



LYNDHURST LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Newsletter - Spring 2018

This is my first opportunity to introduce our Club Newsletter, having succeeded Bill Freer as Chairman last November. The Club prospered under Bill's stewardship over the past 4 years. His commitment and vision have been clear for all to see; he has been visible at our main events, encouraged new ideas, and helped with essential maintenance of our grounds. I am pleased Bill has agreed to remain on the Committee and I am also pleased to welcome 3 new Committee members: Mike Dow (as Treasurer), Janet Martin and Debbie Elsworth – my thanks to them for being willing to become involved in running the Club.

The dark nights of Winter are thankfully past and we now embrace the lighter Spring evenings, with the prospect of warmer days to come – I can't wait! The courts look immaculate thanks to the work of Brian van Hoof and all members who clean the courts before play, an essential task to prolong the life of the playing surface.

As you will read below, your Committee is working on a number of initiatives, ranging from whether there is a case for floodlights on the top court to a redecoration of the clubroom; if you have any ideas, please let me know. Also, several members have questioned why we do not have a defibrillator, so we are looking again at this matter.

Please note the diary dates for: the Quiz Night (thanks to Maggie and Barry for stepping forward to run this); the Opening Tournament, which is great fun; our Open Day, designed to attract new members – so please ask your friends; and the Wimbledon Draw.

Following discussion at the AGM, we have reviewed how we communicate with members. We have the Newsletter and minutes of meetings are also published on our website, but how often should emails be sent out and by whom? We are conscious that you don't want too much, just the right information at the right time.

Finally, your feedback is always appreciated, so if you have any burning issues please let me know.

Tony Roe – Chairman

Jim Fargher (1930-2017)

Jim Fargher, a Club member for 63 years, died last December, aged 87. He was our longest-serving member, having joined the Club in 1954, and became one of our first Honorary Members in 2014.



Allan Grant, also an Honorary Member, knew Jim for many years and remembers:



Playing at a small club near Winchester, for LLTC, I was partnering Jim when one of the opposition started to question his foot-faulting ... Jim got quite upset and was challenged by the receiver, who said he would not put up with it any further and asked who the Lyndhurst team captain was. Jim without any hesitation responded "I AM", normal service was eventually resumed!

At Lew Hoad's Spanish tennis academy, 35 years ago with friends on a tennis week, my daughter Claudine age 11 had just won the Southampton under-15 tournament and partnered Jim; they played so well together and won the final, I believe it was the first time he had won a tournament, and celebrating that evening we all had a few too many (not Claudine, of course!).

All so true, James was a splendid fellow and true gentleman.

On the Courts

Team News – Match Secretary Alan Hales reports:

Over the Winter, we have had a ladies' team and two mixed teams playing and they have all performed well. The ladies are in contention for promotion and both mixed teams are comfortably sitting mid-table or better. Going forward, we have entered the Ladies', Men's, Men's 55 and over and a Mixed team (Apsley League) for the 2018 Summer season so we need lots of players. We hope that The 'Big Hitters' practice session will enable us to make a good start as we re-enter the Men's Open League. We are always keen to have more people playing in our club teams. If you are interested please contact [Alan Hales](#), or any of the team captains.

Box League - Mike Bowles reports:

The new box league, which is running from 1 February to 30 April, got off to a good start with 13 matches being played by the end of February. All was getting going quite well until the arrival of the 'Beast from the East' and the associated snow resulting from the arrival of Storm Emma. I know there were some hardy souls out there who did actually venture on to the court in the wind and I feel suitably humbled (and embarrassed) that I was not one of them! But as one of my opponents, who was relieved to hear me ring to postpone, was heard to say: "This is supposed to be fun as well as a competition!"

Anyway, as I write in early March we are looking at a gradual thaw over the next few days and then temperatures up to +10°C in the daytime - shorts and T shirt weather if ever I saw it! So hopefully matches will get underway again soonest. I know there are a few injuries and so a few couples will sadly not be playing.

Alan and I are talking about a social evening - perhaps a cheese and wine at the club on a Tuesday evening in April (date to be confirmed) - at which Alan will do the draw for the following box league period - probably to run from 1 May to 31 July. Thanks to all who take part; I am hoping there will be a few new names to add to the next draw, if so please send an e-mail to [Alan Hales](#).

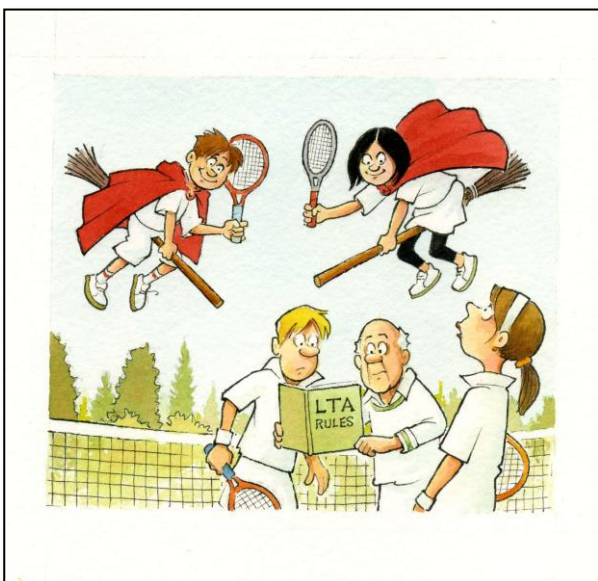
Alan has added a fixture planning function to the Box League application on the club website. This a 2D grid with each pair along the top and down the left hand side so that each fixture is represented by a cell in the table just like a round-robin score-sheet.

Alan's instructions: "The idea is to enter a planned match date/time as soon as you have a tentative agreement with another pair. When entering the plan you can indicate which of the four players has confirmed the date and time. Entries for matches already played will show as such automatically following entry of a match score (using the existing match score entry link). When you enter a plan, court availability is automatically checked which is why you won't be able to select all possible start times on certain days when all courts are simultaneously in use or without light. At the moment the court is not booked for the match, so you will still need to do that separately."

Further details and proposed further developments have been emailed to Box League players by Alan. This is a great addition to the website – WELL DONE Alan!

Juniors/Coaching

The evening coaching programme continues apace for our young people – our excellent coach Neil Webb now attracting over 20 on Mondays and Fridays. Martin takes the 'Big-Hitters' on Thursdays whilst Saps, Alan and Brian have a small group on Wednesday late afternoon. Thanks are due particularly for the work being put in by the volunteers. The club's future depends on recruiting, coaching and retaining the younger intake.



Thank you to our artist David Lock

Mix-in sessions

Monday & Friday mornings

Our stalwart group of players meets twice weekly for social, competitive tennis and plays throughout the year in almost any weather. Players have a wide range of experience and ability. Members mix-in, giving the opportunity to develop tennis skills in an enjoyable environment with a variety of partners and opponents. The Clubroom is open for coffee all morning providing a welcoming and friendly atmosphere both on and off the court. Play starts around 9:30am.

Monday afternoons – Improvers' Practice

This session runs from 2 to 4pm and is open to everyone looking to improve their game. The main format is mixed doubles but sometimes there is a bit of singles too. [Sue Moss](#) sends out a weekly group e-mail – please let her know if you would like to be included in this circulation list by sending her an e-mail.

Tuesday evening

Tuesday Club Night offers an opportunity to play a series of short sets of tennis with other members and meet new faces. Club Night is oriented towards adults, but our more experienced juniors are welcome and all standards of players are encouraged to participate. The bottom courts can be floodlit but as we move towards lighter evenings this will become unnecessary.

The session runs between 5.30pm and 10pm, with most members turning up between 6pm and 8:30pm. There is an automated e-mail sent every Monday evening, which includes the latest Met Office weather forecast, to the members who have asked to be added to the mail distribution list. Individuals then respond to everyone on the group email to say whether they are planning to attend and at what time. If you do not currently receive the e-mails and would like to do so, please send an e-mail to [Alan Hales](#) and you will be added to the list.

Wednesday afternoon

The Wednesday afternoon group welcomes both men and women who enjoy a gentle afternoon of social tennis. Play starts at 2pm.

Thursday morning

Originally a men's session, the Thursday morning session is now officially described as 'Team Tennis Mix-in' and caters for players who enjoy a stronger and more competitive game ... along with coffee and cakes! Bill Freer usually sends out an e-mail to see who will be playing. Play starts at 9:15am. The 'Thursday Boys' also find time for a varied programme of social activities.

Thursday Evening

The Thursday evening 'Big Hitters' session continues with the aim of developing promising, young players (who like to hit the ball hard!) into competitive adult team players. Play starts at 6.30pm. For more details please contact [Martin Taylor](#).

Sunday morning

The Sunday morning Club mix-in offers another opportunity to play a series of short sets with other members. There is again an automated e-mail, with weather forecast, sent on Saturday morning to members on the mail distribution list. Individuals then respond to all to say whether they are planning to attend. Please send an e-mail to [Alan Hales](#) if you want to be added to the list.

The Sunday session runs from 10am to 12:30 and will always operate, subject to weather, unless there is a home club match (which we try to avoid scheduling in the summer).

Cardio Tennis

A Cardio Tennis session is held every Wednesday, except in school holidays, for an hour from 9:30am. This fast-paced session (usually to music) is led by coach Neil Webb.



It involves the use of many balls and varied drills, all of which help develop tennis skills and fitness levels. For more details please use this link <https://www.lta.org.uk/play/types-of-tennis/cardio-tennis/what-is-cardio-tennis/>

It's a great fun session and the pace is adjusted for the fitness level of the participants. At the moment these are all female, but it is open to all members – is it just that the men don't have the stamina to consider joining in?

Come and give it a try. The sessions cost £5 for members, or a block of 5 can be bought for £22 (these don't have to be taken consecutively).

Committee News

Appointment of Officers

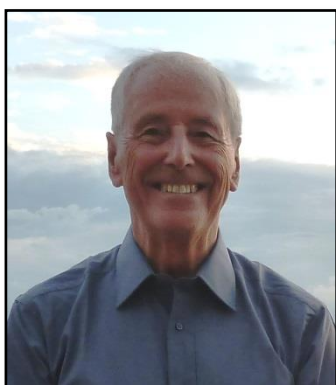
The Annual General Meeting in November 2017 approved the following appointments:

- Chairman:** Tony Roe
- Hon Treasurer:** Mike Dow
- Hon Secretary:** Catherine O'Mahony
- Match Secretary:** Alan Hales
- Membership Secretary:** Linda Young
- Wimbledon Ballot Secretary:** Susan Kenny

New Committee Members

We're pleased to welcome 3 new Committee members this year and have asked them to introduce themselves here to the wider Club membership.

Mike Dow



"I started playing tennis when I was 11 years old at school in Manchester. Later, my job in a Bank meant that I moved around the country and I found tennis was a good way of meeting new people.

Currently I play on Thursday mornings in men's doubles. They are a great group and we enjoy the games and the socialising after the session. I have also played in the mix-in session on Monday mornings.

Living in Brockenhurst, I decided to join Lyndhurst because of its excellent facilities and I already knew a number of the members."

Debbie Elsworth



“I am a 'tennis mum' and have been for about the last 16 years! My sons Matt (now 21) and James (17) both now play for Lyndhurst. I so enjoy watching them and the rest of the team play in the mixed doubles club matches as well as internal competitions etc. Everyone has made us all feel so welcome from the start when James joined Neil's lessons a few years ago. They now enjoy attending the Thursday evening 'Big Hitters' group.

I used to work at Totton and Eling Tennis Club in the admin side and would now like to support Lyndhurst Lawn Tennis Club in whatever way I can. “

Janet Martin



“I started playing tennis at school and first joined Hale Gardens in New Milton around 1959. When I went to senior school in Brockenhurst, I played for the team and remember the two grass courts either side of the main drive.

I usually play on Tuesday morning, when we have a regular ladies' four. On Friday I like to join in the morning mix-in and I have just started playing in the box league again.

I have been a member at Lyndhurst for several years. The Club has always been friendly and welcoming, offering plenty of opportunities to find people to play with. I hope to give a bit back, in some small way, by serving on the Committee.”

Diary Dates

Quiz Night – Friday 13th April

Maggie Rose is organizing the Quiz Night, which is a joint social event with the Drama & Bowls Clubs. There are now only a few spaces remaining, but (at the time of writing) it's still possible to come along as an individual to make up a table. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Opening Tournament – Sunday 15th April

Please see the attached flyer for details of the Spring Competition that Catherine O'Mahony & Janet Martin are running to open the new season.

Wimbledon Draw – Tuesday 1st May

Susan Kenny is our Wimbledon Ballot Secretary and will be organizing the Wimbledon draw as part of Club Night on Tuesday 1st May at 7pm.

Open Day – Sunday 20th May

We will again be holding an Open Day this year, so that potential new members, young and old, can see for themselves what the Club has to offer.

Finals Day – September (date TBC)

Martin Taylor & Chris Ellis will be organizing the Club Championships this year and will send out full details in due course.

Club Dinner – October (date TBC)

The Club Dinner has become an established annual event and 29 people attended the dinner at the Forest Lodge Hotel last year. Mike Downton has kindly agreed to organise the Club Dinner again this year.

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 7th November

Please note the date for this year's AGM.

Wimbledon Draw



All draw entrants must have renewed their membership of Lyndhurst Tennis Club before the draw, be British Tennis (BT) Members, have opted-in on the LTA/BT website for the Wimbledon Draw, and their BT membership must be affiliated to Lyndhurst Lawn Tennis Club.

Further information on our ticket allocation and signing up for the draw will be emailed once the LTA have allocated the tickets.

Successful Members will choose their tickets but will then be contacted electronically by the LTA to submit payment (within a fortnight or the tickets are re-allocated). All tickets are issued directly to winners by the LTA.

If you can't be at the draw on Tuesday 1st May in person, then a nominated person to act on your behalf will need to be notified to [Susan Kenny](#)

Defibrillator

The possibility of jointly providing a publicly-available defibrillator was discussed by the Lyndhurst Sports & Social Club Committee in 2016, but at that time was decided against for a number of reasons.

The Tennis Club is now looking again at whether our particular circumstances might justify the provision of a defibrillator. A review of our first aid needs assessment has indicated that we should seriously consider having a defibrillator, and we are therefore now addressing the practical issues involved, including funding, maintenance and familiarization.

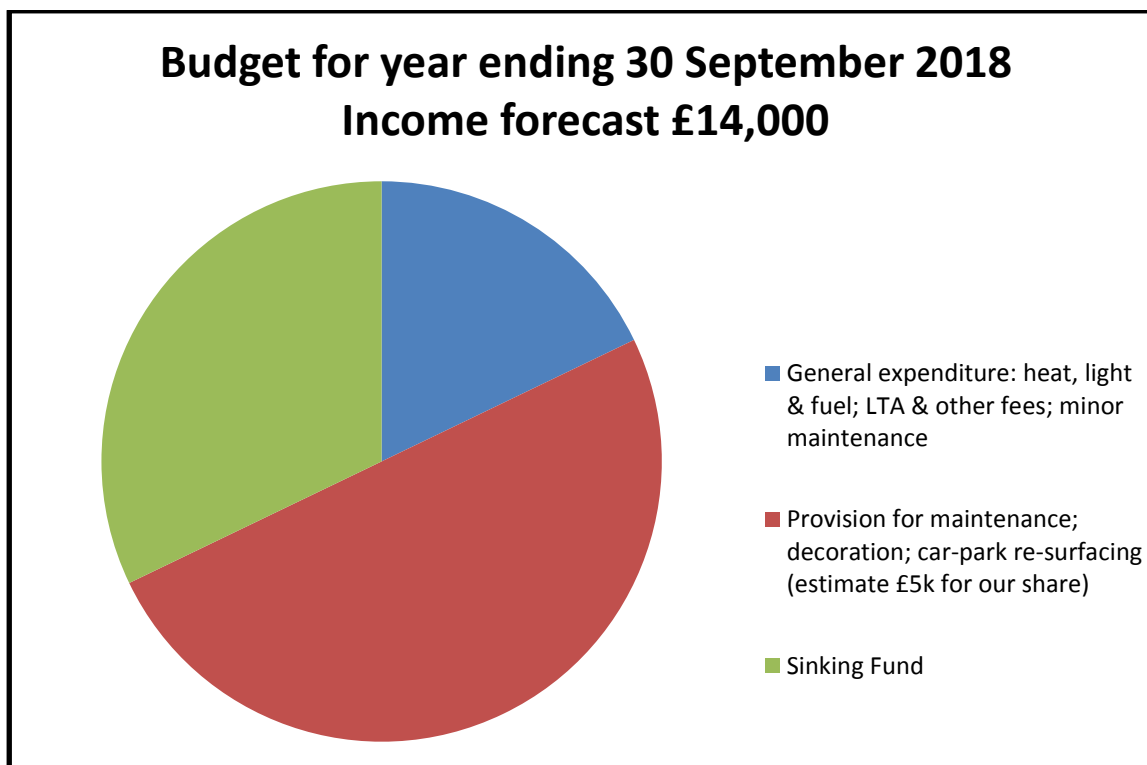


2018 Subscriptions & Budget

Subscriptions rates are unchanged for 2018 and you should already have received an e-mail from Membership Secretary Linda Young including details of how to pay.

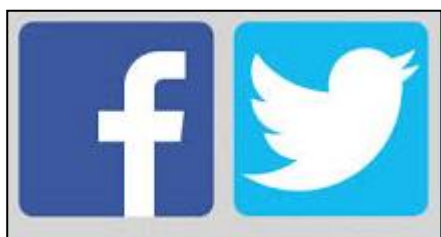
Once you've paid your subscription, where does the money actually go?

Details of the Club Budget for the year to 30th September 2018 are shown on this pie-chart:



The Sinking Fund is built up annually to ensure that the Club can cover the very significant costs of court surface replacement and floodlight overhaul when these become necessary.

Social Media



Love 'em or hate 'em, we probably have to accept that social media are here to stay. The Club is conspicuous by its absence from the social media scene and a Facebook search for Lyndhurst Tennis Club will take you all the way to the Tawa-Lyndhurst Tennis Club in Wellington, New Zealand!

We really need a Facebook-savvy member to volunteer to set-up (and run) a Club Facebook page – might this be you? If you think you could help and would like to know more, please contact [Tony Roe](#)

We've only recently reached the stage when (almost) all members use e-mail, so a Club Twitter account might be a bit premature, but there's nothing to stop any of our various groups using Twitter to co-ordinate their own activities.

Club Wi-Fi, Website & Webcam



Members wishing to make full use of Club internet facilities will need to know the relevant passwords. For technical reasons, different passwords are required to access:

- The **Dramatic-Tennis** Wi-Fi network at the Clubhouse
- The Members-only protected area of the Club website
- Webcam coverage of the courts

Passwords can be found in the Clubroom, inside the door of the floodlight switch cupboard. The Club website can also be accessed via [this link](#).

Technical problems have unfortunately meant that the webcam has not been accessible online recently. A replacement camera has now been installed and images from the webcam can again be viewed.

Security & Housekeeping

Members in possession of a clubroom key and the combination for the court locks have full access to all Club facilities, but this carries with it the responsibility for leaving these same facilities secure and in good order at the end of play.

Here's a reminder of the tasks to be carried out after playing:

Courts

- Clear any litter
- Lock the combination locks

Clubhouse & Clubroom

- Lock the clubhouse (toilet block) access door
- Lock the patio doors
- Put away the large key fob
- Switch off the heaters
- Wash up & clear away crockery
- Empty the litter bin (**leave no food waste**)
- Hoover the floor (if necessary)
- Lock the side door as you leave



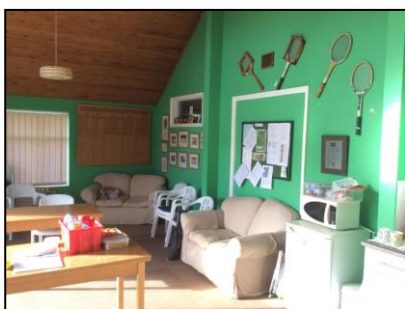
Floodlights



We have had several problems with floodlight misuse, causing a nuisance to our neighbours and adversely affecting the Club's good reputation. Most recently, in January someone tampered with the timer so that the lights stayed on until after 11pm, when a Club member had to be called out to switch them off. Please **read and follow** the instructions inside the floodlight switch cupboard.

Looking to the future, the possibility of adding floodlights to the top court has recently been discussed by the Committee. In view of the estimated cost of undertaking this as a standalone project, it was agreed that this should be considered as part of the cyclical 5-year review of the existing floodlights. However, a sub-committee will be formed to examine whether this could be brought forward if sponsorship or grants can be secured, also taking account of the Club's financial position and the potential growth of membership.

Maintenance Projects



Three further maintenance projects are under way:

- A sub-committee is planning to freshen-up the Clubroom with some redecoration.
- Andrew Clough (and friends) will be treating the pavilion with wood-preservative to prolong its life.
- Bill Freer continues to lead the joint Bowls/Drama/Tennis project to resurface the car park.

Vernon Theatre

The Drama Club's next production at the Vernon Theatre is:

'SENSE AND SENSIBILITY' by Jane Austen

Thursday/Friday/Saturday 26/27/28 April at 7.45 pm

Tickets available from Lyndhurst Community Centre (from 6 April). Telephone bookings and enquiries to Hilary on (023) 8028 2729 (from 2 April).

Newsletter

Next Edition

Sue and Angus are both going to be away on holiday and 'other duties' during June and July so won't be able to edit the usual Summer Newsletter. However, Sue is happy to send out a basic news-sheet with any copy that she has received by **Sunday 17th June**. You won't be chased, but it gives you a chance to share information and photos. We are sorry for this reduced effort on our behalf and we intend to resume normal service in the Autumn.

Newsletter Editors: Sue Moss & Angus Brown

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