

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 remains the provision of improved tennis facilities. I know I am repeating myself, probably for the third successive year, but Rome wasn't built in a day! After lots of hard work by the Committee, and in particular Chester, there have now been some real signs of progress.

The project has gradually evolved to meet varying expectations from the wider Sports Club, the Parish Council and our own requirements. After lots of behind-the-scenes deliberations, we now all appear agreed on the way forward. Conceptually we have ended up with the same plan as was originally envisaged. However, previously it was anticipated that Court 3 would remain intact with three new courts replacing Courts 1 and 2. It has now been decided that the courts will be lowered thus necessitating the replacement of Court 3 with a brand new court as well. Whilst this gives the benefit of all four courts being "new build", clearly there are cost implications of replacing this extra court and of shifting the earth to facilitate the courts being lowered.

The other long term issue has been the resolution of planning issues with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council relating to the proposed 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), this is clearly a very sensitive planning issue. Whilst some of the information requested has been extremely difficult to provide (e.g. what were various lighting measurements when the existing floodlights were first erected), just about everything that can be obtained has been given. As we have recently been advised that all the required information has been supplied to enable the planning application to be resubmitted in March, we will now have to wait for the normal planning committee process to run its course.

As ever, the major caveat regarding the project is making sure that it is financially viable. In turn, this will be dependent upon the various grants that we are able to obtain. A number of tentative enquiries have already been made in this regard but nearly all require detailed quotes and planning permission prior to considering the grant application. The detailed project specification and tendering process is now under way.

As referred to at the Tennis AGM, the total funds generated by the Tennis section in recent years, 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 around £50,000. This platform will help considerably in convincing other funding providers to commit their cash. Your continued support to fund raising events will be a vital part of making the project a success.

Whilst we are setting ourselves a very ambitious target, we are still aiming to start work on the new courts in the autumn. We will find out over the next three months if this is a realistic aim. In the meantime, we are currently obtaining quotes for short-term, remedial work to be carried out on the perimeter fencing nearest the car park.

For all our normal tennis playing and social events it is 'business as usual'. Thank you to everyone involved with the organisation of the club from the committee members, the maxi tennis and league tennis team captains, competition organisers, web administrators, social event organisers, helpers at the Arden9 and of course the band members of the Big Racket. Finally of course to all of you - please come to the club and play, take part in our tournaments and support our social events when you are able.

Wishing you all a good summer of tennis!

Steve Ray

Sports Club AGM – Monday February 19th

The Sports Club AGM took place on Monday 19th February. Many thanks go to Evan Grant and his team for all the hard work put in to improve club facilities. The major points noted in the meeting were as follows:

- **Accounts:** The club accounts for the year to April 2006 show that the club broke even after having made a £18k profit the previous year (prior to accounting for the £7k contribution to the Parish Council for the car park). There are four reasons for the reduction in profit: bar profits were down £4k; the income surplus from the Sports sections was down £12k and administration costs were up £2k. The club assets (ie cash less amounts payable) therefore remained at £75k.
- **Clubhouse security:** The following policy over keys has been adopted. All adult members must have a key as proof of their membership. Junior members over the age of 14 may apply for a key to the secretary of the playing section to which they belong. Parents who are not members themselves may apply for a key fob to allow their children who are junior

members access to the clubhouse, for example if they need to use the toilets or first aid facilities. The current policy to restrict access to the squash balcony to squash members will be reviewed in time once the situation over non-members

making use of the squash courts has been resolved. It is intended to revert to full access for all in the future.

- **No Smoking:** the clubhouse will become non-smoking from July 1, 2007 in line with Government policy. A one-off no smoking evening will be in place for the tennis club quiz on Saturday April 21.
- **Planning:** An application for floodlighting the hockey pitch will be submitted by the Recreational Trust shortly. The tennis section application for lighting will also be resubmitted shortly. Thanks to the Parish Council for their support for both applications.
- **Football:** From next season no 11 a side football will be played on the Recreation Ground but will continue on the full size pitch the other side of the spinney. Due to the number of teams, age groups over the age of 13 will play at different pitches.
- **Family friendly environment:** The Directors are keen that the clubhouse is seen as a family friendly environment and all age groups are therefore welcome. Any children under the age of 14 who are in the clubhouse must have someone responsible for them (parent or someone acting in loco parentis) either in the clubhouse or on the Recreation Ground. Please remember that all members and their guests should treat the clubhouse facilities with respect.
- **President's Plate:** Congratulations to Karen Finch who was awarded the plate this year for her fund raising efforts for the 200 club.

Fund Raising

The Big Racket and the Geoff Redfern disco, 31 March, 2007

Please come along to the return of The Big Racket at the Scout and Guide Hut on March 31st. Tickets are available at £10 each from Chester (443572) and Jenny (443648). Funds raised will go towards the new courts. Thank you to the band (Joe Killeen, Guy Hemington, John Cable, Glyn Ryland and Alan Harding who is the guest drummer while Carla is on holiday) for all their efforts to entertain us and to Geoff Redfern for the disco. Church End beers will be available!

Geoff Redfern

Subscriptions Due - April 1st

It's that time of year again! Good news this year though – in recognition of the fact that the facilities are not as good as they once were we have decided to hold this years membership rates at last year's levels. 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 1st. 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!

Carol Grant

The ASICS Arden 9 Road Race Sunday 17 June 10.30 start



The fourth ASICS Arden 9 road race will be run on Sunday June 17th and will once again be sponsored by ASICS and Hunters Estate Agents. This year Warwick Sports will be providing prizes for the winners and will provide a shop on site for the event. Thanks to Gavin Davies for organising the event again. If you would like to run, you can find an application form at www.arden9.org.uk or alternatively from the notice board by the telephone at the Sports Club. As in previous years, the race 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 entries last year was 287, which was an increase from 245 in 2005. We are hoping for a third consecutive increase this year, which based on early entries received looks possible. The leading Sports Club runners in 2006 were Paul Roper and Sue Lawrence, with Sue smashing the Sports Club ladies record by over 5 minutes to record 71:03.

The Hampton Sports Club mens record if you fancy having a go at beating it is 66:07 recorded by Andy Williamson in 2004. 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 17th and would like to help us marshal the course or man the drinks stations please could you let me know? We need a significant number of helpers for this event, which is a major fund raiser for the new courts. Thank you.

Tennis Section AGM - Wednesday 7 November, 2007

Court Maintenance - Saturday 22 April

The Annual General Meeting of the tennis section will be held on Wednesday November 7th commencing at 7.30pm in the clubhouse. Full details will be distributed by email and displayed on the tennis notice board during October.

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 Sunday April 22nd between 10am and 11am 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 442132.

Maxi Tennis Finals Day Saturday 31 March

The final will be played between the top two teams in the competition from 5.30pm to 7pm prior to **The Big Racket** gig at the Scout and Guide Hut. Please come along and support your team! Right now, England, Italy and Wales are all going strong and each have a chance of being in the final, but there remains much to be played for in the remaining matches.

Quiz Night - Saturday 21 April

Come to the beginning of season quiz which this year is being master minded once again by Julie Williamson, Geoff Redfern and Phil McCracken. It starts at 7.30pm. The clubhouse will be **"smoke free"** for the evening. The cost is **£10 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 Geoff (01675 442447). 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 Geoff (5 The Grove) by Tuesday April 17th so that we can order the right amount of food. Thanks.

Geoff Redfern



Play Tennis Day Saturday 5 May

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.

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 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 - 2007 Season

- Saturday March 31st – Maxi Tennis Finals
- Saturday March 31st – The Big Racket rock and roll band & Geoff Redfern Disco
- Sunday April 1st – 2007/08 subscriptions due
- Saturday April 21st – Quiz
- Sunday April 22nd – Court Maintenance 10am to 11am
- Sunday April 22nd – Junior Slam/start of Sunday evening Junior Club Night (5.30-7.30)
- Saturday May 5th – Play Tennis Day
- Saturday May 12th (date to be confirmed) – Road to Wimbledon (Under 14's) Finals
- Sunday June 17th – The ASICS Arden 9 Road Race
- Sunday June 17th – The ASICS Arden 9 CHILDREN's Race
- Saturday June 23rd – Junior Tournament (Under 16 and Under 12)
- Saturday July 7th – Finals Day
- Sunday September 30th – Finals Day 2 (Details later)
- Wednesday November 7th – Tennis Club AGM
- Saturday November 10th – 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 7 July

The entry form for the 2007 club tournaments is enclosed with the Court Circular. Please enter at least some of the competitions whatever your standard of play! Don't forget that the Mixed Plate is for all standards of play and a partner will be found for you so that all pairs have a reasonable chance of reaching the final - it would be nice to see all members enter this competition. 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 - 10 November

Following the tremendous success of last year's dinner which a record breaking 84 people attended, we have decided to return the **Forest Hotel** again for the fourth year running for more fantastic food and dancing. Please put the date in your diary NOW!

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 – Mark Joannides (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!

