



After a mild start to the winter, the few days of frost and snow in January came as a sharp reality check.



Frosty Thursday



Snowy Friday

What a difference a day makes!

Nevertheless, thanks to our all-weather courts play continued almost unabated – until a couple of wet weeks in early February disrupted regular sessions, the box league and club matches. Maybe it was evidence of climate change, but whites and shorts were then seen on court well before the end of February!

It would have been nice to see more members at the Annual General Meeting back in November; we only just managed a quorum. Fortunately, the meeting was able to go ahead and I'm very pleased to welcome Yasin Ali of Ineos onto the Committee. Minutes of the AGM are on the website and in the Clubroom.

The Club continues to prosper, with some noteworthy landmarks:

- Exceptionally, Honorary Membership has been awarded to Barry Eden and Jasmat 'Saps' Soma, in recognition of their contributions to the Club. We all send Barry our best wishes for his health.
- Our mens' team has won their division of the Southampton Winter League, unbeaten in all 5 matches – congratulations to them! Thanks to all our team captains and team members for their commitment in playing for the Club.
- The Box League continues to be well supported by almost 30 players, ensuring the courts are well used outside the regular sessions. Thanks to Alan Hales and Mike Bowles for keeping this going.
- After a year of frustrating bureaucracy, the car park was resurfaced in November thanks to Bill Freer's persistence.

Please note the dates for the Opening Tournament and the Wimbledon Ballot. We're not holding an Open Day this year – the Committee has decided to advertise in local community magazines and focus on word-of-mouth recruiting. So if you know of any potential members amongst your friends and neighbours, please bring them along to the Club.

Finally, the Club does not run itself. The Committee has put a lot of work into improving our facilities and members can help by keeping the Clubroom, courts and campus clean and tidy. The Club belongs to the members and we should all take pride in it.

**Tony Roe – Chairman**

## Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership is automatically awarded to Club Members who have completed 40 years continuous membership, in recognition of their long-term commitment to the Club. Also, since the 2018 Annual General Meeting, the Committee has the authority to award Honorary Membership in other, exceptional circumstances.



We are pleased to record the award of Honorary Membership to **Esther Browne** in recognition of her 40 years membership of the Club.

The award of Honorary Membership in exceptional circumstances is not a decision taken lightly, but the Committee has agreed unanimously to award Honorary Membership to:



### **Jasmat 'Saps' Soma.**

In recognition of his informal coaching at the Club, freely sharing his tennis skills (LTA Level 3) and experience of playing competitively at international level.



### **Barry Eden.**

In recognition of his commitment to the Club over many years and his very generous donation enabling us to go ahead with plans to improve the court floodlighting.

It has been good to see our most senior Honorary Member, **Maureen Parry**, back on court recently after a long absence and still enjoying playing after over 50 years as a Club member.

## On the Courts

### *Box League – Mike Bowles reports*

This period started in December, always a difficult time to fit matches in. Once into the new year we have had the dark evenings and very variable weather, so I feel that people have done very well that we have got to where we are. As I write there have been 68 matches played, 7 more are booked and we still have 3 weeks of the period left. Two couples unfortunately had to stop playing part way through the period due to injuries. One couple have done very well and have already played 10 matches and another couple 9.

The next league will run from 1 April to 30 June. Hopefully the weather will be a bit kinder to us - I certainly look forward to having some warmer weather to play in! I will be writing an email to everyone shortly asking you to say if you want to be included in the next league. If you haven't played before but would like to join in - please get in contact using this email [Mike Bowles](mailto:Mike.Bowles@tennisclub.org) so I can include you next time. Partners are drawn so you will take 'pot luck' like the rest of us!

I would like to thank everyone who takes part - it is always gratifying hear people say how much they enjoy the format we have developed to promote the social benefit of playing with different partners and thereby getting to know more people in the club. I look forward to the next period.

### *Mix-in Sessions / Weekly Programme*

There are lots of opportunities to play in mix-in sessions during the week and on Sundays. These sessions are a great way to get to know other Club members. This [link](#) directs you to the weekly programme on the website.

#### **Monday & Friday mornings**

This stalwart group meets twice weekly for social, competitive tennis in almost all weathers – just come along and join us! 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. Saps usually comes along to give us some 'guidance'. The main format is 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 – Club Night**

This 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](mailto:Alan.Hales@tennisclub.org) 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**

The Thursday morning session 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.

### **Thursday evening – Big Hitters**

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 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/>

**Come and give it a try.** The sessions cost £6 for members, or a block of 5 can be bought for £25 (these don't have to be taken consecutively).

## **Coaching Update**

In addition to Cardio Tennis, Neil Webb is now concentrating on the popular Friday coaching session, which has 20 youngsters taking part. There are 3 separate age groups; timings (and Neil's contact details) can be found at [Coaching](#). Sally Revell has moved elsewhere.

Thanks are also due to those members who give their time unpaid:

- Alan Hales and Brian van Hoof are taking the Wednesday evening teenagers' group.
- Martin Taylor and Brian continue with the Big Hitters group on Thursday evening to provide pre-match experience.
- 'Saps' helps the adult improvers on Monday afternoons.

## Team News

Matches are so exciting – new tubes of balls are opened, score boards are up and we're off!

Mixed A 'get into the zone'



*Thank you to our artist David Lock*

### **Match News Summary – Alan Hales Match Secretary reports:**

We have one rescheduled ladies match to conclude the 2018/2019 winter league and are now preparing for the 2019 summer league. The winter league has provided a lot of enjoyable match tennis to a wide range of members. We've had a mixed season (no pun intended) in terms of results, which largely reflect the development of our teams and players. Our Ladies' team, playing at the lofty height of the 2<sup>nd</sup> division have unsurprisingly had a tough season. Our Mixed 'A' team, also playing at altitude in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division have also faced tough opposition. Our Mixed 'B' team playing in division 4 have performed well and will finish mid-table with 2 wins, one draw and 2 losses. Our Men's team have had a highly successful season. Please see individual reports below.

### **Mixed A Team – Captain Jill Trant reports:**

**Last summer** was a memorable one: we played the whole summer without having to re-arrange a single match due to inclement weather and the summer heat was unforgiving! Our away match against Romsey & Abbey will stay in my memory for ever as we played and melted in the heat of 32 degrees. Having played our mixed rubber, our ladies' rubber, which usually takes 1-2 hours, took well over 3 hours, every single game went to deuce, this match could have gone either way, BUT the Lyndhurst Ladies won this crucial rubber, meaning that we had won the match.....HOORAH!!! I can tell you all that both Gill Ellis and I could hardly walk back to the car we were so exhausted!

With a great deal of effort and commitment from all the team players throughout the scorching summer months we managed to secure the wins that mattered. The last 2 matches of the season were absolutely critical, both matches were fortunately won, securing Lyndhurst our place in Division 3 for this coming summer (there are 4 divisions in the summer league).

I am delighted to report on the fabulous players that we are fortunate to have at Lyndhurst. Players who are willing to turn out on chilly days throughout the winter to have fun and play good competitive tennis – always hoping for a match win! The winter team format is slightly easier to organise as only 2 pairs are required for the team, whereas the summer teams require 4 pairings and many more e-mails! The winter mixed is a relatively new idea as traditionally the mixed was only played in the summer months – we all love it and it keeps your 'eye in' for the coming summer season!

As captain, I try to include all players who have shown an interest in playing for the Mixed A Team including our young players. We are very lucky at Lyndhurst to be able to mix the wiser and more mature player with talented younger players!

**This winter** - there were 5 Divisions in The Southampton LTA Winter League and we started in Division 2. We were slightly unlucky throughout the season; on one occasion with our very best players in the team and ready to play, the match was rained off. (A definite win!) Then we unfortunately lost 2 championship tie breaks in another match. (Another possible win!), so it goes on – we were unlucky! Moving forward I am hoping, and expecting, to do well with you all in Division 3 next winter – so keep up your play with plenty of practise!

There's more to tennis matches than tennis! Behind the scenes is our very efficient Match Secretary, Alan Hales, organising the initial match dates, going to LTA and Apsley meetings and the booking of courts – thank you. Once the team has been selected there is the very important organisation of match teas and lunches ...mmm, delicious!

### ***Mixed B Team – Captain Ros Bowles reports:***

It has been great fun being Captain of the Mixed B team this winter and I must begin by thanking everyone who has taken part so enthusiastically and played so hard for the Club.

We have had a very satisfying winter season with a good mixture of wins, draws and losses. We started off with a draw at David Lloyd in September followed by a loss at Waterside where we had close matches and some very competitive tennis. Unfortunately the weather then intervened and our next two matches were postponed, meaning that we had to schedule in four matches by the beginning of March. We managed this, were lucky with the weather and had two wins, a draw and a loss in those four matches. Our fifth match against Romsey and Abbey was crucial as we would have been in danger of dropping into the relegation zone if we had lost, as our last match was against Bassett, top of our division, and we were likely to lose there. Our team of Alan Hales, Catherine O'Mahoney, Gill Ellis and Graham Charlesworth played a very competitive match and won 3-1 and so saved the day. Our last match against Bassett was very close and we narrowly lost 3-1, with one match lost in a championship tie break. They fielded three A-team players against us so we did very well. Our two losses were against the two teams who are going up and I think that with two wins, two draws, two losses and eleven matches for us and eleven against, we will finish in third place which is very creditable. We are in the right division for our ability and it was good to maintain our place so well. Well done to everyone – not only have we all done well but we have also had a very enjoyable time.

### ***Ladies' Team – Captain Gill Ellis reports:***

**Last summer** - we had an amazing run winning every match, two were won 9-0 and the others were comfortable 6-3 wins against the teams who ended up 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the League. Our ladies of course were therefore top of the league and promoted to the next division for summer 2019.

**(Please note this is a corrected report – in the last newsletter we said the ladies finished mid-division. Our sincere apologies for not giving the ladies the praise they deserved and played hard to earn.)**

**This winter** - the Ladies' team had been promoted to the heights of Division 2 which includes some very strong teams. Although our players have battled bravely and enjoyed the tennis, we have struggled at times and with 1 more match to play, look likely to go back down to Division 3. The good news is that matches next winter will be more closely fought and will produce more wins. Thanks to everyone who has taken part.

### ***Men's Doubles League – Captain Matt Elsworth reports:***

2018 was the first time, for a while, that Lyndhurst has entered a men's team in the Winter League. I was excited to be asked to be captain and was lucky to have excellent players in the squad: James Elsworth, Connor Rhodes, Christopher Parker, Martin Taylor, Rob Salter and Graham Charlesworth. We already meet up every Thursday evening for doubles practice; we were keen to put our practice into match situations.

With it being the first season back we were entered into Division Six, alongside Bassett, Portswood, Romsey, David Lloyd and Knightwood. We were originally scheduled to also play Southampton University 2, but unfortunately they pulled out of the league before a serve was hit. For the first match against David Lloyd I decided to pair Martin and Connor (after their win of the Men's Doubles Club Championship), Christopher and Rob, and James and myself. I was not sure whether I would keep these pairs for future matches, however after winning this first match 9-0 and only dropping 16 games compared to 109 won, I thought we should stick to our winning combination.

The next matches against Romsey and Portswood continued like the first, winning 9-0 in both. We then had our first team selection issue when Martin was away and I needed a replacement. Graham ended up saving the day, even though he had just arrived back from Australia hours before! It was in this match that we dropped our only 2 rubbers out of 45. We ended our season away at Bassett, where we ended as we started, winning 9-0.

Lyndhurst men's team finished top of the table and will be promoted for next winter season.

I would like to thank Jackie Rhodes and Debbie Elsworth for their help with match teas and continuous support throughout the season – also Stevie Parker for her amazing flapjacks.

## 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:** Debbie Elsworth  
**Wimbledon Ballot Secretary:** Susan Kenny

### 2019 Subscriptions

You should already have received an e-mail from Membership Secretary Debbie Elsworth with details of revised subscription rates and how to pay. Please note that prompt payment will secure a discount that avoids the increase.

### Diary Dates

#### **Spring Competition – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

We open the new season with the Spring Competition, starting at 1pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April (finish about 6.30pm). £2 for 'Tennis & Tasty Tea' – please see the notice in the pavilion for details.

#### **Wimbledon Draw – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

Susan Kenny is our Wimbledon Ballot Secretary and will be organizing the Wimbledon draw as part of Club Night on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm.

### 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 soon. **We have been allocated 13 double 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 30<sup>th</sup> April in person, then a nominated person to act on your behalf will need to be notified to [Susan Kenny](#)

## Floodlighting



The last Newsletter explained the reasons for replacing the existing floodlights with modern light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which are significantly more energy-efficient. The new lights will be screened by aluminium housings with built-in light spillage guards, which our existing lights do not have. Our immediate neighbours have been consulted and all were positive.

The cost is estimated at just over £14,000, but this could rise to as much as £20,000 if the existing cabling and junction box need replacing. Fortunately, our funds are more than adequate to cover this.

A planning application has been submitted to the New Forest National Park Authority and we await the outcome.

## Defibrillator

Can you remember how to use the defibrillator and where to find it?

To refresh your memory, please click [HERE](#) to watch a short video.

(Note: The video also shows a 'CPR Device', which our defibrillator does not include.)



To access the defibrillator you will need to:

- Have a key for the clubroom.
- Know where to find the large key fob (usually stored in the clubroom cupboard).
- Unlock the access door to the main clubhouse corridor.
- Find the defibrillator cabinet (on the wall opposite the toilets).

... and don't be surprised when the alarm sounds as you open the cabinet door.

Organizers of group sessions might simply choose to unlock the door to the corridor throughout play – of course **remembering to lock it when finished**.

## Car Park Opening



A dazzling array of tennis talent gathered to mark the completion of our new car parking just before Christmas. Thanks go to Bill Freer for successfully managing this project from start to finish.

## Honours Board

The Honours Board has been updated with details of the winners of all recent Club Championships. In the comfort of the Clubhouse, you can now browse the names of past, present and (perhaps) future stars.

LYNDHURST LAWN TENNIS CLUB				
LADIES SINGLES	MENS SINGLES	LADIES DOUBLES	MENS DOUBLES	MIXED DOUBLES
2000 Mrs C. GILMOUR	A. KNOWLES	Mrs C. GILMOUR & Mrs. H. MINNIS	A. GRANT & H. CHEEK	A. GRANT & Mrs V. GRANT
2001 Mrs M. PARKER	R. CAMPBELL	Mrs. M. PARKER & Mrs. K. ADAMS	A. GRANT & H. CHEEK	R. CAMPBELL & Mrs. M. PARKER
2002 Mrs M. PARKER	A. HODGSON	Mrs. S. HILLIER & Mrs. M. PARRY	A. GRANT & H. CHEEK	A. CARR & Mrs. M. PARRY
2003 Mrs S. HILLIER	L. HANSEN	Mrs. S. HILLIER & Mrs. M. PARRY	M. DEKMENT & R. STRETT	R. CAMPBELL & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2004 Mrs S. HILLIER	L. HANSEN	Mrs. S. HILLIER & Mrs. M. PARRY	R. CAMPBELL & P. SMITH	A. GRANT & Mrs. H. TUCKNOTT
2005 Mrs S. DUFLOU	JILLIEY	Mrs S.HILLIER & Mrs H.TUCKNOTT	R. CAMPBELL & P. SMITH	J. LILLEY & Mrs. M. PARRY
2006 Mrs S. HILLIER	JILLIEY	Mrs S.HILLIER & Mrs H.TUCKNOTT	ALDE KMENT & A.HODGSON	N. VANPHEL & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2007 Mrs H. TUCKNOTT	JILLIEY	Mrs S.HILLIER & Mrs S.PARKER	ALDE KMENT & A.HODGSON	J. LILLEY & Mrs. TRANT
2008 Mrs S.HILLIER	JOCKE	Mrs H.TUCKNOTT & Mrs L. HANSEN	V.GOOK & J. COOK	R. CAMPBELL & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2009 Mrs S.HILLIER	J. SAETER	Mrs H.TUCKNOTT & Mrs L. HANSEN	M. DEKMENT & S. ELLIS	R. CAMPBELL & Mrs. H. TUCKNOTT
2010 Mrs J. ALMOND	JILLIEY	Mrs S.HILLIER & Mrs. S. HILLIER	J. LILLEY & P. PARKER	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2011 Mrs J. ALMOND	JILLIEY	Mrs J. TRANT & Mrs S. HILLIER	J. LILLEY & P. PARKER	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2012 Not Contested	TILLEY	Mrs J. ALMOND & Mrs S. LAIN	G. ELLIS & M. HILLIER	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2013 Mrs J. ALMOND	J. LILLEY	Mrs H. TUCKNOTT & Mrs. S. HILLIER	J. LILLEY & M. HILLIER	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2014 Mrs H. TUCKNOTT	L. HANSEN	Mrs H. TUCKNOTT & Mrs. S. HILLIER	D. ELLIS & M. TAYLOR	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2015 Mrs H. TUCKNOTT	J. SAETER	Mrs H. TUCKNOTT & Mrs. S. HILLIER	R. SAETER & J. SAETER	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2016 Mrs J. ALMOND	G. ELLIS	Mrs A. VAN HOFF & Mrs. J. ALMOND	M. TAYLOR & G. ELLIS	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2017 Mrs H. TAYLOR	L. HANSEN	Mrs H. TAYLOR & Mrs. S. HILLIER	M. TAYLOR & C. PARKER	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2018 Mrs H. TAYLOR	M. ELSWORTH	Mrs H. TAYLOR & Mrs. S. HILLIER	M. TAYLOR & C. PARKER	M. LILLEY & Mrs. S. HILLIER
2019 Not Contested			M. TAYLOR & C. PARKER	M. TAYLOR & Mrs H. TAYLOR

## Clubroom Care



"But darling, we are an Equal Opportunities club."

However urgent your post-match date, please remember the checklist of tasks to be done on leaving the 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

## Clubroom Door Keys



Several members reported difficulty using the lock on the side door to the Clubroom and action is now in hand to replace the lock and keys. The existing lock has been removed and options to repair/fix it have been considered, but advice from a specialist locksmith is that it needs replacing.

New keys are already being issued free to current key-holders, with the aim of changing the lock no later than mid-April. Existing key-holders should please contact Alan Hales, Martin Taylor, Chris Ellis or Angus Brown to obtain a new key.

Once the changeover has taken place, any other member wishing to become an authorised key-holder may request a key at a cost of £5.00.

## Website – Members' Area



For further information relating to the running of the Club, please see the password-protected Members' Area of the website [MEMBERS' AREA](#)

## Newsletter

We hope to produce our Summer update in June/July 2019. 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