



LYNDHURST LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Newsletter - Autumn 2016

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

I know that many of you have taken full advantage of the long spell of fine weather that we have had during the last few months. The courts have been well used and we witnessed some fine tennis at the Club Championships on a lovely day at the end of September. The courts and surrounding areas were in wonderful condition and we owe a big vote of thanks to Brian van Hoof for the effort he put in to help make it such a successful day both off and on court.

As we move into the late Autumn, I hope we can maintain the momentum of all the various sessions that the club operates during the week, in particular the Tuesday evening and Sunday morning Club mix-ins. These are great sessions in which to meet both old and new members and I encourage you to support them. Also, our teams continue to represent us in the local leagues and several recently-joined members have been participating.

Mike Downton organised a great dinner for members in October, with the theme 'The 90th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Club'. All who attended had a most enjoyable evening at the Forest Lodge Hotel and we intend to repeat this event next year.

As you might know, Lyndhurst was recently named the 2016 Hampshire 'Village of the Year' – I'm pleased to report that details of the Tennis Club's facilities and activities formed part of the winning portfolio submitted by Lyndhurst Parish Council.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the Club AGM on the evening of November 9th at the clubhouse. This is the time for all to propose new committee members and this year it will be my turn to step down. The constitution allows for a new chairman to be elected every 3 years, so here's your opportunity to propose an eminent member for this position! There are also 3 committee members who will step down and need to be replaced. So please discuss amongst yourselves and propose new committee members - I would very much like to see some of our newer members join the committee.

Bill Freer – Chairman

Club Championships

Finals Day was on 25th September



The Centre Court crowd ready themselves for yet another Mexican Wave

The spectators enjoyed some great tennis



Mixed Doubles – Joanne Almond & Rob Salter, Ann & Brian van Hoof

And the winners were:

- Ladies' Singles – Joanne Almond
- Men's Singles – Graeme Ellis
- Ladies' Doubles – Ann van Hoof & Joanne Almond
- Men's Doubles – Martin Taylor & Graeme Ellis
- Mixed Doubles – Joanne Almond & Rob Salter



Club Champions (& proud family)
(Brian &) Ann van Hoof, Rob Salter, Joanne Almond, Martin Taylor, Graeme (& Gill) Ellis



Mens' Doubles – Rob Salter & Brian van Hoof, Martin Taylor & Graeme Ellis

Team News

Match Secretary, Andrew Clough, reports:

Back in September, 3 of your Club colleagues, along with representatives of all other Clubs in the SLTA region, converged on the Atherley Bowling Club in Hill Lane, Southampton. This was not to play bowls, but to attend the annual madness that is the Winter Leagues fixture meeting! So it was that Joanne, Alan and I came away with the fixture lists for our 3 teams in this Winter's competitions!

I'm pleased to say Alan's 'Mixed B' team have already played 2 matches with some success and I'm delighted to see he will be encouraging participation from throughout our Club's membership this Winter. At the time of writing, Gill's Ladies' and Joanne's 'Elite' Mixed teams are yet to commence their campaigns.

As ever, the Fixture List is published on the notice boards in both the Clubhouse and the pavilion. Do PLEASE try and come along sometime to watch and support our teams – and the hard work our Captains put in.

In response to recent requests, I am aiming to publish all match results and League Tables on the same notice boards as and when we play our matches.

Best wishes to ALL teams for an enjoyable and successful Winter of Match Tennis.

Autumn on the Courts

Box League

We are fast approaching the first anniversary of the Club Box League. Participation in the league has been very good, especially in the mixed doubles, with many players managing to play all their fixtures. The leagues have now settled nicely, after a series of promotions and relegations, and changes to pairings mainly necessary because of fitness issues.

We would like to see as many members participate as possible, especially the new members who have joined the club since Winter 2015. If a new member wants to play doubles, it is usually possible to find a partner from other members who are returning from fitness issues or other reasons that prevented their participation.

Matches can be played at any time of the week and with 2 floodlit courts there is no problem playing in the evening on dark nights.

A new Box League Period will start on 1st November and will probably run until the end of February 2017 to allow plenty of time to play matches over the Winter, when we are likely to have more challenges with the weather than recently. So, if you're thinking of taking part, now's the time to e-mail [Alan Hales](#) and get on board.

Monday & Friday mornings

Come along from 9.30am for sociable mix-in tennis with the opportunity to take time over coffee and biscuits.

Tuesday - Club Night

The attendance for this session during the Summer was rather variable, but now it's getting colder and darker tennis players are emerging from their homes and enjoying floodlit tennis. We start at 5.30pm and continue as long as there are at least 4 people enjoying the session – usually about 8pm. It really helps encourage players if they know that there will be others attending. There is a weekly group e-mail to remind everyone and people are urged to reply with their intention to play (or to decline if work, 'life' or other hobbies prevent them). If you are not yet on this e-mail list please contact [Alan Hales](#).

Thursday morning – Team Tennis mix-in

This popular session, starting at 9.15 am, would welcome new members who enjoy a competitive game – especially if they also have a taste for coffee & cakes!

Sunday morning – Mix-in session

The Sunday morning mix-in session, starting at 10am, continues throughout the Winter – except on a couple of occasions when a scheduled Winter League match has priority on the courts.

If members who wish to play respond to the automated e-mail, thus notifying all members on the list, this can persuade other members to decide to come along too.

Juniors' Matchplay & Coaching

It has been really enjoyable during the Summer and Autumn term for some of our 15/16 year olds (James, Connor, Harry and Lucy) to play in the Men's and Mixed Adult Doubles teams. They have been made very welcome and benefited from lots of doubles tactics advice from the adult players. Connor, Harry and James also relished the chance to play in the Men's Singles and Doubles Championship matches. Even winning just one game off players such as Lars or Rob gives them a lot of satisfaction!

Coaching continues to be offered by **Xcel Tennis** and from September 2016 Neil Webb and Brad Burnett-Smith have taken over the junior coaching from James Lilley. Neil has mentioned that a few fees have still not come in. Lessons should be paid for at the start of each term, so please could outstanding fees for the Autumn term be paid to Neil and Brad promptly.

Floodlights

It's that time of year again when it's tempting to stay home in the warm, however as a Lyndhurst Tennis Club member you can't use the excuse of dark evenings stopping play. Our lower 2 courts benefit from floodlights - they might not be perfect, but they give good light for safe and enjoyable games on dark evenings.

Here's our annual reminder of how to use the floodlights:

- The floodlight switches are in the cupboard in the clubroom, to the right of the sink.
- There are separate timer switches for the lights on each of the lower two courts.
- If left, the timer switches will keep the floodlights on for 4 hours, so please switch them off when you're finished playing.
- The master time-switch will turn the lights off automatically at 10.00pm.



Social Events

East Boldre Friendly Match

East Boldre is a small New Forest village, with a delightful pub, a church, a big village pond, and – perhaps its best kept secret - a charming Tennis Club. For the past 3 years, we have played a friendly fixture against them, alternating home and away.

This year our team of Stevie & Andrew and Barry & Linda went to East Boldre, where we played Mixed Doubles, reverse Mixed Doubles, and Doubles in a very pleasant and friendly environment. We managed to come away with a 4-2 aggregate victory, reversing the score from our match at Lyndhurst last Summer.

Barry's tennis was so impressive that he was persuaded to play for East Boldre TC in a match the following day – but we're pleased to say he's still with us!

T20 Cricket Trip – 22 July



Roger, Tony, Mike, Rob, Derek & Alan – did we hear someone say “Where’s Wally?”

A good time was had by all at the Ageas bowl to watch Middlesex unfortunately beat Hampshire in the T20 match. It was a big crowd on a fine summer evening and everybody looked splendid in their Hampshire yellow hats.

Roger had the right shirt on as it was a Caribbean mood with steel bands and prizes to the Caribbean - which we did not manage to win either.

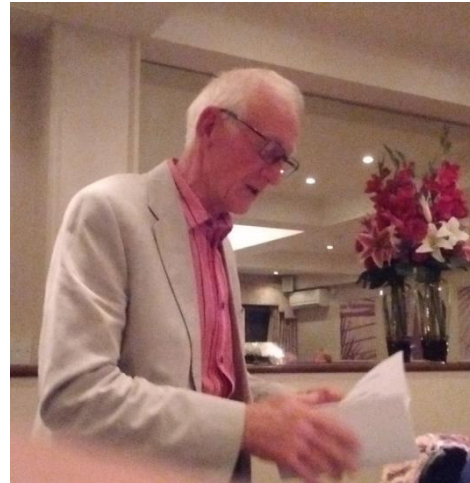
American Lunch – 23 September

Our late-Summer Friday mix-in lunch fell within the 50+ holiday season, but it was nonetheless enjoyed by the smaller than usual number of members able to attend.

Supper Night at the Forest Lodge – 7 October

Twenty-four members and partners enjoyed dinner at the Forest Lodge Hotel, in what is set to become an annual event. We had a very good 3-course meal and finished the evening with champagne and speeches to celebrate 90 years as a Club.

Speeches were deliberately kept short, but were an opportunity to remind members that we are part of a lovely Club which is keen to keep moving forward, encouraging new members of all ages, and determined to support social tennis. The Committee and past and present Chairs were thanked for their work.



The thoughts of Chairman Bill

Bill used his speech to remind us of the Club's history, to encourage us to support social events and prompt others to join in too, and particularly to 'persuade' younger members to join the Committee.

Future social events are under discussion and a skittles night and quiz evening have been suggested. Any other ideas are welcomed.

Committee News

Opt-In for Wimbledon Tickets 2017



Members should already have received an e-mail from the LTA with an invitation to opt-in to the 2017 Wimbledon Ticket Ballot.

Wimbledon tickets are allocated to clubs based on the numbers opting-in, so even if you don't wish to have tickets it would be helpful to the Club if you do opt-in.

The process for opting-in is unchanged from last year and Tony Roe is not going to chase us up this year.

“Don't delay – do it TODAY!”

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 9th November

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 9th November 2016, at 7.30pm in the clubroom and details of the meeting have already been sent out by e-mail.

The Rules of the Club require us to hold an Annual General Meeting in November, to include:

- Reports from the Officers.
- Financial accounts.
- Election of Officers and Club Committee.
- Appointing an Auditor.

We need a quorum of at least 15 members present and the meeting typically lasts an hour or so. It's your chance to hear the Committee report to members - and every member present (over the age of 18 years) can vote on resolutions. Although it's a formal meeting, it's not a painful experience, so please do come along and have your say.

'All Our Yesterdays' - Who Do You Think They Are?

This delightful photograph is believed to be almost a hundred years old – but does anyone have any idea who it shows?



We were not amused by a suggestion that the little boy at the front is probably now on the Committee!

Newsletter

We hope to produce our Spring newsletter in March 2017. If you have any ideas or material for the next newsletter please contact the editors via the website using [this link](#)

Newsletter Editors: Sue Moss & Angus Brown