



Hutton & Shenfield UCLTC Newsletter

February 2016

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Welcome from the Tennis Committee

Welcome to the 2016 tennis season at the Club. Just a short note from the AGM to record appreciation for all the hard work of the 2015 tennis season by the Committee and Volunteers. The Committee has been joined by Debbie King, Sarah O'Sullivan and Matthew Keeling. Thanks to John Tyler for his invaluable work as our Club Groundsman.

This is your Club - please let the Committee have your suggestions on how we can make the Club better for members.

Club Sessions are:

Tuesday/Thursday mornings from 8:30am;

Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm; Saturday afternoons from 1:00pm

Monday evenings - Fixed Eights open to any member 7:00pm

All offers of help much appreciated.

Chris Rastin, Secretary, on behalf of the Tennis Committee

Chairman's Message

Welcome to another year of tennis!

As a club we've already established our plans for 2016, which include items such as some improvement to the grounds, ensuring the courts continue to play as well for all levels of tennis, and upgrading the existing website. A particularly important initiative was the decision at the Committee Meeting in January for the Club to adopt a number of LTA policies around safeguarding, health and safety, complaint handling, and tennis etiquette. This step, plus the excellent state of the Club as a whole, will allow us to submit an application for Tennis Mark Plus accreditation, which will further enhance our reputation as a safe and inclusive environment to play tennis.



Ian Gunn, Chairman



Peter Mayell, Jenny Fowers, Chris Rastin, Reg Thompson, Nigel Davey

Once again, I want to highlight two members who were recognised this year for their contribution to the Club over many years. Firstly, Chris Rastin received a Volunteer Service Award from the Essex LTA for all his hard work as Secretary for over 10 years. He has unselfishly given up an enormous amount of his time coordinating meetings and AGMs, as well as supporting and leading projects such as the Clubhouse renovation and

the defibrillator project. Chris has helped to build a very strong foundation for the club and many look to him for advice and guidance on tennis matters. Thanks for all your efforts Chris and well done!

Secondly, as you are aware, the Committee unanimously agreed to award Roger Southcott Honorary Membership of the Club. The Committee fully recognised and were very appreciative of his efforts in supporting the Club in a number of official positions over several years, including Treasurer and Grounds Co-coordinator, and his contribution in moving the Club forward and making a significant difference to the facilities. Many thanks Roger it's well deserved.

Since the AGM, Tracey Dobbs has informed us that she will have to step down from the Committee because of additional work commitments. We would like to thank Tracey for all her help in the Publicity and Social Secretary roles which included running the internal website and assisting to promote the Club.

We're very pleased to announce that Matt Keeling has agreed to become Publicity Officer, including administering the internal website, and Debbie King has volunteered for the second Social Secretary role, working alongside Barry Taylor. In addition, we've been searching for an assistant for Jo Bischoff to help run the Junior Programme and Iraz Keeling has very kindly offered to help. We would like to welcome Matt and Debbie to the Committee and many thanks to Iraz for volunteering to work with Jo.

Enjoy your tennis!

Ian Gunn

Captains' Report (Joint)



Matt Keeling, Most Improved Men's Player, with Paul Gibson and Jenny Fowers

After completing a successful winter League we went in to the summer season full of optimism and with a number of new members (more so in the Mens' teams) and we went on to have one of our most successful seasons.

Of the 5 mens teams, the Mens 1st team had their highest finish for some years in division 1 and the Mens 2nd team managed to maintain their Division 1 status, which was a great achievement. (This was probably helped by the fact that they were without their Captain all season!)

Congratulations have to go to Matt Dyson, Jon Dyson and Barry Taylor for leading the 3rd 4th and 5th teams to promotion in their respective leagues. The Mens teams have never looked healthier

and the most encouraging thing is that we have 8 players in our squads that are aged 16 and under; they are improving so quickly that I am confident that our success will continue.

In the 'Essex' leagues our Mens team, led by Andrew Nash gained promotion in the winter and have managed to retain their Division 2 status in the summer in what is an extremely tough league. The Mens vets led by our Chairman Ian Gunn also managed to stay in the same division in the summer.

The summer season proved to be a tough one for our Mixed teams after our 2nd and 3rd team gained promotion last summer to Division 1 and 2 respectively – an excellent achievement. Mixed 1 continued their amazing form by winning Division 1, Mixed 2 and 3 were relegated to Divisions 2 and 3 respectively and Mixed 4 maintained their place in Division 4. This means that next summer we will have Mixed teams in Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 – well done to all team members and especially the captains.

A huge 'Thank you' to Sarah O'Sullivan for the fantastic job she has done at the helm of Mixed 1 for a number of years, achieving 1st place on at least three occasions! Sarah has now passed the baton to Clark Sergeant as she takes over the running of the Ladies Vets team (from Paula Steptoe) and our NEW Ladies Essex team this season.

Our thanks to Paula Steptoe for leading our Ladies Vets team to promotion from Division 3 to Division 2 last summer. We would also like to thank Clark for agreeing to run the Mixed 1 team this season and also to Chris Ashton for taking over the running of the Mixed 4 team from Mitch Read and Alison Morton. Without our captains we wouldn't have any matches – they all do a great job.

Our Ladies teams continued to maintain their places in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 in the summer league coming 4th, 3rd and 4th respectively – another excellent achievement. Unfortunately, although the winter season kicked off promisingly with 4 new lady members joining the teams, we have been hit by injuries, which have caused problems across the teams. However, everyone has pulled together and, so far, we have managed to field teams for all our matches – thank you ladies and well done to our captains.

The Mens and Ladies match practices continue to be run on the first and second Saturdays of the month respectively although the men are experimenting with a few Sunday afternoon sessions this year to enable the men that have parental duties to carry out on a Saturday morning to attend match practice. We welcome any newcomers along to these sessions that would like to get involved in playing for the various teams.

This year, we are continuing to run the Wednesday social and trying to encourage greater numbers to attend. In the summer, on occasions were getting well in to double figures attending which was very encouraging. We have really embraced the 'social' theme as the evening quite often continues in the Hutton Junction to extend the evening beyond just tennis. We intend to continue offering some group coaching at Wednesday social every 4-6 weeks so keep an eye out for these if this is something that interests you.

Our Captain's Caper events on a Saturday afternoon have been extremely successful, as we have seen record numbers attending Saturday social again. Captain's Caper is open to our cadets and coaching category members and the sets/fours are decided by one of the Captains so we would hope to get some very evenly matched games. Please keep an eye out for these being announced throughout the year via either our website or the club notice board.

By popular demand we will be setting up a Mens singles ladder as it has been said by many that the only time that they currently play singles is in the club tournament once a year (well once for some.) I will be issuing a note regarding this in the spring so please sign up if you are interested.

We would both like to thank all of our captains that do a great job in running our teams and all of the players that have contributed to the teams. We are very enthusiastic about the new members that we are currently attracting and the success that the teams are having and feel that we are in a very strong position for the year ahead.

Finally, congratulations go to Carol Taylor and Matt Keeling for being recognised as the Club's most improved players for 2015.



Carol Taylor, Most Improved Women's Player, with Jenny Fowers and Paul Gibson

Jenny Fowers and Paul Gibson

Grounds Report

Our groundsman's hours of employment were temporarily increased in December to allow for the additional maintenance of the courts required during the high winds and heavy leaf fall.

We are progressing the provision of a new shed by Court 5 for the groundsman's equipment and hope to have this in place before the summer. At the same time we are continuing to investigate the possibility of installing a 'summer house' between Courts 2 and 3 where the present grounds man's shed is located.

Tree cutting back has been carried out by Courts 3, 4, and 5. The problem of black liquid mass on Courts 1,2 and 3 is being addressed.

Roger Fowers/Peter Mayell

Tennis Court Bookings

ALL COURTS can ONLY be booked ONLINE; use laptop in Club Room if no home access. Captains & Friendly Match Organisers must enter cancellations & re-arrangements for ALL events. Court bookings have PRIORITY if problems arise.

Social Events Report

We had a successful year with our social events in 2015. This year as well as a quiz night and American Tournaments there will be a night at the dogs, horse racing and a Sunday walk with lunch. All dates **tba**. If there is an event you would like us to consider please let us know.

Barry Taylor/Tracey Dobbs

Membership Subscriptions 2015/2016

Membership of the club remains strong and at present we have 180 members in all categories compared with 169 members at the same time last year. New members mainly come to the club via our website and by word of mouth so please continue to keep promoting the club and recommending us to new arrivals in the area or anyone who shows an interest in tennis.

This year all members will have all subscription information sent by e-mail. (Those without an e-mail address will need to collect a letter from the clubroom). Coaching category members will continue to receive renewal information by letter.

There will be two options to pay:

- by cheque in the usual way
- paying directly into the club's bank account.

Letters will be available from the clubroom on Saturday 6th February and emails will be sent on the same day. All subscriptions should be paid by Monday 7th March to avoid the £25 penalty.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any membership questions.

Clive Garrod, Membership Secretary

Publicity and Website Report



2015 was a very successful year for publicity and improvements to the website and social media. The LTA Great British Tennis Weekend was the most successful yet - in terms of attendees and new memberships - we secured great coverage in local press and were also blessed with wonderful weather. Our existing relationship with the Local Council and St. Martin's School ensured excellent placement of banners and many shops in Shenfield advertised the event.

The Facebook page continues to create great interest and traffic in the club and general enquiries from the internet continue to run at an average of one a week. In 2016 we plan a refresh of the main website with improvements in usability and also offering the ability for more members to submit their own content.

Mitchell Read and Tracey Dobbs

OPT INTO THE WIMBLEDON BALLOT

The Wimbledon ticket ballot will take place within the next few months. If you wish to be included in the Ballot, you must first OPT IN to the Ballot via the LTA website. This is a simple process which will take no more than a few seconds! The more opt ins we have the greater our ticket allocation. **The cut-off date for OPT INs is VERY SOON – Feb 19th.**

You also need to be a registered British Tennis Member in order to be eligible for opting in. Further details or how to opt in, or apply to become a British Tennis Member can be found on the LTA website. (<http://www.lta.org.uk/>)

Sarah O'Sullivan, Ballot Administrator

Junior/Coaching Report

Mini Tennis, Juniors and Cadets

Autumn term was busy and the winter term is off to a strong start. We continue to run a full mini program and a full junior program for the older junior members.

A new pre school group is up and running on a Wednesday at 12.15. So far we have 8 booked in but we can take few more.

Our tennis camps ran during October half term and Christmas and were steady throughout both holidays. Our next camps are during the February half term and Easter break. Following that will be May half term and then summer holidays.

The road to Wimbledon starts in February; last year Matthew Hills and Oscar Bischoff made it through to county finals. Charlie Bischoff has now been invited to join the Essex Team.

Christian and Chris will be running match plays for red orange and green players. Full details will be out shortly. We will also be holding LTA sanctioned tournaments in the summer.

Our cadets are very strong, John Coyle, Anthony Pero, Mikko Von Wielligh, Tom Young, Charlie Bischoff and Matthew Hills are all playing in the men's teams. Two of our younger boys, Oscar Bischoff and Max Bear are hot on their coat tails also! Elliott Gibson and Olivia Mitchell are two younger players who are competing on a regular basis.

Adult Coaching

Ladies groups are on Monday afternoon for beginners and Wednesday morning for those who are intermediates and are playing a bit more. Cardio tennis continues to run on a Friday morning at 10.30 and a new session will also be added in the summer.

Kelly runs our Coaching Category session Thursday evenings for those who have joined and need a bit of help to become a full member. Please contact either of us if you would like to try the groups. Thanks to the club and members for your continued support.

Christian Allen and Jo Bischoff

Tennis Coaching Rates:

Christian Allen Head Coach: 1 hour £30; Half hour £15; Group Coaching variable
Kelly Shipton, Asst Coach: 1 hour £25; Half hour £15; Group Coaching variable
Graham Lister Asst Coach 1 hour £25 Half hour £15 Group coaching variable
Chris Ashton Asst Coach 1 hour £20 Half hour £10 Group coaching variable

CALENDAR 2015 (Organiser)

Sat, Feb 20	Captains Caper - Tennis Event (Mark N/Jackie or Mark Feeley)
Mon, Mar 28	Easter American Tournament (tbd)
Mon, May 2	Early May American Tournament – am (tbd)
Mon, May 2	Church Open Day - pm (tbd)
Sat/Sun May 14/15	Open Days (tbd – Christian and Jo are away)
Mon, May 30	Late May American Tournament
Sat, June 18	Breast Cancer Tournament (Johanne)
Sat, July 2	Junior Finals Day (Christian/Joanne)
Sat, June 16 (Christian/Joanne)	Junior Finals Day – rain date
Mon, Aug 29	Aug American Tournament (tbd)
Sat, Sep 10	Finals Day (Entry Lists Mar 31 - entries by May 1st)
Sat, Sep 17	Reserve Finals Day
Sat, Nov 12	Club Annual General Meeting – 3.30pm (Chris)
Sat, Dec ?	Ladies Christmas Lunch (Tracey)
Sat, Dec 3	Men's Christmas Lunch (Paul G)
Mon, Dec ?	Christmas Social (Barry/Tracey)



Further Events - dates to be advised - see Club Board:

Captains Capers - (Mark Nash will issue schedule)
Quiz - (Barry/Tracey)
Men's events - (tba)
Mid-Week Tournaments - To be advised by Delia Widdows
Men's Golf Tournament - (tba)
Ladies Events - (tba)
Walk and pub lunch - (Barry or Ian)

Matches in 2015

League Fixtures – See match fixtures handbook
Mid- Week Friendlies – May not be any - see Club Board

Floodlights

Please do not switch on floodlights for both courts if only using one court. When play on one court only please ensure the other court light is turned off. When leaving the court, it is not necessary to leave the light on for somebody to follow on if they are not there - the bulb restart time is ONLY 5 minutes. Checked with FST Electrical. We frequently find both court lights on unnecessarily.

Reminder

Membership Subs are Due to be paid by March 7th - £205 (£225 if paid late).

Club Room

Please do your part to keep it tidy and put balls back in racks.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (+Christian Allen)

Chairman	Ian Gunn	216541
Secretary	Chris Rastin	225648
Treasurer	Peter Mayell	214269
Asst Treasurer	Mark Nash	230792
Memb. Sec.	Clive Garrod	230390
Match Sec.	Barbara Holford	218044
Men's Capt.	Paul Gibson	201731
Men's V. Capt.	Andrew Nash	07713 412022
Ladies Capt.	Jenny Fowers	373934
Ladies V. Capt.	Sarah O'Sullivan	01702 475672
Mid Week Capt.	Delia Widdows	227586
Junior Secretary	Johanne Bischoff	07525 332718
WebMaster	Mitch Read	226916
Social Comm **	Debbie King	264725
Social Comm **	Barry Taylor	232817
Ball Co-ord.	Vernon Prior	234789
Publicity Off.	Matthew Keeling	848648
Ground Co-ord*	Roger Fowers	373934
Ground Co-ord*	Peter Mayell	214269

Asterisks (*) ()** = Shared Job Role

League Match Team Captains

Mens 1	Mark Nash	230272
Mens 2	Paul Gibson	201731
Mens 3	Matt Dyson	221552
Mens 4	Jon Dyson	221552
Mens 5	Barry Taylor	232817
Ladies 1	Elayne Draper	214081
Ladies 2	Jenny Fowers	373934
Ladies 3	Barbara Holford	218044
Mixed 1	Clark Sargeant	07896 503208
Mixed 2	Mark Feeley	215324
Mixed 3	Tracey Dobbs	264725
Mixed 4	Chris Ashton	652834
Mens Vets O-45	Ian Gunn	216541
	Ian Gunn	07528 711609
Ladies Vets O-40	Sarah O'Sullivan	01702 475672
Mens Essex Leag.	Andrew Nash	215631
	Andrew	07713412022
Ladies Essex Leag.	Sarah O'Sullivan	01702 475672
Club Coach	Christian Allen	07880 728570
Asst Coach	Kelly Shipton	07947 440931
Groundsman:	John Tyler	653001

Non-Committee Volunteers :

Independent Examiner Accounts	Nigel Davey
Safeguarding Officer	Clive Garrod
Friendlies Organiser (if any)	Debbie King
Wimbledon Ticket Organiser	Sarah O'Sullivan
First Aid Box Organiser	Jackie Feeley
Club-Room Refresh'ts Org.	Linde Merrell
Health & Safety Officer	Clive Garrod
Assistant to Junior Secretary	Iraz Keeling