

CHAIR REPORT

AGM, Wednesday 25 September 2024

Top Squash, Sandweiler

Hi all, and welcome to this AGM which concludes our FY 2023/24. Thank you to all those who have joined, who have submitted proxy votes, who have nominated charities, and who continue to engage with our community.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to every member of the Committee for their dedication and energy, namely Amy, Claudine, George, Janet, Jemma, Katy, Lara, Sue and Wendy. I would like to add a special thanks to our Treasurer, Janet, who has been very busy in the last weeks putting together our accounts, and who has been continually dedicated to the club throughout the year, even while traversing challenging times. Thank you to our former Chair Victoria who is always waiting in the wings to lend support and wisdom whenever she can. I would also like to thank our dedicated area reps who run their own activities like clockwork. Lastly, I would like to thank the British Ambassador, Fleur Thomas, and everyone at the Embassy for their continued support.

Now, a summary of the past year, focusing on the highlights.

In September, we kicked off the new financial year by participating at Radio Ara's Community Event, promoting our club alongside various other organisations. We also held a cocktail evening at Mama Shelter, best described as a mix of friends, fun and foosball. It was the first of many such evenings throughout the year, notable for the diversity of backgrounds and ages present!

October played host to the Annual MacMillan Coffee Morning at Cynthia's house, attended by many of our members and by the British Ambassador. Given that one of our chosen charities for the FY was Think Pink, we were also proud to be represented at the "Octobre Rose" Race for the Cure. And of course, October wouldn't be October without our Kids Halloween event. It was a great success with sixty kids engaging in spooky activities.

Thanks to the Tennis Agency, members of our tennis club received complimentary tickets for the Kyotec Open in November, enjoying a nail biting match between Oceane Dodin and Alexandra Eala.

December played host to another of our flagship events - the BLC Christmas Lunch at the Parc Alvisse hotel. I was overjoyed by the positive feedback we received about the event, again highlighting the beautiful mix of ages and backgrounds. The British Ambassador attended and spoke, also commenting on this dynamic. The raffle raised over EUR 650 and we are grateful to all who donated prizes. In addition to the Christmas Lunch, we also arranged a cold-but-convivial trip to the Christmas market, as well as festive cocktails at Sofitel. The BLC Kids Christmas party saw us race into the 21st Century with AI-generated colouring sheets starring a BLC Elf. Much fun was had by over fifty kids partaking in crafting, snow-globe making, facepainting and more...

In the spirit of Dry January, we hosted a mocktail evening at the onset of the new year.

March kicked off with International Women's Day celebrations. We were delighted to be a part of the the British Chamber of Commerce' Event, with roses donated by Rotaract. Collaborating with other organisations allows us to maximise our impact exponentially and I am happy that this is something our incoming Chair Tursun is keen to develop using her vast network. This point was again demonstrated at the St.George's Summer Fayre in June, when collaboration with other great organisations including the British Luxembourg Society allowed for a top-drawer event! March closed with our children's Easter party in Strassen and our Quiz night. Thanks to the Committee members who secured excellent prizes and who put together the lovely cheese boards!

In May, we had the 30th Annual Carboot Sale, so diligently organised by Enid. We marked this special anniversary with the presence of a fleet of classic cars. From the very first Car Boot Sale, organised 30 years ago, the event has had several important functions. Firstly, it is one of our key fundraising events that usually adds a good chunk to the amount we can donate to our chosen charities. Secondly, it brings people together year after year, creating a sense of community. Thirdly, it reduces waste and helps foster a more circular economy.

A particular highlight of the year for me, was the inauguration of the Cafe Français, led by Megan Robinson. We meet each Wednesday at noon to speak French in a safe and calm environment. In the evening Megan curates a list of the words we tripped up on so that we can learn together as we go. I think this is a fantastic new facet of the club that allows for both social ties as well as the development of new skills.

Over the course of the year, our ‘bread and butter’ activities including; coffee mornings, freewheeler and area meet ups, lunches, Zigzag and Pipsqueaks, monthly hikes (come rain or shine!), weekly tennis, and Mindful Movement lessons, have been ongoing, catering to a whole range of interests.

It is now time for me to hand over the baton, given new developments in my career which mean I will have less time to dedicate to the BLC. After an interview process, we have chosen Tursun to lead from here. I am sure she will bring the club to new heights, with the support of our fabulous committee. I leave knowing that what I have tried to build on is falling into good hands. Let’s keep this beautiful project alive and well - one that fosters real world connections, supports women, creates events that kids will remember for a lifetime and donates to worthy causes!

I look forward to seeing you all in the future as I will remain a member.

A very final thanks to Katy, George and Wendy who will step down or “retire” have spent the maximum six years on the Committee. I have seen your hard work and dedication and I want to express gratitude on behalf of all the Committee and the club at large.