

Hampton-In-Arden Tennis Club

The Court Circular

Issue 10 - March 2003



Welcome to the 2003 tennis season!

Welcome to the first 2003 edition of the Court Circular. For those of you who have persevered with your tennis over the cold winter – well done! For the rest of you fair weather players, spring is only just around the corner and it is definitely time for you to dust the cobwebs off your rackets and come out to play! We hope that you all have a thoroughly enjoyable and successful tennis season.

The Committee

Court Refurbishment Plans

You will obviously be aware that the floodlighting could be better and that the fencing is on its last legs. Additionally the tarmac surface will need to be attended to soon if it is not to start breaking up.

So over the winter months we have been busy assembling all the information necessary to work out our options. We have had the expert opinion of two independent consultants - a court specialist and a lighting specialist. The LTA have kindly paid for both consultants to look at our options and the costs associated with them.

Unfortunately the conclusion of the court consultant's report is that the base to the courts is no longer up to the standard required to justify investment in the courts without putting right the base first.

Following consideration of these reports we believe that the following options are available to us:

1. Resurface the existing three courts.
2. Rebuild the existing courts including the base on the grounds that it is not commercially sensible to spend money resurfacing the courts when we believe that the base is substandard.
3. Build three new courts at right angles to the existing courts over existing courts 1 and 2 extending out towards the car park and the clubhouse and leave the existing court 3 as a fourth court. This option will not cost us substantially more than the second option and will also enable us to do more than the first two options by extending facilities.

Each of the options involves upgrading the lighting and fencing at the same time as the upgrading of the courts. At this stage we think it unlikely that we will be able to afford to put down a carpet surface, much as it would be nice to be able to do so. The costs associated with the options are not cheap with the most expensive coming in at **£130k**.

It is extremely important to emphasise that the final plan to be proposed for the Sports Club board approval will need to be properly funded and cost justified. Right now we are only following up all possible options so that we can recommend the best plan for approval.

The next step is to sort out the various planning and lease related questions before we can start thinking of the funding related questions. Once we have the funding questions answered then we can put forward a sensible plan to the Board.

What we can say now with certainty is that whichever is the recommended option, it is clear that a substantial investment of both time and money will be required so I would like to leave you with the slightly amended thoughts of John F Kennedy - *"Ask not what your club can do for you, ask instead what you can do for your club"*. If you think that you have any time or skills to offer or even if you would just like to know a bit more please have a chat with any member of the committee. We will be only too happy to talk. But whatever you can do will help even it is only on a small scale by attending fund raising events.

The Committee

Dates for the Diary - 2003 Season

Please support the club for the following events during the year. There should be something for all of you hidden somewhere in the list!

- Friday March 21st - Junior Parents Social Evening 6.15pm
- Wednesday March 26th - Club AGM 7.30pm
- Saturday March 29th - Court Maintenance Day 2pm-5pm
- Tuesday April 1st - Subscriptions due
- Saturday May 3rd - Play Tennis Day
- [date to be confirmed in May/June] - Quiz Night.
- [date to be confirmed in May/June] - Social evening.
- Saturday May 17th - Road to Wimbledon Under 14's competition
- Saturday June 14th - Mini Tennis Fun Tournament
- Saturday June 21st - Junior Club Tournament Day
- Saturday July 12th - Adult Finals Day
- Saturday October 18th - Annual Dinner at the White Lion
- Wednesday November 12th - Tennis section AGM

Chester Barnes

The 2003 Annual General Meeting of Hampton-In-Arden Sports Club is to be held on **Wednesday March 26th** at the clubhouse starting at **7.30 p.m.** As you may well know, plans for the Astro turf hockey pitch are now well advanced with the Recreational Trust only very recently having made a leaflet drop to explain what is proposed - it is nice to be part of such a forward thinking organisation. Why not come along, hear what is going on and have your say.

It's that time of year again! Your membership subscriptions for this season are due for payment on **April 1st**. The rates are confirmed on your renewal form distributed with the Court Circular. As normal, discounts are offered for prompt payment. Please send your completed application/renewal form and payment to Steve Ray at 41 Old Station Road, Hampton-In-Arden B92 0HA

Steve Ray

Chester Barnes

Court Maintenance Day - Saturday March 29th

It is that time of the year to ask nicely for any help that is available to make the Courts look their best for the new season. Volunteers (senior and junior) please come along on **Saturday March 29th** between **2 p.m. and 5 p.m.** along with any appropriate tools you can bring. If you intend to come please could you let Malcolm Brumwell know by signing the notice that he will put up on the notice board or by calling him on 0121 246 2911. The job is mainly about weeding the Court surrounds and pathways plus any other tidying up that we can do in the time.

Malcolm Brumwell

Play Tennis Day - Saturday May 3rd

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 friends along. Weather permitting, a barbecue will run from 12:00 midday to feed the hungry. More details later.

Ro Eccleston

Team Tennis

If you would like to join the Tennis Club teams, please contact the following:

Mens 1st:	John Davis	0121 733 1312	Ladies 1st:	VACANT	
Mens 2nd:	Malcolm Brumwell	0121 246 2911	Ladies 2nd:	Coralie Hammond	01675 442144
Mens 3rd:	Nick Hone	01676-522880			

Last year the Mens 2nd team and the Ladies 2nd team were both promoted, the Ladies as Champions. Any member who wants to help to continue this success please call one of the captains or come to the practice sessions detailed below.

Selection, which will be based on merit, will be the responsibility of the captains. The practice sessions for both regular and occasional team players will run as follows:

1. LADIES 1st/2nd TEAMS - Starting 17th March - MONDAYS from 7.30 p.m.
2. MENS 1st TEAM - Starting 13th March - THURSDAYS from 7.30 p.m.
3. MENS 2nd/3rd TEAMS - Starting 23rd March - SUNDAYS from 3 p.m.

The ladies leagues remain as last season. The mens leagues are being reorganised on the same format as the ladies leagues, so there will be no parallel North/South divisions this year. Further information on which leagues the teams will be playing in will be available later.

John Davis/Coralie Hammond

Senior Club Tournaments

The entry form for the 2003 club tournaments is enclosed with your Court Circular. There will a singles plate competition for all early round losers in the singles. This is likely to be handicapped to ensure that the competition is as open as possible so please enter whatever your standard of play!

Your entry form should be sent with your subscription cheque to **Steve Ray at 41 Old Station Road, Hampton-In-Arden B92 0HA** by **April 6th**.

Last years winners to remind you were:

1. Mens Singles - Tony Eccleston
2. Ladies Singles - Jane Hodge
3. Mens Singles Plate - Simon Lynn
4. Ladies Singles Plate - Rachel Finch
5. Mens Doubles - Graham Hollway/Chris Barker
6. Ladies Doubles - Kathy Hunt/Teresa Mason
7. Mixed Doubles - Graham/Anne Hollway
8. Mixed Doubles Plate - Bert Bodfish/Julie Williamson
9. Veterans Doubles - Graham Hollway/ Chris Barker

John Davis

Wimbledon Tickets

If you would like to be entered into the Wimbledon ticket draw please tick the box on the Tournament Entry form (distributed with your Court Circular). The draw is open and depending on the allocation of tickets received from the LTA and whether you are a successful winner in our draw, you are just as likely to be allocated centre court tickets on finals day as you are Court No 2 tickets in the first week. The tickets for the former will of course cost you more! The draw will be made sometime during May with the exact date notified later. All draw winners will receive a pair of tickets. Please note that you have to be an



Junior Parents' Social Evening

We would be delighted if you could join us for a drink at the Tennis Club at 6.15 pm on Friday 21 March, 2003. Hear what the children have been doing over the past twelve months and what activities are to be available during 2003.

Then, from 7.00 pm, why not play some tennis yourself? There will be a free adult taster/refreshers session with our DCA qualified coach, Richard Perkins. All standards are welcome including "first timers".

adult member (18+) to enter the draw.

We look forward to seeing you!

Chester Barnes

Junior Committee

Mobile phones

Please be sensitive to the wishes of others when bringing your mobile phones on court, especially if a match is being played on an adjacent court.

Chester Barnes

WANTED! - Tennis Club Treasurer

Anyone with accounting or bookkeeping experience - we need you! The vacancy is available due to the (possible) promotion of the current position holder. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with **Steve Ray** on 01675 442132 to discuss what is involved. **Steve Ray** on 01675 442132 to discuss what is involved.

Chester Barnes



Junior Section Achievements During 2002

2002 was a busy year for the juniors and a good deal was achieved. The coaching programme has been running for several years and now attracts around 70 children each week. Here are some of the things that have been happening thanks to the enthusiasm of the coaches, the volunteers, the parents and of course the children!

Coaching stability

Tennis coaches are extremely hard to find in this part of the country. Luckily, since Richard Perkins joined us early in 2002 we have two! The current coaching stability is really helping to develop the juniors and to offer tennis even to the very young; there are coaching sessions for Key Stage 1 children on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and even sessions for children attending the village pre-school play group. At the other end of the age spectrum, some of the older juniors have reached a standard of play good enough to be invited to play-in at adult sessions (please see the last article for details). Richard coaches at Meriden School on Fridays and we have attracted some new juniors to the club as a result of this.

Junior Club Tournaments

If children are having coaching, they might as well play, whatever their standard. To encourage this there was not only the annual Junior Club Tournament, but also a Mini Tennis Fun Tournament (our first). Both events were well supported and were enjoyed by the participants.

Accreditation as a Mini Tennis Centre

So, what is "mini tennis" and why do we see our accreditation as a major step forward? Mini tennis is a way of getting the younger ones to play matches against children in their own age group - there are three categories - red, orange and green. The use of low compression balls makes the game much more easy and fun to play. The LTA are very keen to encourage children to take part in mini tennis as it gets children used to playing the game and any budding Tim Henmans/Serena Williams can be spotted at an early age.



As part of our accreditation we have to offer mini tennis coaching; arrange a mini tennis tournament open to members and non-members; and, enter teams in local mini tennis leagues. Our first team ever, played during Autumn 2002. In fact the Red Mini Tennis Team was unbeaten and won the local League! There has also been individual success at mini tennis tournaments by Emily Hodge and Charlotte Ray. A mini tennis match practice session takes place on Monday afternoons from 4.00 until 5.00. Please contact Jane Hodge for more details of this and any other details about mini tennis.

Other Match Play

Our juniors have represented our club in local leagues and friendly events. Teams took part in the National Junior League and in the North Warwickshire Double League. Andy Williamson, Simon Lynn and Harry Finch reached the area semi-finals of the Under 16s section of the North Warwickshire League.

Attendance at Special Events

It is both exciting and encouraging for children to attend events outside the club environment. Here are some trips out during 2002:

- Six children were allocated complimentary tickets to the DFS Ladies Classic at Edgbaston including a "fun" session
- Several juniors took part in LTA mini-tennis fun sessions at Norman Green and Billesley
- Six children were taken to the Wimbledon Championships by Jane Hodge and Tony Eccleston

"Awards for All" grant funding (£4K)

In Spring 2002 the club was successful in attracting £4, 000 towards equipment and coaching. Part of this funding has been allocated to coaching in schools. As already stated, Richard coaches at Meriden School. After Easter, this will be extended to Heart of England School in order to target older children.

Help!

The Junior Section relies heavily on the work of volunteers. If you wish to help out or have any suggestions/comments regarding the Junior Section, please contact Rosalia Eccleston on 01675 442913. Thank you!

Junior Committee



Juniors Art Competition

Calling all juniors! . Here's your chance to show off your artistic talents. We need some funky pictures illustrating your ideas of playing tennis. The winning entry will be displayed in the junior section of the Tennis Club's own web site. That means your picture could be seen from anywhere in the whole world! We hope to use the designs in promotional material too, for events such as the Play Tennis Day (3 May 2003)



Prizes!

There will be two lucky winners who will win a free subscription to the junior section of the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association). This entitles you to:

- FREE T-Shirt
- FREE Autograph Book
- Membership Card
- Membership Pack with tennis info
- Monthly Newsletter
- Postermag 4 times a year
- LTA Player Rating
- Chance to get FREE tickets to selected LTA tournaments
- Discounts
- More competitions and prizes to win!

For more information on the junior section of the LTA, please see their [website](#)

What Do I Have to Do?

Take an A4 piece of paper and draw a picture which relates to tennis as you see it. The picture should be in colour and you can use any sort of paints, crayons etc. However, please don't use computer-generated images - we want to see your own designs. Writing is not necessary unless it forms part of the design.

Please send your picture to Jayne Barnes, 68 Meriden Road, Hampton-in-Arden. Or hand it to your coach, Jane or Richard. The closing date for entries is Saturday 15 March 2003. The winners will be announced at a Junior Parents Social Evening to be held at 6.15 on Friday 21 March 2003 (details given above in this newsletter).

Good luck!!!!

Junior Committee

Web news "www.hamptontennis.org.uk"

The web site is in the process of waking up from its winter hibernation state. Once we have finished this edition of the Court Circular we will start to update it ready for the 2003 season.

Did you know that the following information is available on the site:

- Names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members who have given authority on the application form. (Members Only - Password protected section)
- Team tennis fixture lists (when fixtures are received), links to league tables (during the league season) and directions to other clubs.
- AGM minutes and accounts for both the Sports Club and the Tennis Section. (Members Only - Password protected section)
- Details of social events
- Links to other interesting tennis and other sporting sites
- Lots of other things - incl. Checking up on your winnings on the 200 club!

Do you need a password or have you forgotten it? Ring John Cable on 01675 443085 or email Secretary@hamptontennis.org.uk to get one.

P.S. You WILL need a password for any other members-only material we place on the site e.g. competitions (juniors: take note!)

Some members have expressed concern over the personal information that is kept on the site. Please be reassured that the only information kept on the site is that which you have given us permission to use via the application form. It is also only available through the use of a password. If you are still concerned then simply state on your application form that you do not wish certain information to be held on the site.

If you have any suggestions for the development of the site, please use the feedback form on the site to tell us all about your ideas - who knows: best ideas that we take on board may receive a prize as well as Court Circular notoriety!

Finally - have you visited the squash/racketball and hockey section web sites yet?

www.hamptonsquash.org.uk
www.hamptonhockey.org.uk

Try visiting them from the links page of the tennis section site.

Chester Barnes



Playing-in Status - Juniors Make the Grade!

Some of the older junior members of our Club have been playing tennis for several years now and have reached a very good level of competence. As part of their tennis development, a number of them have been granted permission to play-in at adult sessions. The selection is based upon recommendations from the Club coaches who assess playing ability.

The greater integration of these selected juniors is not just an advantage for them: the larger number of players available will make for a more interesting mix of opponents and partners for adult members too.

The chosen juniors will obviously be subject to the same court rules as adults. However, during times of peak court usage, if players have to stand out during mix-in sessions because of a shortage of courts, only two juniors at a time should play in. Under normal circumstances, which two juniors should play must be decided amongst themselves based upon a "First come, first served" approach. It is unfortunate that such a ruling has to be made, but it is necessary given there are only three courts and we do not wish to discourage adults from playing as this would not be in the best interests of adults or juniors.

The current juniors who are entitled to play in are -

- Lara Bates
- Charlotte Finch
- Harry Finch
- Rachel Finch
- Tom Hone
- Sophie Kelly
- Brian Killeen
- Andy Lapiash
- Simon Lynn
- Emma Morris
- Laura Skrzeczkowski
- Andy Williamson

We hope everyone enjoys their tennis!

Junior Committee



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