

PRESIDENT'S REPORT RLTC 2019

2019 has proven to be a very successful year for our club.

Financially, as summarized separately by our Treasurer, the club is on solid ground. The actions taken by the Board and the Club Manager over the past couple of years have enabled the club to be restored to a robust financial state. The combination of increased memberships, a bit of entrepreneurialism, and attention to operating expenses despite ever increasing taxes and utilities has proved beneficial. The Board continues to manage the club's finances prudently in order to address opportunities and challenges.

Our club's membership has continued to climb for the third year in a row. While it is difficult to compare actuals with actuals because of different technologies, it is certain the club's membership has risen to well over the 400 mark. Members seem to have responded to the revised fee structure introduced by the Board in the spring, particularly the new family rate.

With increased memberships come more tennis. While we do not presently measure court usage, it was definitely up from previous years having regard to popular tournaments, clinics, ongoing lessons, competitive ladders, and just plain casual tennis. Our clay courts survived another season without mishap, although we know this will not last forever. Meanwhile the hard courts are showing some cracks which will probably require remedial work.

Our club is justly known for its vibrant social life. Notwithstanding the wet weather in the beginning of the summer, spirits were high at the Open House, weekly BBQs, semi-pro musical entertainment, the Annual Social, two Family Nights, and just hanging around. The new awning enhanced the deck as the place to enjoy the feeling that comes after a good run around the courts.

Our club has been very well led on the front lines by our Club Manager Chris Hannant who, with his staff, poured his heart and soul into making the club a popular destination. Our two best-in-class pros, Miguel Carrasco and Zhenya Kondratovski, did an amazing job with seniors and juniors alike. The junior program was restructured this year into a recreation program under the watchful eye of Vincent Beaulé, and a smaller but intense competitive program led by Zhenya. This arrangement experienced a solid first year and will grow stronger next year and beyond. Our thanks to Chris and the tennis pros for raising the bar to make it an exceptional year.

So many members volunteered their time and expertise without recognition in order to make our club better in many different ways. While it would be unfair to mention some and not others, they know who they are and our sincere thanks go out to them.

The Board is sadly losing several veteran Directors. I would like to thank Michael Teeter, past President and past Treasurer; Allan Culham, Treasurer; Paul Henry, a guiding light

to enhance the tennis experience; and Anders Jeppsson whose career kept him from making the contribution he had hoped. This is my final year as a Board member and I am grateful for the opportunity to nudge our club forward. It has been a privilege.

Our club must continually look forward and continuously improve performance on- and off-court. The five new Directors who will be presented to the membership will carry forward the club's progress and ensure it remains the top club in the region.

Tony Stikeman