from t-shirts to hoodies that can be purchased online and can all be personalised. This can be extended to water bottles, caps, towels to offer a fantastic range of club merchandise. Members will hopefully be able to purchase individual items or will be able to purchase kit bundles which will be an exciting development for the club. Fingers crossed that we may be able to have this in place before the start of the season.

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Table Tennis:

We have recently purchased some table tennis equipment for all to enjoy. Please familiarise yourself with how to set it up together with a few safety reminders using the video sent to all members via Whatsapp. There are competitions and social play sessions planned for the future.

Club Questionnaire:

We sent out a club questionnaire in January to assess how 2025 went with a particular focus on club communication and club development which were two areas that members had significant issues with following last year's AGM. So far there's been lots of positive responses reflecting the work that has taken place over the last 18 months – the committee will analyse the results in the coming weeks.

Safe-guarding:

You may have noticed we've had a complete over-haul of all of our safe-guarding policies – which means we are now completely LTA compliant – the recent Safeguarding update email will have explained all of the changes and updates. There are few tweaks that are due to be made regarding junior supervision at coaching but all will be in place shortly.

As a reminder, our Welfare Officer is on hand should you have any safeguarding concerns or anything that is worrying you that you wish to discuss. Steven Capewell is our Welfare and Safe-guarding Officer and you can contact him via phone (07557996826) or email (steven.capewell@sky.com). Steve Packer is our Deputy Welfare and Safe-guarding Officer and you can contact him via phone (07738470021) or email (stephenpacker7@aol.com).

Further information about safeguarding at our venue and related policies can be found on our website [Policies – Riccall Tennis Club](#). We now have a safeguarding noticeboard inside the clubhouse which has details of all our policies and procedures including contact details of our Welfare and Safe-guarding Officers.

Promoting a positive safeguarding culture includes promoting positive behaviours, and as a future LTA Registered Venue, all our members and venue users are required to follow the [LTA Code of Conduct](#). Please familiarise yourself with this and raise any concerns about behaviours with the Welfare and Safe-guarding Officers or a committee member.

Looking forwards:

Sponsored junior events
Village Youth Club to be held at the Club
Cardio Tennis to launch
Committee to explore grants and funding opportunities.

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Links with local Physio companies to offer discounts to members



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Coaching report.



Juniors:

The juniors' numbers since joining the club have gone up in 2 of the 3 groups since I started, which is great progress for the winter month (with some usually dropping out due to the cold). I expect the numbers to keep progressing as the spring picks up. The numbers are now 6,6 & 2 compared to 4,6 & 1 from when we started (with another trying out this week). Some of the above numbers moved from other clubs to continue with myself resulting in new members for Riccall too.

The camp in February was quiet with 6 attending the morning and the afternoon sadly cancelled due to numbers, but this is usual for Feb as numbers are usually low over this half term, and I expect the numbers to increase for the Easter camps.

Adults:

The team / doubles tactics has also grown with two new players joining the club (again from my other clubs) and I'm happy with the progress of the players in both technical and tactical aspects of the game. Numbers for adult coaching range from 8-12 on a regular basis. Overall, I'm happy with how everything is going, and thanks all again for being so welcoming.

Thanks,

Jack

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Membership fees

The Committee propose that membership fees should predominantly remain the same for the 2026/27 season to continue the drive to increase membership numbers but suggest the following changes.

1. A slight change has been proposed to include an increase to the family membership price from £100 per family to £115 per family. This ensures there's more of a difference between the price of an adult membership (£90) to that of a family membership that was discussed at last year's AGM.
2. We also propose a particularly attractive offer to a junior membership to encourage the next generation of tennis players (was £40 for 16–18-year-olds in full time education, £26 secondary school age and £16 for primary aged children). We propose a membership fee of £16 to all juniors up to the age of 18 and a membership fee of £40 for university students.

Proposal of Membership fees for the 2026/27 season:

- **Full Adult - £90**
- **Family - £115**
- **Juniors (up to the age of 18) - £16**
- **University students - £40**
- **Half price Winter membership to commence in September 26**

Other fees:

- **Court hire (non-members) - £10 per hour**
- **Visitor fee - £5 (when playing with a member)**
- **Floodlight use - £1 per hour (not including club nights, cardio sessions)**