



Northern Aces Annual Report 2021-2022

Thank you for your time and support to NA over the past 12 months. Despite the difficulties of being a nomad club and one of our main bases being converted to a Vaccination Centre, we have managed to maintain weekly sessions for most of the year. These have been regularly attended and nearly always fully booked with sessions filling up minutes after advertising. This shows there is a need for regular social sessions and the potential to increase the club's offering in this space in the future (court availability dependent).

Post Covid Update :

We have continued to build a great relationship with Sports City and have cemented our weekend sessions alternating Saturdays and Sundays between 15:00 – 17:00. Once the Vaccination Centre closes, the courts will be refurbished in September and all 6 courts will become available for use. This will then allow us to extend our booking to potentially 4 courts and back up to the regular 3 hour slot instead of the current 2 hours.

The teams continue to play their matches at Urmston and we continue to maintain a friendly relationship with Urmston Tennis Club with the option of hosting summer social sessions.

1 - Membership :

Outdoor tennis clubs have seen a rise in memberships when lockdown partially ended and outdoor activities were allowed. This resulted in some members joining outdoor tennis clubs. In addition to the limited court time we can currently offer, membership numbers have seen a decline on previous years. Membership over 2021-2022 was 40 members (65 in 2020, 55 in 2019, 46 in 2017). Unfortunately, the relative percentage of female members has reduced slightly. Over the year we received increasing enquiries from potential new members.

Membership is £35 per year.

2 - Sessions :

The heart of Northern Aces is the weekly social sessions whereby members meet and get to know each other in social tennis environment. There has been a consistent turnout from members at these sessions. In addition, we get the odd new player or two every other session which is great to see. There is now a basket of balls at Sports City which members can use during the session.

Unfortunately, due to Sports City being a Vaccination Centre, we have to cap attendance at

12 players per session.

From Sep 2022, we hope to revert back to the 3 or 4 court set up for 3 hours which will allow us to cater for 20+ players a session and not have to cap numbers at 12.

3 - GLTA :

September 2019 saw a hugely successful popular and LTA award winning Manchester GLTA organised by Eira Guest and Sofia Milone. Grass court tennis brought to our global GLTA community courtesy of our Northern Aces! Something we should all be proud of.

GLTA 2020 and 2021 we cancelled because of the pandemic. We hope to return this year and Gurj is working hard to organise the tournament. Any volunteers that can support would be highly appreciated! The dates are 2-4 September at The Northern Tennis Club and registration opens on May 27 on the GLTA Website.

4 - Internal Tournaments :

Thanks to Gurj for running the Christmas tournament in 2021. Congratulations to Omar Sholi for winning the event!

Box leagues and other internal tournaments to resume again in 2022-2023 season.

5 - League Tennis :

A huge thank you to captains Michael Crook , Stuart Longworth for their long captaincy reigns over the years. Michael and Stu have stepped down as captains but hopefully still keen to participate and support the teams where possible.

Current Team Captains are Dan White (1st Team) and Martyn Worsdale (2nd Team).

Unfortunately with the decrease in members and it has been difficult to field 12 players every week. This has resulted in two forfeits for the A team this season. An agenda item to discuss the future of the A team will be raised at the AGM with the proposal to maintain one team in the league (The B Team) and withdraw the A team.

9 - Social :

A massive thanks you to Dan White for organising a few socials this year and for organising the Christmas social!. We are keen as always to increase social activities especially as new members join.

We welcome all to organise events using the facebook page, don't be afraid to take a lead. Anyone should feel able to propose activities on social media.

10 - LTA :

We continue to keep and seek to improve our links with the LTA . Ramzi Cherad is our nominated and trained 'welfare officer'. We are due to be visited by the LTA Safeguarding officer in 2022-23 to check our operations. This is a necessity as part of our insurance through the LTA places to play scheme.

12 - Finances / Admin :

Please see the separate Detailed financial report prepared by Treasurer.

13 – Website :

2020 also momentous for NA as it saw Northern Aces brought into the 21st Century with publishing of fabulous new website, largely down to the hard work of Sofia Milone. This was much needed and something that had been in the pipeline for a while taking time to realise so huge huge thanks to Sofia and Eira.

The website has been a fantastic platform over 2021-22 to advertise social sessions and collect payment for membership and social sessions.

Websites and instagram / facebook being hugely important for the future of Northern Aces success in reaching out and maintaining membership. Thank you to all those that support and post on these marketing tools.

Summary :

A huge huge **Thank you** to all members and committee for all for your loyal support to our team, to maintain Northern Aces as our LGBTQ+ successful tennis club. Heres to many more successful years of Proud and Enjoyable tennis!!

Ramzi x

19 May 2022

Club Committee 2021-22

Chair: Ramzi Cherad

Secretary: Sofia Milone

Treasurer: Gurj Singh-Raud