



LYNDHURST LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Newsletter - Summer 2015

Welcome to the bumper Summer edition of our e-newsletter, aimed at updating members on Club news and committee activities.

With the season now well under way it's worth reflecting on both the Opening Tournament and the Open Day. The Opening Tournament (followed by the Wimbledon ticket draw) was a great success thanks to the many participants and the organisation of Gill Ellis and Jill Trant. We had maximised on available tickets for the Wimbledon draw thanks to everybody taking the time to register their membership with the LTA, helped by the persistence of Tony Roe and Kay Lindsell. The Open Day, organised by Mike Downton, was again a success attracting potential new members with an enjoyable mix-in of tennis by members on the day. One of the comments following the Open Day was a suggestion for a general 'mix-in' club event on weekends. As a consequence, Hayley Tucknott and Martin Taylor agreed to organise such an event on Sunday mornings and I hope that club members will support this initiative. It's really gratifying that our committee members spend so much time on these and other behind the scenes activities to make your club what it is today. For example, the many team events require organisation, as does looking after our facilities and ensuring that our finances are in order. A big "Thank You" to all the committee for your enthusiastic efforts.

You may have noticed that the Newsletter is edited by Sue Moss and Angus Brown. It's quite a task, but in this instance undertaken by two members not on the Club committee. Again my thanks to them, and I would like to use them as an example of how I believe we need to mobilise more members' efforts from outside the committee. If we can begin to spread some of the tasks involved in driving our continuous improvement initiatives, then it lifts part of the burden from the committee who are themselves engaged in the normal duties and tasks required just to keep the club running. My plea to you is to tell me, or a committee member, if you are willing to help out with specific improvement initiatives. We need to maintain momentum to make our club attractive, not only to existing members but also to new members, and for this we need to ensure that our internal club sessions, coaching and social events are fitted to all member requirements. This requires effort from all of us, both long term members and recent recruits, who want our club to meet the evolving requirements of all our membership.

This second edition of the Newsletter will be published around the time of Wimbledon. I hope that watching the competition there will have encouraged you not only to come and play more tennis at Lyndhurst, but also to offer your help to make our club activities even more attractive for the future.

Bill Freer - Chairman

Summer Activities

Club Championships

The Club Championships will commence on **1st August** with the Open finals being held on **Sunday 13th September and the Seniors on Sunday 27th September** at the club. Those of all abilities are welcome to have a go in the singles and/or doubles. As Brian Van Hoof pointed out last year, "You don't need to think you're going to win to take part. The winners need someone to beat!" Please start to persuade, cajole or even arm-twist potential partners for this summer's championships.

Lists will soon be placed in the club house and in the small pavilion by the courts and details will also be placed on the club web-site and sent out by email. Please add your name(s). If you don't have a pre-arranged partner, ask someone you know, or a member of the committee may be able to help you find a partner. So when the time comes, don't delay - **sign up** and have fun!

Please start to play as soon as the draw is made, because everyone becomes busy with holidays and sometimes the weather interferes with scheduled matches. Last year many people played their rounds at the last minute and it's a real pity if people move through the competition simply because their opposition have to give them a walkover.



Steph Hillier accepting the 2014 Ladies' Doubles trophy, which she won with Hayley Tucknott.

Tuesday - Club Night

The club night is aimed at players of a good standard who can participate in a series of mixed doubles games. Don't be put off thinking that your level of play doesn't meet the standard, give it a go and you may discover that your tennis is a lot better than you expected and you might find yourself wanting to play every week. It is a regular fixture on Tuesday evenings, weather permitting, and we usually achieve a good turnout starting around 5:30pm, sometimes ending after 9pm (on the two lower floodlit courts if necessary).

The Committee chose Tuesday night because there are regular coaching sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Thursday night is also available for adult tennis, but during the summer season (April to August) it is the night when the Veterans Men's matches are played. If it is a 'Home fixture' this leaves only one court available for general play between 5pm and 9pm.

It is also sensible to check the match fixture list on the club website before planning to play at other times. Matches are played on some Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year, but every week there are many hours when the courts are available for general play.

Alan Hales sends out a weekly email on a Monday evening/Tuesday morning to give an update on the weather forecast and to ask regulars to indicate whether they are planning to attend. This helps members to feel confident that they will find other members available to play. Turnout is usually very good when the weather is fine and settled, but a last minute check has proved useful when the weather is more changeable. Please send an email to Alan via [this link](#) if you would like to be added to the weekly email list.

Sunday morning – Tennis ‘mix in’ session

A new ‘mix in’ session has been started on Sunday mornings - 10:00am to 12:30pm. If you want to play then just come along and join in. At least two members of the committee will be present to ensure the clubhouse is open and the courts are unlocked.

If you have a competitive streak you may find the organised sessions provide a good opportunity for those running the match teams to meet you and offer the opportunity to play in one of our league teams. The organised sessions also provide an opportunity to make new friends who may share other interests beyond tennis.

Cardio Tennis

There is a Cardio Tennis session on Wednesday morning (09.30-10.30). It’s a fun way to begin the day - a reasonable starting level of fitness does help!

Adult Coaching

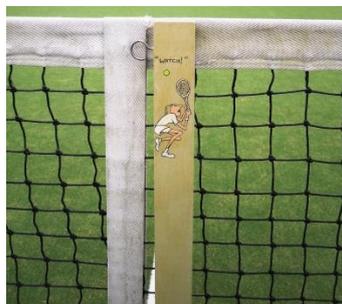
If any adult beginners are interested in receiving coaching, please contact James Lilley and it might be possible to arrange a class if numbers permit.

Maintaining the Courts

Refurbishing the courts every 8 years (or so) is our major expense and most of our annual subscription goes into a ‘sinking fund’ for this purpose. Almost all other court maintenance is done by members on a voluntary basis. Please help to keep the courts in good condition by:



Using the sweep



Leaving the nets
at the correct height



Locking the gates

We don’t want to nag, but here’s a plea about litter – please dispose of ball tubes & lids, drink bottles and other ‘match debris’ in the waste bin by the shelter, don’t force other members to clear up after you before they use the courts!

Team News

Match Secretary, Andrew Clough, reports:

We are entered into 4 separate Leagues, namely: Men's Open, Men's Vets 55+, Ladies' Open & Apsley League. An up-to-date fixture list is displayed in the clubroom and is also on the web-site. The current situation is:

Men's Open – We've lost both matches played so far, but team captain Martin Taylor now includes junior players in the team to allow them to gain valuable experience in match play.

Men's Vets – Brian van Hoof's team has played 7 fixtures so far, winning 4 then losing 2 before returning to winning ways at Riverside (Salisbury) at the end of June.

Ladies' Open - Stevie Parker's ladies have won 1 out of 3 matches played so far.

Apsley League (mixed) - Having been promoted at the end of last summer, Hayley Tucknott's team has started very well, winning 3 and drawing 1, remaining narrowly at the top of their league.

Forthcoming Friendly Matches

Our friendly fixture against East Boldre Tennis Club will be held at Lyndhurst on Wed 22nd July at 5pm. Our annual fixture against 'The Clergy' will take place at Lyndhurst on Monday 27th July, in the afternoon.

Club T shirts

An opportunity to advertise the club and look stylish!



To buy one, email: Wellingtonsigns@btinternet.com
or ring: (023) 8078 0780.

Just mention Lyndhurst Tennis Club and they have our design at hand.

An assortment of colours is available - the team colour this year is white (but white is not restricted to team members).

There is a choice of 3 polo shirts:

COOL POLO - £13:80, designed to wick away the sweat (sizes: S-38, M-40, L43, XL45, XXL48)

POLYCOTTON POLO - £13:80 (Sizes: S-35/37, M-38/40, L-41/43, XL-44/46)

100% COTTON POLO - £15:00 (Sizes: XS-8, S-10, M-12, L-14, XL-16)

Social Events

American Lunch for the 50+ group

Trevor and Liz Lawrence have been organising regular American lunches for the 50+ group for about 7 years, since taking over from Alan and Sheila Burn. There was a good turnout for lunch on 27 March – nearly 30 people.



It was especially good to see some non-playing spouses and friends, plus a few players who are temporarily 'out of action'.

The weather was good enough for tennis beforehand and when lunch was announced at noon, there were still 2 courts in action.

The American lunch format provided a great spread of food and the drinks were bought with the surplus from our 50+ fees after paying for balls, coffee and biscuits - 30p a time seems to go a long way! The next lunch is planned for Friday 21st August and, although nominally a 50+ event, other club members are welcome to sign up.

Opening Tournament & Wimbledon Draw

The Opening Tournament was held on 26th April.

Martin Taylor won the men's competition and Suzanne Bourne won the ladies'.

The high proportion (83%) of Club members opting in to the new Wimbledon Ballot process resulted in the Club having 19 pairs of tickets available at our Wimbledon Draw. Janet Martin was the lucky first out of the draw and chose the men's quarter finals on Centre Court – probably everyone's first choice.

Open Day



After the unsettled Spring, we were blessed with a fine Sunday for our Open Day marking the Great British Tennis Weekend on 17 May.

With tennis, BBQ, tea and cakes on offer, we were pleased to welcome visitors to the Club, and 10 new members have subsequently joined.

Coming up - Tennis and BBQ on August 23rd

Arrive 12 midday for a 12:30 start of the Round Robin Competition which will be followed by a BBQ . The BBQ will be £5 per adult and £2.50 per child. Please bring your own drinks.

Please note! Names are required for both the tennis competition and the BBQ to allow for planning and purchase of BBQ items. Unfortunately those that have not entered will not go in the hat for the competition draw. Please email Mike Downton with your entry for both the competition and BBQ (mikedownton@hotmail.co.uk)

Committee News

Questionnaire

Thanks to those members who returned the questionnaire earlier this year. The winner of the £25 subscription rebate was Alan Grant.

Diary Date - Annual General Meeting – 4 November 2015

Please note that the AGM will be held on Wednesday 4th November 2015, at 7.30pm in the clubroom.

Have Your Say



Lyndhurst Lawn Tennis Club first opened almost 90 years ago, for which generations of Club members must thank Dr Alfred Moore, who had retired to the New Forest from the post of deputy Medical Officer to the Shanghai International Settlement in the Far East.

Dr Moore believed that physical activities were an essential part of a healthy life and so he founded the Lyndhurst Tennis and Social Club.

As a private members' club we exist to enable members to enjoy playing tennis in Lyndhurst. Although we charge a subscription, we're not a business.

We don't have to make profits, we have no paid staff, and we rely solely on the goodwill of members to manage the Club, not just on a day-to-day basis, but to ensure the Club's continuing health for the benefit of current and future members. Unlike a commercial tennis centre, our members are not customers of the Club – at Lyndhurst, our members are the Club.

The Club has prospered through the efforts of past and present members and we want to sustain this. You don't have to be on the Committee to contribute to the Club's future and we hope features like 'The Way We Were' and 'It's My Club' will offer you the opportunity to share your views about the Club, the experiences you've enjoyed, or how you'd like it to improve. To have your say, please contact your editorial team using [this link](#)

The Way We Were - Kath Adams



Kath Adams has been a member of Lyndhurst Lawn Tennis Club for over 50 years. She was a team player for almost 40 years and has been a winner in the Club championships many, many times – just take a look at the trophy boards next time you're in the clubhouse!

Kath still plays regularly on Monday and Friday mornings with the 50+ group. We asked Kath to share some of her experiences of the Club.

“When I joined in 1963 it was the first year that the courts faced the way they do now. Ted Vernon, whose father I believe originally owned the land, was instrumental in organising a lot of the ground work including work on the clubhouse. Sadly, not long after the completion, he died suddenly at an early age and was not able to enjoy the fruits of his labour.

Jean Soddy was another great worker for the Club, hence her name-plaque in the shelter overlooking the courts. Jean invited me to join the Club for the Winter League of 1963. (Sorry folks you've had to put up with me for so long!) In the early years anyone applying for membership had to play themselves in and be vetted by committee!

In past years we always had a working party from Club members to cut trees, hedges, grass, etc and help keep the clubhouse in reasonable condition. Fire damaged the main building on one occasion and everyone chipped in to help clean up and redecorate, including the kitchen and changing rooms.



Club finals day was an important day on the calendar. Not only were there referees for each event, but also linesmen, and the junior members were asked to be ball boys. The trophies were always presented by someone in Hants LTC or Southampton LTA.

An event which was popular, when my children were under school age, was a Wednesday afternoon session when the mums and children came along and one or two mums would oversee the children in the grass area whilst the others played tennis. We also had a very good junior section, with some going on to County level or into coaching.

In more recent years, Philip Fine organised fund-raising to build an extension clubhouse solely for tennis players. This was financed by members offering interest-free loans of £100, to be repaid to about 3 people each year following a draw held annually for 10 years. The plans for this were drawn up by Richard Parry, again services free of charge. Apart from being Club Chairman for many years, Richard Parry also organised an open mixed tournament every year. The invitations would be sent out to all clubs in Southampton and district and a few other districts. This was highly successful and a good money-spinner for the Club. Of course, thanks were due to other Club members, especially the ladies for providing excellent refreshments and the men ensuring all ran smoothly.

The Club has always had teams in all the leagues and we were usually well represented at the Southampton championships and at events held at the Winchester LTC. One of our most memorable seasons was when we won Division 2 and only dropped one game all season, an event quite unknown then! (That game was D. Taylor and K. Adams!) It is good to see the teams are still competing successfully. Long may it continue!"

It's My Club – Martin Taylor



Martin Taylor has been a member of the Club for 3 years and we asked him to launch our 'It's My Club' feature by answering 4 questions for us.

What started you playing tennis?

The encouragement of my partner Hayley. I'm primarily a badminton player but wanted to have a summer racquet sport. I have previously played tennis for short periods but I have never persevered. This time I have kept going.

Do any other activities 'interrupt' your tennis?

I make sure that work doesn't get in the way but I enjoy lots of other sports, cycling, triathlons and swimming, which compete for my time. I have 2 major swims planned – the Henley Regatta and the Bournemouth Pier to Pier. I also enjoy weekends away.

What do you like about the Club?

The friendly people and general atmosphere of the club. I like the playing surface of the courts and the opportunity to play in team matches.

How do you think the Club could be improved?

The future of the Club is very important and young players must be encouraged. It's very important that juniors have the chance to play in teams. As a new Committee member I want to encourage this. Harry and Connor, two of our juniors, have just played in a Men's match – I'm sure they and other juniors will have further opportunities.

Newsletter Editors: Sue Moss & Angus Brown

Please contact any of the committee or the editors via the website using [this link](#)