

Hampton-In-Arden Tennis Club

The Court Circular

Issue 14 - Spring 2006



Chairman's message - welcome to the 2006 tennis season!

I hope you are all fit and well and ready for the new tennis season!

Our primary objective for 2006 remains the provision of improved tennis facilities. As I forewarned last year, such projects are a long time being realised!

The tennis facilities are another year older and, consequently, are showing even more signs of wear and tear. There has been further work behind the scenes bringing the tennis project nearer to potential realisation. Even with the expectation that it would take time to achieve these ambitions, it doesn't ease the amount of frustration felt as each stage takes longer than anticipated!

You will be pleased to hear that the formal planning application has been submitted. Whilst the main interested parties all appear to be making favourable noises, there has been a delay in the application proceeding to the formal committee stage due to a request for more detailed information concerning the sensitive area of floodlighting. Although any new lighting will be significantly better for the surrounding environment than the existing lighting (not to mention the considerable improvement it would make to the tennis), we have little alternative but to respond thoroughly to the request that has been received. Once this information has been assimilated, the planning application will need to be resubmitted. Clearly this is a priority as not having planning consent is a significant barrier to many of the grant funding applications. Rome wasn't built in a day!

Although the planning process has taken longer than expected, the extra time has allowed for more fund raising successes and the money raised will provide a crucial financial platform. The total generated, including funds that have been agreed as set aside for the project (previously referred to in the Sports Club accounts as the sinking fund), now amounts to over £38,000. This platform will help considerably in convincing other funding providers to commit their cash. Your continued support to fund raising events is a vital part of making the project a success. If you have any ideas for fund raising or would like to help in any way, we would love to hear from you!

It has been great to see so many of you taking part in the Maxi tennis / 6 Nations matches. In addition to seeing the courts fully utilised on a Sunday afternoon, the social part in the Club House afterwards has been good fun! Special thanks to Chester for getting this going and to the captains for sorting out their respective teams.

At the start of 2005 we welcomed back Alan Cutts as our coach. The junior coaching program continues to go from strength to strength with court availability now being a limiting factor. Alan has also appreciated the positive response to his adult coaching initiatives. Having a good, proactive tennis coach is a vital part of any good tennis club, so please continue to give Alan as much support as you are able.

Wishing you all a good summer of tennis!

Steve Ray

Notice of Sports Club AGM

The Sports Club AGM will take place on Monday April 24th from 7.30pm. Please come to find out what is going on.

Subscriptions Due - April 1st

It's that time of year again! Your membership subscriptions for this season are due for payment on April 1st. The rates are detailed on your renewal form distributed with the Court Circular. As usual, discounts are offered for payments received by Sunday April 2nd. Please send your completed application/renewal form and cheque made out to "Hampton-In-Arden Sports Club" to Chester at 68 Meriden Road, Hampton-In-Arden B92 0BT. Thank you!

The ASICS Arden 9 Road Race

Sunday June 25th 10.30 start



The third running of the ASICS Arden 9 road race run is scheduled for Sunday June 25th and will once again be sponsored by ASICS. Thanks to Gavin Davies for organising the event for the third year. If you are interested in running you can find an application form at www.arden9.org.uk or at www.hamptontennis.org.uk under the news banner or alternatively from the notice board by the telephone at the Sports Club. As last year, it will be properly measured and timed and is designed to attract everyone from the serious runner to those who just wish to have a go (even walking is permitted!). The number of runners last year was 245, which was an increase from 172 in 2004. We are hoping for a further increase this year. The leading Sports Club runners were Julian Marshall and Jane Hodge, although the very hot running conditions meant that the club records set by Andy Williamson and Lara Bates in 2004 still stand. The entry fee is £10 in advance or £12 on the day and the course will run as previously from the Sports Club to Catherine-De-Barnes, Eastcote and Barston returning back to the Sports Club via the lakes. If you are around in the morning of June 25th and would like to help us marshall the course or man the drinks stations please could you let me know? We need a significant number of helpers for this event. Thank you.

This year we are going to have a children's race for the first time. It will be started by the same hooter as the main race and use the race timer and finish as the main race. No pre booking is required. Just turn up and run! Entry fee is £3. The course will not involve any roads and will be over a child friendly distance.

Tennis Section AGM - 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the tennis section will be held on Wednesday November 8th commencing at 7.30pm in the clubhouse. Full details will be distributed by email and displayed on the tennis notice board during October.

Court Maintenance - Saturday 25 March

Please could we ask nicely for some help to make the Courts look their best for the new season? Volunteers (senior and junior) please come along on Saturday March 25th between 1.30 pm and 3 pm with some appropriate tools. The job is mainly about weeding the Court surrounds and pathways plus any other tidying up that we can do in the time. If you intend to come please could you let Steve Ray know by calling him on 01675 442132.

Maxi Tennis Finals Day – Saturday April 1st

The final will be played between the top two teams in the competition from 5.30pm to 7pm prior to the Quiz. Please come along and support your team! Right now, England look favourites to be one of the teams in the final with 4 wins out of 4, but as all the teams have won at least one game there remains much to be played for in the remaining matches.

Quiz Night - Saturday April 1st

Come to the beginning of season quiz which this year is being master minded by Julie Williamson, Geoff Redfern and Phil McCracken. It starts at 7.30pm in the clubhouse following the final of the maxi tennis competition. The cost is £8 per person including a fish and chip supper. Teams of 4 to 6 people - we can find a team for you if you wish. If you would like to come, please contact your Maxi Tennis captain or Chester (01675 443572). It will help us with the admin if you would enter a team and nominate one person to collect all the cheques from the team and pass them to Chester (68 Meriden Road) by Tuesday March 28th so that we can order the right amount of food.



Play Tennis Day Saturday 29 April

An opportunity for everyone, junior and senior members and non-members alike, to come along to the tennis club and play tennis. There will be a variety of activities during the day so please invite your family and friends along. There will be bacon

Wimbledon Tickets 26 June to 9 July

If you would like to be entered into the Wimbledon ticket draw please tick the box on the Application form. The draw will be made in May. All draw winners will receive a pair of tickets. Please note that you have to be an adult member (18+) to

please invite your family and friends along. There will be seven sandwiches from 10 am, a barbecue from 12 noon and home-made curry at 7 pm.

Please note that you have to be an adult member (21+) to enter the draw and that the tickets do have to be paid for on collection. Please note that under LTA rules the tickets are not transferable so if you cannot go on the day allocated you should notify the committee and not take up your tickets.

Diary Dates - 2006 Season

- Saturday March 25th - Court Maintenance 1.30pm to 3.00pm
- Saturday April 1st - Maxi Tennis Finals
- **Saturday April 1st - Quiz Night**
- Saturday April 1st - 2006/07 subscriptions due
- Monday April 24th - Sports Club AGM
- Saturday April 29th - Play Tennis Day
- Saturday May 6th - Road to Wimbledon (Under 14's) Finals and Raw Slam
- Sunday June 11th - Mini Tennis Tournament (Under 9)
- Saturday June 17th - Junior Tournament (Under 16 and Under 12)
- **Sunday June 25th - The ASICS Arden 9 Road Race**
- **Sunday June 25th - The ASICS Arden 9 CHILDREN's Race**
- Saturday July 8th - Open Finals Day
- Wednesday November 8th - Tennis Club AGM
- Saturday November 11th - Annual Dinner Dance at the Forest Hotel, Dorridge

Court and playing etiquette

Please can we ask you all to observe the following basic principles when using the tennis courts:

- When playing wear sports clothing of any colour and "non-marking" soled trainers or tennis shoes.
- Wait until the point in play is complete before walking across the end or down the side of the court.
- Use plastic bottles or cups on the courts to avoid broken glass.
- Pick up litter, including tennis ball cans, used ring pulls and lids.
- Turn your mobile phones off when league or tournament matches are in progress.
- Avoid the use of foul or abusive language or the abuse of equipment.
- Lower the net slightly to remove the net tension when you finish playing.
- Switch off the floodlights when you have finished with them.

Senior Club Tournaments Finals Day Saturday 8 July

Please enter at least some of the competitions whatever your standard of play! Your entry form should be sent with your application form and subscription cheque to Chester Barnes at 68 Meriden Road, Hampton-In-Arden B92 0BT by April 2nd. Last year's winners to remind you were:

- Mens Singles - Chester Barnes
- Ladies Singles - Jane Hodge
- Mens Singles Plate - Paul Roper
- Ladies Singles Plate - Chris Durbin
- Mens Doubles - Steve Tyson/Matthew Hunt
- Ladies Doubles - Jane Hodge/Carol Grant
- Mixed Doubles - Carol Grant/Alan Cutts
- Mixed Doubles Plate - Chris Durbin/Steve White
- Mens Veterans Doubles - Chester Barnes/Steve Ray
- Ladies Veterans Doubles - Carol Grant/Clare Scott

Annual Dinner Dance - 11 November

Following the tremendous success of last year's dinner which 78 people attended, we have decided to return the **Forest Hotel, Dorridge** again for more fantastic food and dancing. Please note the change in date from last year.

Team Tennis

This year we have entered a third ladies team for the first time. We now have three ladies and three mens sides. 2006 contacts are as follows:

Mens 1st - Dave Teasdale (01564 773185)

Mens 2nd - Steve Ray (01675 442132)

Mens 3rd - Steve Ray (01675 442132)

Ladies 1st - Teresa Mason (0121 705 9661)

Ladies 2nd - Coralie Hammond (01675 442144)

Ladies 3rd - Rosalia Eccleston (01675 442913)

Last year the Ladies 1st and 2nd teams both finished in mid table respectability in divisions 3 and 5 of the Coventry League. Unfortunately the Mens 1st team were relegated for the second season running and will play in division 3 this season. The Mens 2nd and 3rd teams both retained their places in divisions 5 and 6.

If you want to play team tennis please call one of the contacts listed above. We would particularly like to hear from ladies who would like to play in our ladies 3rd team as this is a completely new team. Practice sessions will be held. Details are available from team captains. Selection, which will be based on merit, is the captain's responsibility.

Bringing Guests

You are welcome to bring guests to play provided before playing they are signed into the Visitors Book kept in the court bookings folder attached to the Tennis notice board in the clubhouse. A visitors fee for each visit of £5 is payable for adults and £2 for juniors. There is a limit of three occasions per season on which the same guest can be brought into the Club.



Help, Please!

Mini Tennis Match Co-ordinator Wanted

The Junior Section relies heavily on the work of volunteers. We always welcome offers of help and any suggestions/comments regarding the Junior Section. We need a well-organised person to co-ordinate the mini tennis teams which play in the local leagues. If you think you can help with this or any other areas, please contact Jayne Barnes on 01675 443572. You do not need to be a tennis expert to be of value!

Social Tennis

We have three sessions for social tennis during every week of the year. These take place on:

- Sunday mornings 10.30am to 12.30am
- Tuesday evenings 7.30pm to 10pm
- Friday evenings 8pm to 10pm.

All standards of play welcome.

Steve Ray



Junior Section Achievements - 2005

Happily, we had a major achievement in 2005 - we recruited a high calibre tennis coach! Alan Cutts joined us in February last year and has had a fantastic affect on our junior section over the past 12 months. Alan planned to stay with us for an initial period of one year whilst completing his level 3 LTA coaching qualification. However, we are extremely pleased that Alan is staying on for the foreseeable future as part of the Penntenn coaching organisation.

Specific Achievements

- More coaching hours delivered to more children - the number who attend coaching sessions increased to around 140
- Increase in the number of junior members from 77 to 83
- Improved school links - we had links with 3 schools (this has now increased to 4 in 2006)
- Continuation of our LTA mini tennis centre accreditation (awarded 2002). This involves entering red, orange and green teams in local leagues
- Registration of the Club in October 2005 as an LTA Raw Tennis site. This initiative is aimed at encouraging juniors aged 10 - 18 years to play more tennis. Alan has already encouraged existing and new members in this age group on court, so Raw Tennis should enhance this trend. Watch out for more news on this.
- Some of our juniors entered external competitions. For example, 10 children entered the North Warwickshire Doubles Leagues. Jamie Turpin and Josh Upton won the Orange Mini Tennis Warwickshire County consolation tournament. Charlotte Ray is the Under 11 Solihull Schools champion and has been selected to play for the county. Congratulations!
- Winners of our own Annual Club Tournament were:
 - * 16 and Under - Conor Jones, Rachel Finch
 - * 12 and Under - Alexander Barnes, Emily Cable
- Attendance at special events:
 - 8 children were allocated complimentary tickets to the DFS Ladies Classic at Edgbaston including a "fun" session
 - Several juniors took part in LTA talent spotting invitation only events
- Play Tennis Day was great fun and probably our most successful ever.

A Special Thank You

Jane (Hodge) introduced many children to tennis and coached the juniors for 5 years specialising particularly in the younger ones. Jane also instigated Hampton becoming an LTA accredited Mini Tennis Centre. However, Jane decided in January 2006 it was time to move on in order to give more time to her other commitments. We thank Jane for all the time, patience and enthusiasm she has shown particularly to our very young tennis players.

Well Done!

Thanks to the juniors, coaches, parents and volunteers who have helped to make this year a success. Thanks also to Simon Lynn and Brian Killeen who have helped the coaches on court.

More help required please!

If you would like to become a member of the Junior Tennis Committee or help out at specific events, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Jayne Barnes, Junior Committee Secretary (tel 01675 443572 or email jcbarnes@tesco.net). Thank you!



