



Hutton & Shenfield UCLTC Newsletter

February 2015

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Welcome from the Tennis Committee

Welcome to the 2015 tennis season at the Club. Just a short note from the AGM to record the appreciations for all the hard work of the 2014 tennis season by the Committee and Volunteers. The Committee have been joined by Roger Fowers, Mitch Read, and Tracey Dobbs. 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. Finally, a request - Jo Bischoff needs an Assistant Junior Secretary to assist her - a volunteer can virtually 'write their own job spec.'

Chris Rastin, Secretary, *on behalf of the Tennis Committee*

Chairman's Message

At the last AGM, Reg Thompson and Roger Southcott elected to stand down from the Tennis Committee after many years of hard work serving in several roles. As well as recently guiding the club as Chairman, Reg was also Treasurer for many years and it is credit to him that we have such a financially healthy organisation today.

Roger has done some fantastic work, with Peter Mayell, in helping improve our grounds, recently organising the laying of new courts and lights on 4 and 5, developing new parking facilities at the entrance to the club and finally

after years of persistence, arranging for the yellow lines in Brockley Grove. Reg has been recognised for his effort by being elected an Honorary Member of the club and Roger received an award from the Essex LTA at their AGM as "2014 Volunteer of the Year".



Ian Gunn, Chairman

Also, I'd like to mention Christian Allen. Christian, our Coach, recently won the "Essex Development Club Coach Award for 2014" which was presented at the Essex Tennis AGM, in recognition of his excellent coaching programme at Hutton and Shenfield. Christian (and Jo Bischoff) have worked hard in developing our junior programme in particular, not only for coaching but also for matches. Finally, a thank you to all the volunteers at the club. Without their hard work we wouldn't be a friendly club with great facilities playing in as many matches. We've started 2015 by upgrading the clubroom, which looks fantastic. In particular, thanks to Chris Rastin for organising the whole process and those that helped him.

In 2015 our Committee has some new faces and some returning faces to join an established team, and together I'm confident we can continue to build on existing strengths and move the club forward.

Ian Gunn

Grounds Report

We have identified areas for improvement and others for projects which need research and quotes:

Improvements:

- The floodlight housing / poles on courts 1 and 2 need repainting
- New net to be fitted on court 2
- Suggestion of placing benches on the side of all courts for bags, clothing etc.; doing away with hangers that are beginning to deteriorate

Projects

- A letter has been sent to the Church to obtain a feedback on possible floodlights for court 3
- Quotes sort for a patio & seating for part of area between courts 2 and 3
- Arranging a clean of courts 1-3 to take place in the spring

Roger Fowers/Peter Mayell

Membership Subscriptions 2015/2016

This year all full members will have all subscription information sent by e-mail. (Those without an e-mail number will need to collect a letter in the clubroom). There will be two options to pay:

- a) by cheque in the usual way; b) paying directly into the club's bank acct.

All other categories of membership will need to collect letters from the clubroom (as previous years) from Saturday 31st January.

All subscriptions must be paid by Monday 2nd Mar to avoid a £20 penalty.

There is one new category (80+) for members who will be aged at least 80 years before 1st April and who has been a member of the club for more than 20 years. Contact me if you qualify for this category but have not been sent an 80+ form. The fee for this category is £80 per year. There are other categories for university students, under 25 year membership and parental membership. Check the club website for more information

Clive Garrod, Membership Secretary

Captains' Report (Joint)

After the club's successes in the summer leagues, we are now half way through the Winter league season and there are some very encouraging performances. We currently have our Men's 1st team looking good for at least a second place finish in Division 1 and Men's 2, 4 & 5 and Mixed 2 all looking like potential promotion candidates. Once again, led by Andrew Nash, our Men's Essex league team gained promotion – that's back-to-back promotions so some great matches in store for this team during the summer.

The Men's and Ladies match practices continue to be run on the first and second Saturdays of the month respectively. We would welcome any newcomers along to these sessions that would like to get involved in playing for the various teams.

This year, during the spring & summer months we intend offering coaching sessions up at the club on a Wednesday evening (to run alongside social). The intention is that these will be offered to each of the men's and ladies teams – more details to follow in the spring.

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.

We would both like to thank the captains that do a great job in running our teams and all of the players that have contributed to the teams. We hope that you all keep fit for the coming season and hopefully, this year the pair of us will lead by example!!

Finally, congratulations to Mitchell Read for being recognised as the clubs most improved player for 2014 and to Neal Patel, one of our cadets for getting the "Captains special award".

Jenny Fowers and Paul Gibson



Paul Gibson, Neal Patel and Jenny Fowers

Publicity and Website Report

Key events for 2014 were further improvements to the main website to include new menu bars and pictures, a video of the club (once we get some decent weather to film!) and the introduction of Facebook and Twitter. For the members only site we will be upgrading the database to allow different membership categories for on line booking.

On broader publicity we secured some excellent coverage in the Brentwood Gazette for Christian's Coaching awards and we are planning further articles and coverage in the local newspapers. An LTA Open Weekend linked to the Essex LTA and our normal leaflet and advertising promoting the virtues of the club will continue. Keep searching for new members and don't forget neighbours and friends!

Mitchell Read and Tracey Dobbs

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

Many successful social events were held in 2014. The Christmas drinks at the Hutton Junction were well-attended including spouses. Last year, the Quiz was again a great success. Date for Quiz tbd.

Barry Taylor/Karen Skilling

Junior/Coaching Report

Junior Numbers

We have 84 junior members and around 20 minis. The mini tennis is quite low but usually picks up after February half term.

New Membership Fees

We have changed the structure of the junior membership fees to bring us more in line with the other clubs in our area. As of April the new junior memberships fees will be:

Minis....£15
Maxi.....£40
Junior...£60
Cadet...£70

In August the fees drop to

Minis....£10
Maxi.....£30
Junior...£40
Cadets..£50

In December the fees drop to

Minis.....£5
Maxi.....£20
Junior...£30
Cadets.£40

Coaching Squads

Junior squads are also down but as in trend with other years. We are looking at running a tournament in February half term.

Chelmsford League

We won the Chelmsford league. John Coyle, Mikko Von Weiligh, Charlie Bischoff, Tom Young and Oscar Bischoff worked their way to the final and won it!

Road to Wimbledon

RTW starts in April. We will be entering our 14 and unders.

Aegon

We will be running Aegon teams for Red, Orange and Green this year. Aegon starts in April and we are looking for parents to help run the individual age groups.

Christmas Camps

We ran 3 Christmas camps; they were quite well attended for this time of year. We were very fortunate with the weather.

Other News

Good luck to Sam Bear who has been selected for the Essex Trials for 8 and under. Good luck to Oscar Bischoff who has trialled for a Tennis Scholarship at Newhall School.

Adult Coaching

Ladies coaching is still running on a Monday and Wednesday morning. Kelly's coaching category Thursday evening will start up in the spring. Look out for our new CARDIO tennis sessions coming soon.

Christian Allen and Jo Bischoff

CALENDAR 2015 (Organiser)

Sat, Jan 31	Captains Caper - Tennis Event (Jenny/Paul)
Mon, Apr 6	Easter American Tournament (tbd)
Sat/Sun, May 16/17	Open Days (tba/Christian)
Mon, May 4	May American Tournament (tbd)
Mon, May 25	Late May American Tournament (tbd)
Sat, June 14	Junior Finals Day (Christian/Joanne) TBC
Sat, June 21	Junior Finals Day (rain date) (Christian/Joanne) TBC
Mon, Aug 31	Aug American Tournament (tbd)
Sat, Sep 12	Finals Day (Entry Lists Mar 31 - entries by May 1st)
Sat, Sep 19	Reserve Finals Day
Mon, Nov 9	Club Annual General Meeting - 8:00pm (Chris)
Sat, Dec ?	Ladies Christmas Lunch (Karen)
Sat, Dec ?	Men's Christmas Lunch (Paul G)
Mon, Dec ?	Christmas Social (Barry/Karen)

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

Captains Capers - (Paul and Jenny)
Quiz - (Barry and Karen)
Men's Tennis and Curry - (Andrew)
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 2nd - £200 (£220 if paid late).

Club Room

(Redecorated) – 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.	Jackie Feeley	215324
Mid Week Capt.	Delia Widdows	227586
Junior Secretary	Johanne Bischoff	07525 332718
WebMaster	Mitch Read	226916
Social Comm **	Karen Skilling	205718
Social Comm **	Barry Taylor	232817
Ball Co-ord.	Vernon Prior	234789
Publicity Off.	Tracey Dobbs	264725
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	Jackie Feeley	215324
Ladies 3	Barbara Holford	218044
Mixed 1	Sarah O'Sullivan	01702 475672
Mixed 2	Mark Feeley	215324
Mixed 3	Tracey Dobbs	264725
Mixed 4	Mitch Read	226916
Mens Vets O-45	Ian Gunn	216541
	Ian Gunn	07528 711609
Ladies Vets O-40	Paula Steptoe	200523
Mens Essex Leag.	Andrew Nash	215631
	Andrew	07713412022

Club Coach	Christian Allen	07880 728570
Asst Coach	Kelly Shipton	07947 440931
Asst Coach	Graham Lister	222095
Groundsman:	John Tyler	653001

Non-Committee Volunteers :

Reporting Accountant (Auditor)	Nigel Davey
Child Protection 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