

Hampton-In-Arden Tennis Club

The Court Circular

Issue 13 - Spring 2005



Welcome to the 2005 Tennis Season

Welcome to the first 2005 edition of the Court Circular. As this is being written the weather is hardly enticing but hopefully things will warm up soon so that more of you come out to play! We hope that you all have a thoroughly enjoyable and successful tennis season.

The Committee

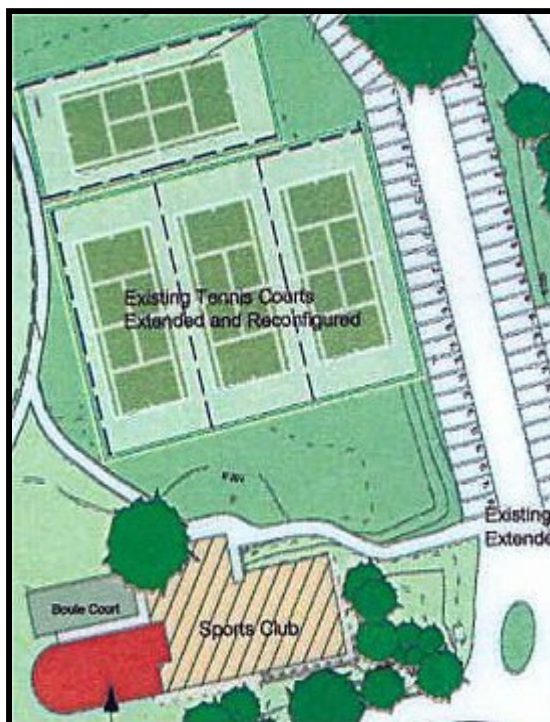
A Message from the Chairman

Our number one priority remains the provision of improved tennis facilities. Such projects are a long time being realised and, quite rightly, the Sports Club focus in 2004 has been on ensuring the successful delivery of the Astroturf facility by working closely with the Recreational Trust. The Astroturf project is now been substantially completed and the accruing benefits going forward will give greater opportunities for other sections to realise their respective development plans. The Astroturf project is a tremendous asset for both the Village and the Sports Club, demonstrating what can be achieved with the right focus and determination to make things happen.

Whilst the tennis facilities are another year older and, consequently, are showing even more signs of wear and tear, there has been a tremendous amount of endeavour behind the scenes bringing the tennis project nearer to potential realisation. The great fund raising successes over the last year have provided a crucial financial platform for us to build upon in 2005. You will be pleased to know that we have raised a total of £10,298 since we started to fund raise in earnest in December 2003. Added to the £21,800 from the annual amount put aside by the Directors, this makes a total of £32,098 for the court refurbishment project, which is close to a quarter of the way towards our stated target. The leading contributions to the fund raising so far have been the Auction of Promises held in May 2004 (£4,536 – thanks Carol!), the four Blues Nights (£2,000 – thanks Peter) the Big Racket held a few weeks ago (£1,418 – thanks to the Big Racket/Geoff) and the Arden 9 held in June 2004 (£1,238 – thanks Gavin). There are many others of you who have contributed in all sorts of other ways – so thank you to everyone. I hope that you have enjoyed the ride!

The planning application is currently being finalised and, following discussions with the Parish Council, will be submitted for consideration by the local authorities. As and when the planning application is approved, we can then start to submit applications for grants and funding awards in order to find the remaining finance for the expenditure.

The amount of time all of this takes is frustrating for all concerned but rest assured that positive progress continues to be made, even if it is not always at the pace that we would like! As ever, your help and support is going to be essential if we are to be successful. This help and support does not necessarily need to be organising events, or sitting on Committees, or cleaning the Courts, or even singing in a band (but if you want to do any of these things please give me a call!). Attending events, bringing your friends, playing tennis at Club sessions, playing tennis in the day time, using the Sports Club bar etc. all help to make the efforts of others more worthwhile and help to spread the positive message about a very healthy section that continues to grow!



Steve Ray

Welcome (Again!) to our New Coach - Alan Cutts



Alan rejoined the Club in February 2005 as Tennis Development Manager. He is a Lawn Tennis Association Level 2 CCA coach (Club Coach Award) with 8 years coaching experience and 17 years playing experience and if that is not enough he is currently taking his level 3 TDA (Tennis Development Award)! With all that experience you will be amazed to know that Alan is actually only 25 years old! Many of you will remember him from when he was last here 3 years ago. Since then he has found his way via Mark Warner summer holidays and Compton Tennis Club in Sussex back to his natural home in Hampton. Alan is also a level 1 squash coach and is soon to take his level 2 qualifications. He obviously likes exams! If you want to contact Alan please e-mail alan@coaching.ac or call him on 07748 656002. The junior committee roving reporter has recently grilled (sorry interviewed) Alan so here is the report you have all been waiting for:

Why did you decide to come back to Hampton Tennis Club?

My last position was with a large club in Sussex. Whilst working at a big club has its advantages, I wanted to be in charge of a club so that I can run things in the way I think is best, professionally. Hampton is a great club with lots of potential. I have loads of ideas and want to put them into practice!

How old were you when you started playing tennis and how did you become interested in the sport?

When I was nine years old I went on a holiday course at school and played tennis. After that I was hooked!

Who has been your biggest sporting inspiration?

Pete Sampras is an absolute joy to watch. My tennis coach, Richard Marklow, was fantastic – he made the game fun and gave me self belief.

Why did you decide to become a tennis coach?

I had been helping as a junior and Leamington Tennis Club asked me to become a qualified coach – I've not looked back since!

Have you ever lost your temper on court?

Yes, but I learnt to focus it to help me win. Once I broke a racket which was only two days old. I tried to cover it up, but when my coach found out he went mad and threw me off court – don't ever try it!

Would you recommend tennis coaching as a career?

Yes! I have travelled the world and I enjoy every day, because each one is different.

Should only naturally good tennis players bother with the sport?

No. It's great for enjoyment and fitness. With practice, anyone can improve their standard.

What are your ambitions for Hampton Tennis Club?

* More match play for everybody * More players playing, more often * To increase the size of both the adult and junior programme so that I can encourage and help everyone to improve and enjoy tennis!

Have you any more comments?

I am really pleased to be back at Hampton. I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and support I have received. Thank you!

Junior Committee

Diary Dates - 2005 Season

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

- Saturday March 19th - Court Maintenance Day 1.30 to 3.00pm
- Saturday April 23rd - Quiz Night
- Saturday April 30th - Play Tennis Day
- Saturday May 7th - Road to Wimbledon Under 14's competition
- Saturday June 11th - Junior Tournament
- **Sunday June 19th - The ASICS Arden 9 Road Race**
- Saturday July 2nd - Finals Day
- Saturday October 8th - Annual Dinner @ Forest Hotel
- Wednesday November 9th - AGM

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 3rd. 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 June 19th 10.30 start



The ASICS Arden 9 road race run which was started last year will be run again on Sunday June 19th and will be sponsored by ASICS. Thanks to Gavin Davies for organising the event again. 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 serious runners from outside the sports club and the village as well as all Sports Club members who wish to compete. Last year 14 of the 172 competitors came from the Sports Club. The leading Sports Club runners (and therefore the current club record holders) were Andy Williamson in 66:09 for the guys and Lara Bates in 76:22 for the gals. The entry fee is £8 in advance or £10 on the day. The course will run as in 2004 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 19th and would like to help marshall the course or man the drinks stations please could you let me know. Thank you.

Chester Barnes

Notice of Tennis Section AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the tennis section will be held on Wednesday November 9th commencing at 7.30pm in the clubhouse. Full details will be distributed by email and displayed on the tennis notice board during October.

Secretary

Court Maintenance - Saturday 20 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 20 March between **2 p.m. and 5 p.m.** with any appropriate 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.

Wimbledon Tickets

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 by the draw winners.

Senior Club Tournaments Finals Day Saturday July 2nd

The entry form for the 2005 club tournaments is enclosed with the Court Circular. This year the singles plate tournaments have been made direct entry competitions subject to the fact that previous open singles finalists will not be allowed to enter to try to encourage more people to enter. Also we have

Team Tennis

The 2005 captains are as follows:

Mens 1st - Dave Teasdale (01564 773185)

Mens 2nd - Steve Ray (01675 442132)

introduced a ladies veterans doubles competition for the first time. Please enter at least some of the competitions 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 3rd**

Last years winners to remind you were:

- * Mens Singles – Chester Barnes
- * Ladies Singles - Jane Hodge
- * Mens Singles Plate – Steve Morris
- * Ladies Singles Plate – Ro Eccleston
- * Mens Doubles – Chester Barnes/Bert Bodfish
- * Ladies Doubles – Jane Hodge/Carol Grant
- * Mixed Doubles – Steve Ray/Jayne Hodge
- * Mixed Doubles Plate – John Holden/Julie Williamson
- * Mens Veterans Doubles – Chester Barnes/Steve Ray
- * Ladies Veterans Doubles – **new event this year**

Tournament Committee

Mens 3rd - Nick Hone (01676 522880)

Ladies 1st – Teresa Mason (0121 705 9661)

Ladies 2nd – Coralie Hammond (01675 442144)

Last year the Ladies 2nd team were promoted as Champions while the Ladies 1st team held their own. The Men were less successful with both 1st and 2nd teams relegated.

If you want to play team tennis please call one of the captains or come to the practice sessions detailed below. Selection, which will be based on merit, is the captain's responsibility. Practice sessions are running as follows:

- * LADIES - MONDAYS 7.30 p.m.
- * MENS – Please call Steve Ray on 01675 442132 if you are interested in coming. The day and time will be separately notified.

Steve Ray

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 organise 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!

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.

Steve Ray



Junior Section Achievements - 2004

2004 was another busy year for the Junior Section with around 110 children taking part in our coaching sessions each week.

Coaches Spring 2004 saw us say goodbye to Richard Perkins. Richard was very popular with the children who still miss him. The vacancy was filled by Caroline Clutterbuck who joined us on a temporary basis pending her move to the Lake District. Caroline did a great job and inspired the children with her enthusiastic approach to tennis. Jane Hodge, who hasn't managed to "escape" yet, continues to do a great job with the "tots" groups on Tuesdays. We would like to thank Jane and the other coaches who have helped out, Tony, Daniel and Lucy, whilst we have been looking for a permanent coach.

Tennis coaches are a very rare breed and it has taken some time, but we are now delighted to have Alan Cutts as our new club coach. Alan is a very experienced coach who combines learning and progression with enjoyment. He has a very likeable personality and puts people (of all ages!) at ease when they are on court. We wish him a very happy and successful time at Hampton! There is an interview with Alan elsewhere in this newsletter.

Expansion of Courses As the coaching programme develops, more children join in. The number of sessions offered has increased. There are now 4 "tots" sessions on Tuesdays and 2 new mini tennis sessions on Thursdays. Our challenge to retain our teenagers continues, as other competing demands on their time arise.

Mini Tennis In 2002 we became an LTA accredited mini tennis centre. As a further progression of this, we started to pilot the LTA Mini Tennis Awards scheme in 2004. This is a structured way of developing the skills needed to play tennis well and encourages children to improve their skills by awarding stickers and certificates as they progress through the various levels of the scheme. The LTA is making a few amendments to the scheme, which Alan will be looking at.

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 2004). We also have to enter teams in local mini tennis leagues to give the children a chance to learn how to play the game including how to cope with losing as well as winning. We have teams at all three levels – red, orange and green.

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 which was held on 12 June. The winners were Oliver White and Emily Hodge.

A new tournament took place on 2 January 2004 for year 7 and above juniors. The courts were filled on a cold winter's day for our first ever Festive Fun Team Tennis event. The social element of this event was particularly enjoyed.

Warwickshire Schools Tennis Association – Success! Four of our members represented George Fentham School in the Green Mini Tennis schools competition. These were Sophie Cable, Maria Barnes, Emily Cable, Emily Hodge, with Julia and Harriet Ryland as reserves. They beat all their rivals, including bigger schools – St Martins and Edgbaston High, to become Warwickshire Green Mini Tennis School Champions!

Other Match Play Our juniors represented our club in local leagues. Two teams took part in the National Junior Leagues. However, the format of the competition – 3 singles matches and 1 doubles can take a long time to get through especially when there are only 3 courts available in total. One event took over 4 hours as only 2 of our courts were free to use.

6 teams took part in the North Warwickshire Doubles Leagues. Maria Barnes and Emily Hodge got through to the Under 11 girls semi-finals. Rebecca Davison and Lyndsey Thomas were runners up in the Under 13 girls category. Well done!

Daniel Eccleston (aged 16) has the honour of being coached by the LTA at Queens Club, London. Daniel is currently competing in the International Tennis Federation competition in South America.

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 2004: * Eight 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

Play Tennis Day 1 May 2004 saw yet another successful Play Tennis Day. This free event is open to all, young and old, members and non-members. Everyone can join in and play tennis whether they are experienced or completely new to the sport.

Fund Raising The juniors raised £55 for the Court Refurbishment Fund by holding a sponsored "tennisathon". The weather was dreadfully wet, but our children persevered!

Well Done! This success is due to the enthusiasm of the coaches, the volunteers, the parents and the children! It has been difficult to find a new coach, so thank you for your patience whilst we were looking. Here's to great junior tennis at Hampton in 2005!

Hampton Sports Club AGM - 2004

The AGM took place on Wednesday 23rd February. Thanks go to John Eccleston and his team for all the hard work put in to improve club facilities. The major points noted in the meeting were as follows:

- The club accounts for the year to April 2004 are in good shape. Subscriptions and match fees are up from £57k to £63k; Bar profits are up from £17k to £21k; Overall profit up from £15k to £18k; Club assets increased from £40k to £58k.
- The Recreation Trust completed the hockey pitch in October 2004. The Fentham Trust and SITA each contributed £150k to the project with the remaining £60k coming from various fund raising activities, which are still continuing!
- The improvements to the car park were also completed before Christmas. The Parish Council, the Fentham Trust and the Sports Club have funded the project.
- The junior football pitches, under construction on the far side of the spinney, will be finished in September 2006.
- The revised club rules as distributed with the AGM notice were approved by the AGM. A copy will shortly be made available for viewing in the members section of the web site.
- The Tennis Court redevelopment project involving the reconstruction of the existing courts and the provision of a fourth court has reached the stage of applying for planning permission.
- Community Amateur Sports Club Status has now been achieved which will allow for a reduction in general rates and enable gift aid to be utilised during fund raising activities.
- The Environmental Health inspection in November 2003 was passed.
- Smoking in the clubhouse. It is considered inevitable that, sooner rather than later, the clubhouse will be designated as a no smoking zone.
- The project to extend the clubhouse to provide separate football/hockey changing from the existing tennis/squash changing is under consideration.

Finally, John Eccleston retired as Chairman after six years in the job, although he will remain as a Director. The meeting expressed their thanks to John for his Herculean efforts over the last six years by toasting him with bubbly! Thanks John. Evan Grant was voted in as his replacement. Good luck Evan!

Chester Barnes
