



LYNDHURST LAWN TENNIS CLUB

**Newsletter - Summer 2017**

As I write this we are in the middle of a heat wave – which bodes well for Wimbledon and those of the Club lucky enough to have succeeded in the Wimbledon draw. I hope they all have a good time! As you will recall Sue Kenny has agreed to take over from Kay Lindsell for the organisation of next year's draw. Our belated Spring Opening competition was successfully organised by Catherine O'Mahony, with the help of Kathleen Charlesworth, and a good day was had by all who participated. I mention these names as all of them are members who have joined the Club over the last few years, and some following our Open Day initiatives. The Open Day is one of several initiatives that have been introduced during my 4 years as Chairman, as are the Box Leagues, Sunday mix-in, various social events and indeed this Newsletter. My aim has been to try and establish a more inclusive Club, and one where new members will find plenty of opportunities to play and meet other club members. The social aspects of the Club are important, with Trevor Lawrence having led the way with his Friday lunches and Mike Downton organising several events such as a quiz evening and outings for the Thursday men's group. In part I believe that I have achieved my ambition, but there is a lot more that can be done to maintain this momentum.

The AGM is arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> November and this year it is particularly significant as you will have to vote for a new Chairman and a new Secretary. Both Tony Roe and I have served for 4 years and it's time for us to move aside and let others carry the baton forward. The Club has a great committee and I could not have undertaken the initiatives mentioned above without their practical support. Often, but not exclusively, the Chairman and Secretary positions have come from within the committee. I urge all of you, both on the committee and other members, to consider becoming an officer of the Club. We need to continuously refresh Club policy moving forward and it's often better to have fresh faces on the committee and as officers to reflect the views of all club members and not just a few.

All the current Club officers and committee members have done a marvellous job to make the Club what it is today and I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all of them for their support. I know that the new Chairman will continue to have the support of the committee and will build on the foundations laid over the past few years.

**Bill Freer – Chairman**

## On the Courts

### Spring Competition – 11<sup>th</sup> June



After being postponed because of stormy weather, the Spring Tournament was finally held on a sunny early-Summer day. Twelve players took part in a 'round robin' tournament, each pair playing 40 games. Partners were drawn at random and swapped mid-match, so all had a sociable afternoon, helped along by Liz's excellent cakes, plus BBQ.



Stephen Stafford (Men's joint winner); Stevie Parker (Ladies' runner-up); Kathleen Charlesworth (Ladies' winner); Bill Freer (Men's joint winner)

## **Club Championships**

This year's Club Championships are being organised by Martin Taylor and Chris Ellis. They are planning to run a senior championship with all variations and a veterans' championship (doubles only) with 17<sup>th</sup> September as the Finals Day

## **Juniors/Coaching**



We are pleased that junior coaching numbers have increased recently, especially in Neil's Friday groups. It is really nice to see new faces, so a big welcome to these children and their parents. Our older juniors are currently having their coaching earlier on Mondays, between 5.00-6.30pm. This is just during May to July as we also have the Vets' matches on Monday evenings. From September, coaching will revert back to 6.00-7.30pm.

It was also good to see that some of our juniors were successful in the Wimbledon ballot. Let's keep our fingers crossed for a sunny and dry Wimbledon fortnight and a fun day out. If anyone, parent or child, has ideas/requests etc, we are always interested to hear, especially with the summer holidays approaching. Please talk to Neil, after your child's session or e-mail our committee.

## **Box League**

Mike Bowles and Alan Hales have proposed an amendment to the current format and this has been well supported. Under the new arrangement partners are drawn for each 3 month session to play together. ie - all the men's names are put in one hat and all the ladies names in another hat and then partners are drawn to see who plays together. At the end of the 3 month session the process is repeated and so partners would change. There is an opt out of the draw for existing pairs who wish to stay playing together for example a married couple who travel quite a way in together.

This new system allows people to come into the doubles league who are currently not there because they don't have a partner. It could be that there might be an odd person left out if there were uneven numbers but they could come back in the next session with a guaranteed place. Equally some people might want to drop out of a session because of a holiday, a work commitment, an injury, etc which they could do with the knowledge that they can return next session or when ready.

The draw may become a 3/4/5/6 times a year informal 'club night' with some drinks to encourage attendance! Equally, Alan with all his IT knowhow and expertise, has a random selector capability which can do it for us - and no drinks! We have found that there are enough people interested in trying this new system to allow us to give it a go, starting at a convenient point at Alan's discretion. If you are not already part of the Box League and would like to be included please contact [Alan Hales](#), previous experience of matches is not required and this is an ideal way to meet other members.

### ***Court Sweeping***

Our investment in new cleaning machinery, coupled with a lot of hard work by Brian and others, has restored the courts to excellent condition this season. To sustain this high standard, we continue to rely on all members to keep the courts swept clear of debris before playing.

### **Team News**

***Our Reporter / Match Secretary,  
Andrew Clough is away .....***



### **Social Scene**

#### **Recent Events**

#### ***Thursday Men's Bowling – 23<sup>rd</sup> March***



The 'Thursday Boys' continued their programme of cultural activities by going bowling in Southampton – at least that's what they say they did!

## Quiz Night – 25<sup>th</sup> March



A full house of 70 quizzers from the Tennis, Drama and Bowls Clubs took part in our Quiz Night held in the Vernon Theatre. Extra ‘brain food’ was taken on at half-time in the form of fish & chips from Bertie’s.

## Club Open Day – 14<sup>th</sup> May



All our prior planning and preparation was rewarded with perfect weather on this year’s Open Day, which showed the Club at its best.

We had a reasonably good turnout of prospective new members, especially little ones with their mums and dads.

Coach Neil did a fantastic job keeping the juniors entertained on court all day.



And everyone enjoyed Liz's cakes and Bill's BBQ.



### **American Lunch – 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

The members of our Friday mix-in group were pleased to welcome friends, family and former members to an American lunch.

## Forthcoming Events

### *Finals Day – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September*

The Finals Day for this year's Club Championships will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

### *Club Dinner – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October*

Please see the attached 'flyer' for details of the annual Club Dinner, to be held at The Forest Lodge Hotel on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**. This will be a three course meal (with coffee/tea) for £27.50 per person.

### *Joint Social Event – date TBC*

Following the success of the Quiz Night, discussions are under way for another joint social event with the Drama and Bowls Clubs. Watch this space!



*Thank you to our artist David Lock*

## Committee News

### *Annual General Meeting – Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November*

Please note that the AGM will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at 7.30pm in the clubroom.

Chairman Bill Freer and Hon Sec Tony Roe are both due to stand down after serving for 4 years so volunteers will be needed to fill these key appointments and there will be other vacancies as some committee members retire. If you would like an informal chat about the committee and what particular roles entail, please speak to Bill or Tony.

### *Committee Minutes*

The committee is appointed by you to discuss and take action on many issues on your behalf. The minutes of Committee meetings are on display in the clubroom, if you would like to read them. If you have an issue you wish to raise, please do so through a committee member or email Hon Sec [Tony Roe](#)

## Webcam



The webcam has been live since April and images from it can be viewed via the [Member's Area of the Club website](#), for which you need the password. For practical reasons we do not stream a video, but the still screenshot enables members to see how active the courts are. 'Country members' who have to travel some distance to Lyndhurst can also judge for themselves what the weather is really doing.

## Lost Property

Items such as clothing left in the clubroom or pavilion are kept for 3 months and then, if still unclaimed, passed to a local charity. Tony Roe currently has a branded body warmer (age 9 to 10) and a lady's fleece. Both are distinctive, so if you think either is yours please contact [Tony Roe](#). If you have lost any item at the Club it is worth emailing him just in case he has it.

## Old Balls for Charity

There is now a blue waste-bin in the Clubroom labelled 'OLD BALLS FOR CHARITY', where balls no longer suitable for tennis can be left for donation to charity.

## Honorary Membership

### ***New Honorary Members – Allan and Colleen Grant***

Honorary membership was introduced about 10 years ago to recognise long-standing Club members during their lifetime and is awarded to individuals who have been members for over 40 years. Throughout this time they will have paid membership subscriptions and formed part of the Club, so sustaining it for the benefit of current and future members. Our first honorary members were Kath Adams (member 1963-2016), Jim Fargher (member since 1954) and Maureen Parry (member since 1968).

The Club is very pleased this year to recognise Allan and Colleen Grant as honorary members.



'The Grant Clan' joined the Club in 1977 and Colleen & Allan's 4 daughters will still be familiar faces to many members. Celebrating their parents' Golden Wedding Anniversary (from left to right in the photograph):

- Vik has just returned to the UK after 19 years in Singapore, where she was tennis captain of the Singapore Cricket Club. She now lives in Romsey and is keen to play again.
- Claudine was a regular player at Lyndhurst and played in matches. When aged 11 she won the Southampton Open and joined an academy. She now lives in Sussex.
- Sam, their eldest, is devoted to her husband and their chocolate labrador Bertie.
- Septemba is a keen sports lady. She played at Lyndhurst and won some junior competitions. She now works in London.

## Newsletter

### *Next edition*

We intend to publish the Autumn edition in October.

**Newsletter Editors:** Sue Moss & Angus Brown

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

# **Lyndhurst Lawn Tennis Club**



# **CLUB DINNER**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**at**

**The Forest Lodge Hotel, Lyndhurst**

**3 course dinner (plus tea/coffee)**



**This is a popular night in the Club social calendar so come and join in a get-together with fellow members.**

**Tables of 8.**

**Bring your friends to make up your own group or part group on a table.**

**£27.50 per person**

**To book, e-mail: [mikedownton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikedownton@hotmail.co.uk)**