

Hampton-In-Arden Tennis Club

The Court Circular

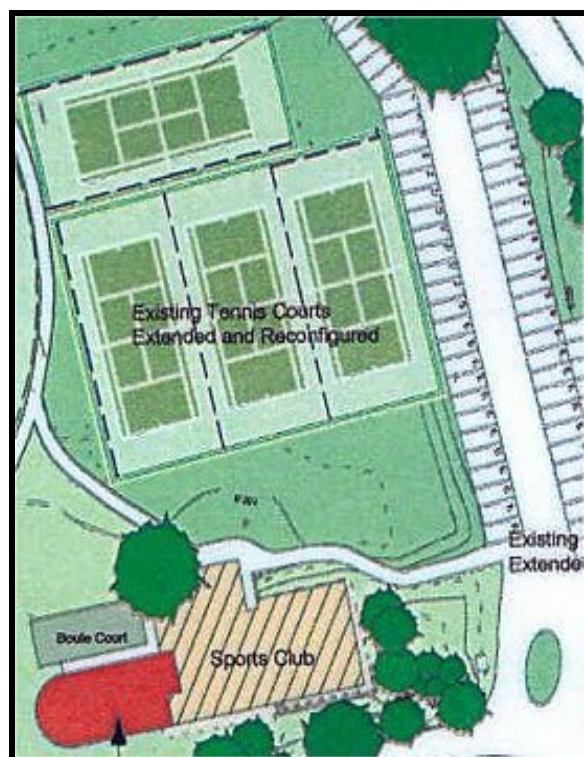
Issue 12 - Spring 2004



Welcome to the 2004 Tennis Season

Welcome to the first 2004 edition of the Court Circular. The good weather is hopefully just around the corner so it is definitely time to come out and play! We hope that you all have a thoroughly enjoyable and successful tennis season in 2004.

Court Refurbishment Plans



As referred to in previous Court Circulars and at the Tennis Section AGM, the tennis facilities are in need of improvement and this matter is our most challenging objective over the next 12 months.

Progress continues to be made, albeit that a project of this size always take longer than everyone would like.

For those of you who have studied the Village Plan (see inset) closely you will have seen details of a number of developments proposed on the Sports Club site including the Hockey astro-turf project, new football pitches and the proposed increase in the number of tennis courts from 3 to 4 (see inset left).

With specific reference to the increase in the number of tennis courts, the cost as previously reported is likely to be in the region of £130k. We have given ourselves a target to raise half of this amount from fund raising events and funding applications (including the club's own funds) during 2004 - and we have had a great start! A total of £944 has been raised to date from the wine sales, the Karaoke evening held on January 17th and the Blues night held on February 28th, which is an excellent result so far. Thanks in particular for these events should go to Ro Eccleston for the Karaoke evening and to Peter Morris for the Blues Evening, but also to many other people too numerous to mention who have helped on the way. At the risk of upsetting anyone who I miss out, please forgive me for thanking Jenny Roberts and John Cable in particular for their assistance in making both events so successful. In addition, several other fund raising events are in the pipe line and we have commenced the long process of applying for possible grants and / or sponsorships. Planning permission will be applied for during the second quarter.

Anyone who is prepared to help to organise one (or more) of the future events please could you contact a member of the committee. Similarly, anyone who has any links to businesses or funds that may be able to provide grants or sponsorship towards this project (that will increase and enhance the sporting facilities available to residents of the village and the surrounding areas) should also contact a member of the committee. Alternatively, but hopefully in addition, please show your support by attending as many of the social events as you are able.

Thank you to all those people who attended the fund raising ideas evening last December. It was a very productive night and whilst all of the ideas mentioned haven't made it to the current list of scheduled events, the ideas have been recorded for possible future use!

A lot of work has already been done in the background and there is even more work to be done to realise our objectives. The timing and the final specification of the project cannot be determined until there is a clearer idea as to the level of funds that will be at our disposal. The certainties are that (a) the committee can only proceed with a project of this nature if it is properly funded and financially viable, and, (b) your help and support is going to be essential if we are to be successful!

Steve Ray

Diary Dates - 2004 Season

Sports Club AGM Report

Something for everyone here! Tennis Club Fund raisers in bold:

The AGM took place on Wednesday 25th February. Thanks go to John Eccleston and his team for all the hard work put in to

- * Saturday January 17th - Karaoke evening
- * Saturday February 28th - Mo'Indigo Blues Band
- * Friday March 5th - Junior Parents Social Evening 6.45pm

and, still to come:

- * Saturday March 27th - Court Maintenance Day 2-5pm
- * Saturday March 27th - England v France Big Screen 8pm
- * **Saturday April 24th - Quiz Night**
- * Saturday May 1st - Play Tennis Day
- * Saturday May 8th - Road to Wimbledon Under 14's competition
- * **Saturday May 15th - Auction of Promises**
- * Saturday May 22nd - Mini Tennis Fun Tournament
- * Saturday June 12th - Junior Tournament
- * **Sunday June 13th - The Arden 9**
- * Saturday June 19th - Summer Ball
- * Saturday July 10th - Finals Day
- * Saturday October 16th - Annual Dinner
- * Wednesday November 10th - AGM

Chester Barnes

improve club facilities. The major points noted in the meeting were as follows:

- * The club accounts for the year to April 2003 are in good shape. Subscriptions are up from £53k to £57k; Bar profits are up from £14k to £17k; Club assets have increased from £27k to £40k.
- * The hockey pitch looks likely to be constructed this summer. Significant funding has been received from the Fentham Trust and from SITA. Further details are on display in the clubhouse.
- * Improvements to the car park look set to happen in quarter 2.
- * The club rules are in the process of being updated which will require an EGM to approve them later this year.
- * Child Protection Policies are to be updated.
- * With effect from March 1st smoking will be banned from the clubhouse with the exception of the area of the bar nearest to the tennis courts.

Chester Barnes

The Arden 9



As I write this, full details have yet to be finalised but in principal we will be holding a big fund raising event on Sunday June 13th. The thinking at the moment is that we will hold three events in one:

* A 9 mile run which will be properly measured and timed and which is designed to attract serious runners from outside the sports club and the village. There will be an entry fee of £8. Obviously, everyone is welcome to enter on a first come first served basis. The course will run out from the Sports Club to Catherine-De-Barnes, Eastcote and Barston and return back via the lakes to the Sports Club. If you would like to volunteer your services please could you let me know as we will need a lot of help to marshall the course and provide the drinks and so on.

* A short run (approximately 2 to 3 miles) to allow anyone to enter and to raise sponsorship income on the way

* A 7 watering hole stroll around the 9 mile run, cutting a few corners on the way I expect! I'll let you work which are the 7 watering holes to visit..... For those who manage to get their cards stamped in all 7 watering holes a limited edition Tee Shirt will be presented to you to wear proudly around the clubhouse in future as a reminder of your day. Although we pretend to be a sports club I have a suspicion that this option 3 might prove to be the most attractive for many of our members! There will of course be an entry fee to take part, which you can meet through sponsorship if you want.

A big mention is due here to **Gavin Davies** for some heroic administration to date to cover all the various bits of admin necessary to run this type of event. Frankly I have struggled to keep pace with his efficiency - sorry about that Gavin!

Chester Barnes

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 14th. Please read your subscription form carefully.

Court Maintenance - Saturday 27 March

It is also 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 27 March between **2 p.m. and 5 p.m.** with any

by Sunday April 4th. 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!

Secondly if you are not sure what tools you can bring. If you intend to come please could you let Wayman Morris know by calling him on 01675 442071. The job is mainly about weeding the Court surrounds and pathways plus any other tidying up that we can do in the time.



Play Tennis Day

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.



Something New for 2004 - Mini-Tennis Awards

We are pleased to announce that during the next few weeks we shall be giving our younger juniors the opportunity to take part in the Lawn Tennis Association new Mini Tennis awards.

These awards are **not** a competitive device, but are a way of recognising the skills each child has developed, rather like swimming awards. They are aimed to motivate children and will provide parents with a regular progress report.

The awards will be incorporated into the existing coaching sessions and children will find them easy to understand and hopefully exciting to do! During each lesson the coach will guide the children through a range of activities that will eventually enable them to perform a "task". As each child accomplishes a new task they will be rewarded with an appropriately coloured sticker that they collect in their own sticker book.

The tasks are designed to cover every aspect of the game. At each stage there are 3 levels to attain before moving on to the next stage. Stickers will be awarded as each child progresses through the **three stages** - **red**, **orange** and **green**.

Each stage consists of **3 levels**: 3 is an easy start, moving through to 2, taking a little longer, and finally 1, getting good before moving to the next stage.

By the time a child has completed the top level s/he will have skills most adult players would be envious of!!!!

Want to find out more? Then please contact the Junior Committee

Wimbledon Ticket Draw

If you would like to be entered into the Wimbledon ticket draw please tick the box on the Application form. The draw is open to all over-18 members and will be made in May. Details to follow. All draw winners will receive a pair of tickets. Please note that you have to be an adult member (18+) to enter the draw and that tickets do have to be paid for by the draw winners.

Team Tennis

The 2004 captains are as follows:

Mens 1st - Dave Teasdale (01564 773185)

Mens 2nd and 3rd - Malcolm Brumwell (0121 246 2911)

Ladies 1st - Teresa Mason (0121 705 9661)

Ladies 2nd - Coralie Hammond (01675 442144)

Last year the Mens 2nd team and the Ladies 2nd team unfortunately were relegated following a successful promotion season for both of them the previous year. Any member who wants to help to bring back the success of 2002 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:

LADIES 1st/2nd TEAMS - MONDAYS from 7.30 p.m.

MENS 1st TEAM - THURSDAYS from 7.30 p.m.

MENS 2nd/3rd TEAMS - SUNDAYS from 3 p.m.

Your team captain will notify you of the dates when the practices will start.

Dave Teasdale/Coralie Hammond

Senior Club Tournaments

The entry form for the 2004 club tournaments is enclosed with your Court Circular. Please enter whatever your standard of play! Your entry form should be sent with your subscription cheque to **Chester Barnes at 68 Meriden Road, Hampton-In-Arden B92 0BT by April 4th**

Last years winners to remind you were:

- Mens Singles - Graham Hollway
- Singles - Jane Hodge
- Mens Singles Plate - Simon Lynn
- Ladies Singles Plate - Clare Scott
- Mens Doubles - Graham Hollway/Chris Barker
- Ladies Doubles - Kathy Hunt/Torri Mason



Juniors - Parental Responsibility

We have new children joining coaching sessions all year round and parents need to be aware of a few points.

Firstly, children aged seven or under must not be left unattended at the Club during coaching sessions. Whilst children of 8 or more do not need to be accompanied by

parents during coaching sessions, parents are responsible for their children **before** and **after** these sessions. As the coaching sessions run consecutively it is essential that children are collected **on time** at the end of their lesson.

Secondly, there are **dangers** both inside and outside the Club

- Ladies Doubles - Kathy Hunt/ Jenn Mason
- Mixed Doubles - Steve Ray/Jane Hodge
- Mixed Doubles Plate - Chester Barnes/Sandy Wasse
- Veterans Doubles - Graham Hollway/ Chris Barker

Tournament Committee

Secondly, there are ~~children~~ both inside and outside the Club House. It is important that younger children are not left without adult supervision.

Lastly, the Club House is provided for members of the Sports Club (including the Tennis Section). It is made available to *non-member* parents/carers/siblings of children who are attending coaching sessions as a courtesy. We would respectfully ask that you leave the Club House in the condition in which you found it.

Children's safety is of paramount importance to the Tennis Club and we hope you understand our concerns.

Thank you.

Help, Please!

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. You do not need to be a tennis expert to be of value!

Junior Committee

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.

Chester Barnes

No Smoking



Please note that the only area of the clubhouse in which smoking is permitted is the area of the bar closest to the tennis courts. In the rest of the bar area and in the whole of the rest of the clubhouse you are requested to refrain from lighting up. Thank you.

Chester Barnes

Auction of Promises - Saturday 15 May

We will be holding an auction evening on May 15th to raise money for the new court developments. We already have some fantastic items to auction off but we are still looking for more - so if you have any ideas for items or skills that could be auctioned off on the evening please could you contact Carol Grant on 443610. This could be as simple as volunteering your time if you have special skills that others may be prepared to pay for. All suggestions will be gratefully received.

Carol Grant



Junior Section Achievements - 2003

2003 was another busy year for the Junior Section. The coaching programme has been running for several years and attracted around 100 children each week in 2003 (even more than in 2002 when there were approximately 70). 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

We are lucky to have the services of two LTA licensed coaches, Jane Hodge and Richard Perkins. The coaches work well together and co-ordinate the various strands of the coaching requirements. This is really helping to develop the juniors and to offer tennis to an extremely wide age group of children - there are coaching sessions for Key Stage 1 children on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and even sessions run by Jane 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.

During 2003 Richard coached at Meriden School on Fridays which attracted some new juniors to the club. Richard also started coaching at Heart of England School.

Junior Club Tournaments

Juniors should be encouraged to play whatever their standard, not just have coaching. One of the ways in which the Club tries to achieve this is through the annual Junior Club Tournament and also the Mini Tennis Fun Tournament, which was run for the second time this year. The participants enjoyed both events.

Accreditation as a Mini Tennis Centre

You may be aware that back in 2002 we became an LTA accredited mini tennis centre. Mini tennis is a great way of getting the younger ones to learn to play tennis and to play matches against children of their own age - there are three categories - **red**, **orange** and **green**. The use of low compression balls makes the game much more easy and fun to play.

As part of our accreditation we have to offer mini tennis coaching and match practice; arrange mini tennis tournaments open to members and non-members (two during 2003); and enter teams in local mini tennis leagues. Our first ever team (**red**) played

members and non-members (two during 2003), and enter teams in local mini tennis leagues. Our first ever team (red), played during Autumn 2002. By 2003 we had teams at all three levels – red, orange and green. As part of this league involvement, the Club has hosted orange and green events where four or five clubs participate. Whilst this is a strain on a three court club, the children enjoyed the four events we held during 2003.

A further progression in mini tennis is to be taken during 2004 by offering children the new LTA Mini Tennis Awards Scheme. This encourages children to improve their skills by awarding stickers and certificates as they progress through the various levels of the scheme. More details are given in an article on mini tennis awards in this edition of the Court Circular.

Other Match Play

Our juniors represented our club in local leagues. Three teams took part in the National Junior Leagues and seven teams took part in the North Warwickshire Doubles Leagues. In addition, two exceptional children competed at higher levels, Daniel Eccleston (aged 15), who is at Loughborough Tennis Academy and Emily Hodge (aged 9) who was "spotted" by the LTA for development.

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 2003:

- * 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
- * Three children were taken to the Wimbledon Championships by Jane Hodge

Parents Evening

Tennis for children is a confusing affair with the various different categorisations of ages/abilities, internal and external competitions. In order to help parents understand what is on offer and to whom, a parents evening was held for the first time on 21 March 2003. Unfortunately, only only six parents attended the event, but those who did attend said they found it extremely helpful.