



# Hutton & Shenfield U.C. LTC



Spring Newsletter 2020

[huttonandshenfieldtennisclub.co.uk](http://huttonandshenfieldtennisclub.co.uk)



## NEW SEASON APPROACHING!

Another year, and just how wet and windy has it been! Our priority is to have great surfaces for playing tennis and the last few months has been exceptionally challenging, and judging by the feedback at a recent LTA meeting, we've not been alone!

Because of the weather and their close proximity to the trees, Courts 4 and 5 deteriorated very quickly in the Autumn. Making quick improvements with the leaves falling on the courts was difficult.

We had the contractor spend two weeks cleaning the surface in November, which did make a difference, but in the end elected to completely rejuvenate the courts in January. The surface is now significantly better and playing well. Courts 1, 2 and 3 will be cleaned by an outside contractor in March (weather permitting) and all courts will be cleaned again

after Finals Weekend. We also plan to have the overhanging branches cut back, and allocate more resource for leaf removal next Autumn.

**Ian Gunn, Chairman** (continued on page 3)



## INSIDE THIS SPRING ISSUE

List of Contacts	Page 2
Chairman's Message	Page 3
Captains' Reports	Page 4-5
Juniors & Coaching	Page 6-7
Grounds Report	Page 9
Focus on Ladies Tennis	Page 10

# TENNIS CLUB CONTACT LIST

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Ian Gunn
Secretary	Jitendra Valera
Asst Secretary	Sharon Bennett
Treasurer	Peter Mayell
Asst Treasurer	Nigel Malcolm
Memb. Sec.	Clive Garrod
Match Sec.	Barbara Holford
Men's Capt.	Paul Gibson
Men's V. Capt.	Andrew Nash
Ladies Capt.	Jenny Fowers
Ladies V. Capt.	Sarah O'Sullivan
Mid-week Capt.	Delia Widdows
Welfare/ Health & Safety Officer	Matt Dyson
Head Coach	Christian Allen
Junior Sec.	Johanne Allen
WebMaster	Mitch Read
Publicity Off.	Matt Keeling
Social C'ttee	Alison Morton
Ball Co-ord.	Vernon Prior
Ground Co-ordinators	Barry Taylor & Peter Mayell
'Committee Member without portfolio'	Chris Rastin

## Non-Committee Volunteers:

Indep. Examiner Accts	Nigel Davey
Friendlies Organiser	Debbie King
Wimbledon Ticket Organiser	Sarah O'Sullivan
First Aid Box Organiser	Joy Wale
Club-Room Organisers	Liz Watt, Liz Williams

## League Match Team Captains

Mens 1	Mark Nash
Mens 2	David Sadler
Mens 3	Matt Dyson
Mens 4	Dave Ham / Barry Taylor
Mens 5	Barry Taylor / Craig Dewar
Mens 6	Paul Gibson
Ladies 1	Elayne Draper
Ladies 2	Debbie King
Ladies 3	Karen Turp (with Sharon Bennett)
Mixed 1	Nikki Nicholls
Mixed 2	Matt Keeling
Mixed 3	Nigel Malcolm
Mixed 4	Jitendra Valera
Mens Vets (45+)	Ian Gunn
Mens Essex League	Andrew Nash

## Coaches

Head Coach	Christian Allen
Asst Coach	Kelly Shipton
Asst Coach	Rob Heaton
Asst Coach	Chris Ashton
Groundsman:	John Tyler

## PHONE NUMBERS

Struggling to find tennis member telephone number?

It's easy! Log into the 'Booking Website' type on 'Members' and the e-mail and telephone numbers are all there! (if they've been supplied or not blocked.)



## Court Bookings

Remember, all courts can only be booked online.





## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE (Continued)

Despite the inclement weather it's still pleasing to see so many people playing tennis: either Fixed Fours, Eights, social, coaching or matches. The WhatsApp group is definitely working on Saturday afternoon with four and five courts being regularly used!

I'd like to welcome Jitendra Valera (or JV to his friends) as our new Secretary. He's taken over from Chris Rastin, who we all acknowledge has done a

fantastic job over several years in many roles. The great news is Chris is staying on the Committee so we won't lose him completely! JV brings loads of experience and energy to the Club so we look forward to working with him in the coming months and years.

I'd also like to thank Martin Hastings who has elected to step down as Assistant Secretary but continues to prepare the excellent newsletter. Sharon Bennett will replace Martin and I know she will be a fantastic addition to the Club.

So what's planned for 2020/21? Well, the big news is the tennis club centenary from November 2020, and we'd like to plan a whole series of events during the forthcoming year.

We've formed two sub-committees, one headed by Margaret Castle and one by Alison Morton, to develop ideas. We'll then form one committee to organise all the events. So watch this space!



At the same time, we've started investigating potential new surfaces for courts 1, 2 and 3 and new LED lights for Courts 1 and 2 - and if it were possible - Court 3. This will be a significant investment for our Club (around £100k). Craig Dewer is heading up a small team looking at the options, and if all goes to plan, we'd like to carry out the

replacement work in 2021.

Membership levels remain excellent, almost at record levels, but we always need new players so please encourage friends and family to come along and give us a try, especially at our Open Weekend on May 16th and 17th.

We've a lot planned in the coming months from playing tennis to enjoying a social evening with friends.

Have fun!

**Ian Gunn**



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



It is a great time to be taking on the role as the new Club Secretary as the club is in a healthy and strong position with increasing membership levels, great tennis (both competitive and social), a fantastic juniors programme, excellent coaches and a wonderful location.

One of our goals is to get more members to participate and engage in all our activities.

Check out the tennis sessions, events and social activities listed in here and on the Club Notice Boards and please do get involved.

They are designed for all members and cater for all ages and playing abilities so everyone is welcome. Enjoy your club, and let us have a great 2020 Tennis Season.

**Jitendra Valera (JV), Club Secretary.**

# CAPTAINS' REPORT

The 2019 Summer Season proved to be a tough season for some of our teams due to so many promotions in 2018 (see the 2019 Autumn Newsletter).

The Winter Season is still in full swing so we do not have the final results through yet. However, at the present time all teams appear to be doing well in their respective divisions. Ladies' 1, 2 and 3 are currently playing in divisions 1, 2 and 4; Mixed 1, 2, 3 and 4 are currently playing in divisions 1, 1, 2 and 4; and Men's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are playing in divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 6 respectively.

The Men's Vets team - under the captaincy of our esteemed Chairman - has gained promotion to Division 2A, which will be the highest level that the Vets have ever played at. A big thank you to Ian for running the team, and the guys that have given up part of their weekends to achieve this promotion - good luck for next season.

Both Ladies' and Men's match practices continue to be well supported, and these will continue throughout 2020 with the men's practice being in the morning of the first Saturday of the month, and the ladies' being on the second Saturday of the month, also in the morning. There will be occasions where tournaments and matches may dictate changes but we would encourage all of our members that wish to be selected for our teams to try to attend these sessions.



Some coaching will also be available at some of the Ladies' Practices this year, which is already proving to be very popular.

New members continue to flow regularly into the club, including members coming through the Coaching Category, many of whom seem to be keen to get involved with the teams, which is very encouraging.

Our 2019 'Most Improved Player of the Year' awards went to Dave Sadler and Jo Allen. Jo has made a tremendous comeback after being injured on more than one occasion, and appeared in many of our Club Tournament Finals, succeeding in winning most of them! A terrific achievement and well deserved – well done, Jo!

David has always played at a consistently high level since he joined the club. He demonstrated both on the Men's 'jolly' in Portugal, and also by beating Clark in the club singles tournament this year, that his game has moved up another level.

Once again, we would like to say a massive thank you to all of our team captains, as the competitive play is a big part of our tennis at Hutton & Shenfield, and without them we would not be able to run the 13 local league teams, 1 Vets Team and 2 Essex Teams so successfully.

[Continued on Page 5]



## CAPTAINS' REPORT (Continued)

A special thanks to Sarah O'Sullivan, Vernon Prior, Nigel Ware and Alison Morton, who are stepping down next season, but who have all done a fantastic job leading their teams.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Nikki Nicholls, Matt Keeling and Jitendra Valera for taking over the running of Mixed 1, 2 and 4 respectively and wish them all the best this coming Summer.



Saturday social is now well attended with 3 to 4 courts being in regular use, and we are expecting Wednesday evening social to pick up again once the weather starts to improve. Therefore, we would like to encourage all members to try to support our social tennis sessions on Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings whenever possible, and have some fun!

**Paul Gibson & Jenny Fowers**

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chairman Ian Gunn received a well-deserved award at the Essex Tennis AGM this January at Redbridge Sports and Leisure.

The LTA Award in the Volunteer category was presented by Essex Tennis President, Richard Lehman.



ESSEX TENNIS

We are delighted and proud for both Ian and our Club for winning such a prestigious award. Ian will now be automatically entered into the National LTA Awards so we will keep our fingers crossed and wish him every success.

**Jitendra Valera**



Here are some excerpts from the award submission:

“Affectionately known as ‘The Chairman’ and ‘Shoreditch Ian’, Ian Gunn has been a constant, consistent and permanent presence in the ever-growing success of Hutton & Shenfield Lawn Tennis Club throughout 2019. Elected as Chairman in 2014, Ian has committed incomprehensible hours to his position, with as much enthusiasm and commitment as if it was a lifelong, fully-paid role. His level of energy and positive discipline has meant that the club has continued to grow on all fronts.”

“In a period where many local clubs have seen memberships drop, Ian’s leadership has stabilised and increased adult membership to 190. Working closely with the Head Coach and supporting coaches, he has overseen the junior programme rise, as well as junior member success across a raft of county events. Furthermore, in partnership with Men’s and Ladies Team Captains, he has helped sustain 17 teams across Mens, Ladies, Mixed, Vets and Essex League competitions, rivalling clubs with far greater membership numbers.”

“His promotion of fund-raising has led to numerous events for a number of charitable causes. However, his most remarkable achievement is often hidden from the public eye. In the current economic climate, Ian has ensured our club is sustainable, and able to maintain the highest quality of facilities, whilst being thoroughly inclusive to the local community.”

**Matt Dyson**

# JUNIORS & COACHING



Our Coaching Team now consists of Christian Allen (Head Coach), and Rob Heaton, Chris Ashton, Kelly Shipton and Tom Heaton as Club

Coaches. We have a strong team with a wide range of experience across all aspects of Coaching. junior programme running every day, and have many of our juniors competing in tournaments both in and out of Essex.



Coaches. We have a strong team with a wide range of experience across all aspects of Coaching.

Our winter term is stronger than usual, with barely any drop-off over the winter months. Our performance squads, matchplay tournaments, 1:1s, together with our term groups and holiday tennis camps are keeping our juniors interested in playing.

Our junior membership is at the highest it has been, with almost 200 members.

We have added two further performance groups this year, taking performance to 5 sessions per week. They are Red, Orange, Green, Under 14 and Under 16 groups where our top performers train with their peers, who are all playing at a high performance level.

The success of our juniors is not just down to one area.

We have one Tots group on a Friday. This is very popular and often encourages parents who haven't played for a while, to consider returning to tennis. [Continued overleaf]

We have a developed schools programme, hold well-attended tennis camps, have a strong

Saturday 9.45am with Kelly Shipton



U9 Winter Tournament





# JUNIORS & COACHING (contd.)

Our October and December tennis camps were very well attended. The Easter Break camp dates will be advised in due course.

Over the winter, our Under 12s and Under 14s have been competing in team tennis. Our 8-and-



Saturday 9.00-9.45am junior group with their certificates

under, 9, and 10-and-under and this year 12-and-under teams will be competing in Team Tennis this Spring. We have very strong teams this year and are hoping for good results.

'Road to Wimbledon' starts in the Spring and we hope to send two of our junior players to the County Finals.

Once again, after a successful tournament last year, we will be holding the Quorn Parent and Child tournament. This sends our winning pair to regional finals in various locations across the country. Last year our winners went to Nottingham University.

We have more of our juniors playing in the Essex Teams: Oscar Bischoff, Oliver Brooks, Brandon Pugh, Joey Newbould and Thomas Taylor-Widgery are all training at Redbridge as well as their coaching at Hutton.

## Adult Coaching

Coaching groups are on:

- Tuesday 7pm (Beginner)
- Wednesday 9.15am (for full members)
- Wednesday 7pm (for full members)
- Thursday 7pm (Intermediate)
- Friday 9.30am (Cardio).

Please contact Christian if you would like to try the groups.

Our Junior Finals Day will be 4th July 2020. Make sure this goes in your calendar. The tennis - and of course the barbecue - is not to be missed!



U10 Tournament finalists

Our next Breast Cancer

Tournament is 6th June 2020, 9am-1pm. Please register early as it is always full! If you cannot play, please come and support - there are always lovely cakes!

Thanks to the club and members for your continued support.

**Christian and Jo**

U8 Winter Tournament



## 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.
- Chris Ashton Asst Coach 1 hour £25; Half hour £12.50; Group coaching variable
- Rob Heaton Asst Coach 1 hour £25; Half hour £15; Group coaching variable

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership of the club remains strong. The senior membership of the club is currently 196 and slightly higher than this time last year when it was 192. The number of full members has remained consistent over the past year at 118, and each week we get a number of enquiries from people wanting to join the club.

Contact me if you are:

- over 80 years and are therefore eligible for the over 80 years reduction
- over 25 years but under 30 years (on 1st April).

Coaching category and parental category members may now bring guests to the club – all guests must be signed in and a fee of £3 is to be paid.

Coaching category and parental category members are now eligible for the Wimbledon ballot but must also be British Tennis members – simply click on the link to join ([lta.org.uk/member/login/](http://lta.org.uk/member/login/)). You then need to 'opt in' to the ballot each year.

Coaching category members who have been successfully 'played in' must join as full

members, either immediately or at the start of the next tennis season.



Coaching category members who have reached an Intermediate standard of tennis will be offered the chance to upgrade to Intermediate membership, that will allow attendance at Tuesday/Thursday morning social tennis. All subscription information for the

2020/2021 season will be sent by email in early March although those members without an email address will be sent renewal information in the post in February.

All subscriptions will need to be paid by 31st March to avoid the £25

penalty. Payments can be made either by cheque or directly into the club account.

Please note that all tennis payments must now be paid into the UNITY TRUST BANK. Full information will be given with the renewal email.

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

**Clive Garrod**





# GROUNDS REPORT

I think you will agree that our courts are in a lovely location surrounded by trees, but this does present problems.

The court surfaces get impregnated over time by the droppings from the trees, and need to be cleaned twice annually by specialist contractors, and rejuvenated every five years.

Our courts 4 and 5 are especially subject to this problem and the court surfaces were becoming hazardous towards the end of last year, not helped by the excessive rainfall, which was bringing large patches of sludge to the surface.

We arranged for a contractor to carry out a full rejuvenation of these courts in the middle of January, which entails pressurised air being blown into the court, bringing the sand and sludge to the surface.

This is then removed, and clean sand put back down, which will eventually bed in. This may take longer than normal, as dry conditions are needed for it to fully integrate into the surface. The picture shows the

courts in the early stages of this process.

We also intend to arrange for contractors to clean the surface of courts 1,2 and 3 in the spring to improve playing conditions before the main season.

These courts are coming to the end of their life, and we have a sub-committee in place looking at the replacement options going forward. The same group will be looking at upgrading the floodlights on these courts.

This work will ensure that all our members will have excellent playing conditions for the year ahead.

**Peter Mayell & Barry Taylor**



## SOCIAL NEWS

In November, the Social Committee organised a Wine Tasting event at Liquorice, in Shenfield. As you can see from the photo, there are a lot of empty bottles and glasses!

Unsurprisingly, this is a popular event and we

will be organising another in the future.

We are looking forward to another year of social events and we are currently putting together a programme for 2020.

**Social Committee**



# FOCUS ON LADIES TENNIS

At Hutton & Shenfield Tennis Club we offer lots of activities for new lady members:

We have **individual and group coaching** every week, plus cardio **every Friday morning** for all abilities (a really fun session which is becoming increasingly more popular with our ladies).

We also have designated courts for **Coaching Category (CC) members every Thursday evening** to practice with other CC members (after group coaching sessions).

Coaching Category members are encouraged to move into our **Intermediate Category** when ready, which allows them to attend our mid-week social sessions **every Tuesday & Thursday morning**.

The next step is **full membership** which includes **Wednesday evening & Saturday afternoon** social tennis plus entry into our popular teams if desired.

Joining one of our three **ladies' teams** and/or one of our 4 **mixed teams** is a great way to play on different court surfaces and meet other members of the club.

**Ladies' Practices** are also held once a month for **team players**, occasionally with coaching.

All members are encouraged to join in with our **regular tournaments**, including our Easter and Christmas Ladies Handicap Tournaments and our yearly Club Tournament.

**Social Events** are organised throughout the year by our pro-active social committee, including Christmas get-togethers at the pub, table tennis and darts evenings, wine tasting and much, much more.

Here are quotes from some of our newer lady members:



"Being relatively new to tennis, the thought of joining a club was quite daunting. But I needn't have worried, as everyone has been nothing but friendly and encouraging. Playing in the Tuesday and Thursday Social groups with a variety of players is helping to improve my game and I've met some really lovely people along the way."

"I joined the Wednesday morning coaching group four years ago, having not picked up a racquet for about 15 years!! But with Christian's coaching and the encouragement of the other ladies, I was able to gradually get back to a reasonable level. I love the weekly sessions - it's great for the fitness but also for making friends. I've also 'graduated' into one of the ladies teams and mixed team, and am enjoying the competitive side of it too!"

"Since recently moving to Brentwood and joining the tennis club it's been like being welcomed into a new family. From the point of meeting Jenny I knew that this was the club for me, and then being asked to play matches for both the ladies and the mixed it's been wonderful. I have also attended Social Tennis on a Saturday afternoon, which have been fantastic and



everyone has been very welcoming. I'm also very much looking forward to attending the social curry in a couple of weeks. Thank you so much for allowing me to be a member at your wonderful club!"

**Jenny Fowers**



# WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB

## DATES FOR 2020

Sat. 7 March	Men's Practice (1st Sat. of every month)
Sat. 14 March	Ladies Practice (2nd Sat. of every month)
Sat. am 11 April	Ladies Tournament (Jenny)
Mon. 13 April	Easter American Tournament (bank holiday)
Fri. 8 May	Church Open / Fun Day
Sat/Sun. 16/17 May	LTA Open Days (Mitch/Christian)
Mon. 25 May	St Francis Hospice Tournament (Bank Holiday)
Sat. 6 June	Breast Cancer Tournament (Jo Allen)
Sat. 27 June	Wimbledon Theme Handicap Tournament
Sat. 4 July	Junior Finals Day
Sun. 11 July	Men's Wimbledon final Reserve Junior Finals Day
Mon. 31 August	American Tournament
12/13 September	Finals Weekend
19/20 September	Reserve Finals Day



## WIMBLEDON BALLOT – Watch this space!



According to the LTA website: "Allocations for LTA Registered Venues will be live on 2 March 2020. Venues will have between 2 March and 15 May 2020 to run the ballot and assign tickets through the online system."

We will be allocating a Saturday afternoon draw date and will let tennis club members know then. This will happen after the tennis season renewals have been processed. I will keep members informed nearer the time.

**Sarah O'Sullivan**



# SAFEGUARDING, HEALTH & SAFETY and FIRST AID

## Defibrillator

- Located on the wall in the Church corridor where the toilets are located
- Instructions for its use are in a booklet hanging by the Defibrillator Storage case
- When using the Defibrillator, and the start button is pressed, voice instructions are given to users
- The contact phone number for Paramedics is also displayed by the Defibrillator case.



## First Aid Kit

- Located in the tennis clubroom in the cupboard located on the right as you exit the clubroom to go to the courts
- Should any of the contents of the Kit be used, please advise Joy Wale (our First Aid Co-ordinator) so that she might replenish the Kit.

## Accident Book

- Stored in the same cupboard
- Details of all accidents **must** be recorded on the accident sheets
- The Club Welfare/Health & Safety Officer Matt Dyson will regularly inspect the Accident Book.

## Safeguarding

- We strive to be a safe and inclusive club where everyone can enjoy playing tennis
- Our policies, privacy statement and rules are all on the website with selected policies displayed on the board in the Club room
- If you ever have cause for concern then please contact Matt Dyson, our Welfare Officer, on 07834 789164 or email [mattjdyson@gmail.com](mailto:mattjdyson@gmail.com)

# NOTICEBOARD

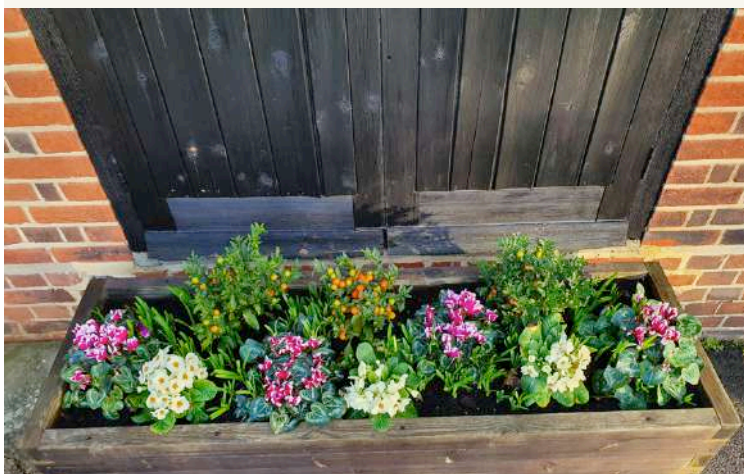
## Fair Play Values

### Enjoy

- Tennis is your sport so enjoy it. Love the game
- Be a good sport when you win, lose and watch matches
- Be a role model and set a good example of the behaviour that you expect from others
- Let's create a safe, fun and fair tennis environment.

### Respect

- Tennis is a game for everyone. Respect other players, parents and officials
- Take responsibility for your actions
- Learn and follow the rules and the Fair Play values
- Call the score and lines loudly and fairly.



## Want to play more social tennis?

Then contact Barry Taylor on [taylorbc88@gmail.com](mailto:taylorbc88@gmail.com)

or 07510 982603 and he will add you to the WhatsApp group.