Dear Members of Redmarley Tennis Club

I’m sorry not to be with you this evening but I just wanted to set down my thanks, along with many of yours, I know, to Richard.

It’s in no doubt that Phil and I would not be members of Redmarley Tennis Club if Richard had not been so welcoming and enthusiastic. He has the wonderful skill of approaching people in a friendly way wanting genuinely to put you at your ease. He has so many skills that leave me dumbstruck. Many of the people playing tennis today have joined through his encouragement to join the Saturday morning coaching. Many of the parents of the children at the coaching session have been made welcome by Richard - and others, of course. But far and away have I been awestruck by his first of all getting the planning permission for the lights but then raising the required funding so quickly! I do realise that it was all a team effort but a team requires good leadership and they have had that in spades in Richard. So many hours doing so much, often unseen - fixing practical issues around the clubhouse, sweeping up leaves, weedkilling but, above all, sorting out all the administration and legalities that are required now for any kind of sports club. His life must have been put on hold for the last three years - if not longer - and I hope he now will have the time to pursue more of his interests - but I do hope he still will be playing tennis too.

All this may sound a little daunting for whoever takes on the role next but, thanks to Richard, everything has been put in place for a smooth transition with a lot of the work done for them.

Can I finally say thank you to the rest of the committee who also do so much to allow the rest of us to play tennis competently (?) and safely.

I hope the AGM goes well.

With my thanks and best wishes

Barbara Messham.