



This is the toughest piece to have to write since I became Chairman. Bill Freer's sudden death whilst cycling with friends on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 has hit all who knew him very hard. I counted him as a friend, a fellow tennis player and hands-on Committee member, and all-in-all a very good, kind man.



Bill joined Lyndhurst Lawn Tennis Club in 2001, taking part in the Monday/Friday mix-in sessions and quickly gaining a reputation as a very determined and competitive, but thoroughly fair, player. He became a Committee member in 2013 and served as Chairman from 2013 to 2017.

Bill brought a depth of business experience to his appointment as Chairman. He initiated and planned improvements to almost every aspect of Club activities and then, invariably leading by example, he saw these plans through to fruition to the benefit of the Club as a whole. At the end of his 4-year term he had widened our membership and playing opportunities, improved our courts and facilities, and left a sound financial base for the Club's future.

#### *Bill Freer 1945-2020*

After stepping down as Chairman, he remained on the Committee, where his wise counsel and drive for continuous improvement continued to help the Club.

Bill was always a strong supporter of Club activities, fostering Club spirit both on and off court, and playing in competitions and the Box League. He became the motivating force behind the Thursday morning group, who helped him celebrate his 75th birthday only last month at the Fox & Hounds. He will be especially missed by the Thursday group and also by the afternoon regulars.

Our deepest condolences go to Brenda and all his family. Test Valley Crematorium was full for the Celebration of Bill's Life, indicating the esteem in which he was held by his many friends in the wide variety of groups in which he played such an active part.

Bill Freer left his mark on almost every aspect of Club life and Lyndhurst Lawn Tennis Club owes him a huge debt of gratitude.

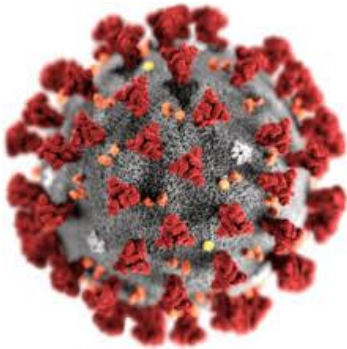
It has been a doubly sad start to the year as Trevor Lawrence, a member since 1999, died on 5<sup>th</sup> January at the age of 88 after a long illness. Trevor regularly supported the Monday and Friday morning sessions, still playing a good game of tennis despite limited mobility. With Elizabeth, he arranged the successful occasional American lunches at the club. His funeral was very well supported by members.

Both these members would have expected tennis to go on as usual but this is clearly not possible during the coronavirus pandemic. We all have to protect ourselves and families so please read our Health & Safety Officer Andrew's report on the procedures all members have to take when coming to the club. Some tennis continues for the time being.

Please enjoy looking back over the winter team news and we hope and pray that we will soon have some better news to share.

**Tony Roe – Chairman**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**



We live in difficult times, so much information, some of it, it seems, conflicting & confusing. This email is to hopefully clarify where LLTC is in relation to current thinking. I have yesterday spoken with the LTA, studied carefully the advice for small venues on their website (which we can all do), and this morning (Sunday) met with Tony. I have also spoken to individual members & listened to their concerns. All of these factors inform the contents of this email.

**Firstly we must now fully close our Clubhouse, together with the toilets/washroom facilities....  
Members MUST NOT use these facilities (with the exception of Floodlight control).**

Current thinking is that outdoor tennis can continue to be played, comparatively safely, provided the simple practices below are rigorously followed by EVERYONE:

1. All players must thoroughly wash their hands prior to play, & bring their own hand sanitizer to do this
2. Racket handles & court entrance gates must be cleaned prior to play using the ANTIBAC wipes now provided in the pavilion
3. Players changing ends must do so at opposite ends of the net, & for doubles maintain 2 metre separation.
4. When entering & leaving the courts maintain at least a 2 metre separation, this applies also to walking to & from the courts.
5. Do not shake hands or touch rackets, if you have all washed your hands then it is safe to handle the balls

Its appreciated that many members may now decide for themselves that play under the above 'conditions' is not a good idea. Furthermore it seems that a blanket ban on outdoor sports may be imminent.... But tennis remains a fundamentally safe & enjoyable way to spend some time.

Once again the committee wishes ALL our friends at our great club good health during this difficult time for you all. Further emails will go out to you all if advice changes, as it well might.

Andrew, Health & Safety

## On the Courts

### **Box League update**

The weather has been against us but we are a hardy lot and matches have been played in waterproofs, hats and gloves. There are 14 pairings in the current period and to date (17<sup>th</sup> March) 74 matches have been played. This period ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March and unfortunately no further league can be started at the present time.

### **Spring Tournament**



This tournament has the fun formula of mixed doubles with a partner picked out of a hat. You play half the games with your partner and half of them against your partner in a round robin format. If this sounds confusing – don't be put off, come and take part and it will all become clear. If it doesn't sound confusing you must have played before so you will certainly come and join in. This is now cancelled but we will find another date later in the year.

*Thanks to David Lock for another cartoon to lift our spirits*

## Mix-in Sessions update

As you can see from the weekly programme there were lots of opportunities to turn up and play.

	08:30	09:00	09:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	21:00	21:30	22:00		
Monday		Mix-in 9:00 – 12:30 3 courts exclusive use											Improver's Coaching 14:00 – 16:00 2 courts exclusive use																	Monday
Tuesday		EB Quartet 09:30 – 11:30 Court 1 Men's Over 55 Team Practice 10:00 – 12:00 Court 2																		Club Night 17:30 – 22:00							Tuesday			
Wednesday		Cardio-tennis Courts 2 & 3 09:30 – 11:00														Coaching 16:00 – 17:00														Wednesday
Thursday		Team Tennis Mix-in 9:00 – 12:00 2 Courts exclusive use																			Big Hitters 18:30 – 20:30 2 courts exclusive use							Thursday		
Friday		Mix-in 9:00 – 12:30 3 courts exclusive use														Coaching 16:00 – 18:15														Friday
Saturday																													Saturday	
Sunday			Club Mix-in 10:00 – 12:30																										Sunday	

When we are back up and running tennis sessions the sessions will be found on the club website [Weekly Programme](#)

## Team News

### Ladies' team – Gill Ellis reports:

This winter has seen some very challenging conditions, especially strong winds which make life on the courts extremely difficult. However, our ladies have got wrapped up and been prepared to face the elements. That's dedication for you and all deserve a big pat on the back!

Lyndhurst Ladies have completed all their matches with mixed success - won 2, drew 1 and lost 3. It was an extremely closely fought division, with 4 points separating 5 teams in the middle of the group. Every set counted and although we were all in danger of relegation at some point, I can confirm that the Ladies' team will remain in the same division next year. Congratulations to all our players.

### Winter Men's League – Matt Elsworth reports:

As we approach the end of the Winter league, I'm pleased to say we will be promoted whatever happens in the remaining two matches. We have already played six (won five) and just have one home and one away match left to play. The weather early in 2020 postponed various matches as the storms always seemed to arrive ready for the weekend matches! I'd like to thank Rob, Christopher, Martin, Connor, Alan and Josh for making up the team and giving up so much of their time to play. Also, thank you to Jackie, Debbie, Stevie and the players for always arranging a great lunch.

### **Mixed team A – Jill Trant reports:**

The winter league season has been a rather long one this year with many matches being postponed due to the wet weather. I have felt rather sorry for Geoff Prince this season; he is the long suffering winter league match secretary, having to deal with the constant change of match dates. (There are in total 36 mixed teams)

However this season Lyndhurst has done rather well as a team and I'd like thank all the players who have been committed to team/match play and provided delicious food for our lunches along the way. Thanks also for their help with the preparation and clearing of the courts for the home matches. (A great warm up!) This season was particularly bad for debris etc on the courts. Let's hope that the summer season brings with it some gorgeous weather with perfect playing conditions.

There are currently 5 mixed leagues in The Southampton Winter League and we play comfortably in League 3. Our team has played well this season and we've managed to secure our place in this league for next winter. There is a possible chance of promotion to Div 2, but this depends on the forthcoming match results of both Waterside (A) and Bassett (B). For some reason (probably rained off matches), Bassett still have 3 matches to play and Waterside 1.

The winter season was from the end of September 2019 until the beginning of March 2020, with all rearranged matches being played before 31<sup>st</sup> March. Here are our match results:

Lyndhurst V South Hants (B) we WON 4-0

Lyndhurst V David Lloyd (B) we DREW 2-2

Lyndhurst V Bassett (B) we DREW 2-2

Lyndhurst V Waterside we LOST 3-1

Lyndhurst V Romsey Abbey we WON 4-0

Lyndhurst V Glebians (A) we WON 4-0

Most of our matches have been hotly contested with some great competitive play and enjoyed by us all. I'd like to thank Hayley Taylor who kindly stepped in for me as Captain whilst I enjoyed a long holiday in Australia and New Zealand.

The Club is lucky to have some young male players who have really contributed to our success. Whilst the current ladies are doing a great job, we would also like to see some

TALENTED....YOUNG....FEMALE.... PLAYERS!...

See you all on court when matches resume.

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

This season has proved to be very competitive indeed. We have fought tough, close matches against the opposition, where the results have not always reflected how close the matches were. Two teams in particular fielded much stronger teams than last season with younger players, some of whom play for their universities. We gave them all a good run for their money but ended up losing four and winning two. At present, because of the appalling weather experienced over the winter, we are still waiting for two matches to be played by other teams before we know whether or not we will stay in Division 4 or go down to Division 5.

At the moment, we are one above the relegation zone. We need Compton & Shawford C to beat Totton & Eling D in order to stay where we are. Fingers crossed.

Thank you to all of you who turned out to play for the Club, especially those who stepped up to the mark at short notice because others were injured. We managed to play all our matches in a timely manner in spite of having to rearrange two of them before Christmas. We have thoroughly enjoyed good club tennis and you have all been brilliant in your commitment and efforts.

## Club Championships

### 2020 Finals Day



The 2020 Club Championships are being organised by Ann van Hoof and Chris Ellis. Based on last year's experience of trying to hold all the finals on one day, it is planned to separate the Open and Vets' tournaments this year.

The Open Finals are provisionally scheduled for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September (with Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September as back-up).

The Vets' Finals are provisionally scheduled for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September (with Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September as back-up).

### 2019 Club Championship Results

Last year's finals were disrupted by bad weather and the remaining outstanding match (Senior Mixed Doubles) was only completed on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Here is the full list of winners:

<b>Senior Men's Singles</b>	Matt Elsworth
<b>Senior Ladies' Singles</b>	Hayley Taylor
<b>Senior Men's Doubles</b>	Matt & James Elsworth
<b>Senior Ladies' Doubles</b>	Hayley Taylor & Steph Hillier
<b>Senior Mixed Doubles</b>	Matt Elsworth & Steph Hillier
<b>Vets' Men's Doubles</b>	Brian van Hoof & Paul Carey-Kent
<b>Vets' Ladies' Doubles</b>	Gill Ellis & Ann van Hoof
<b>Vets' Mixed Doubles</b>	Martin Taylor & Steph Hillier



## Committee News

### Appointment of Officers

The Annual General Meeting in November 2019 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

### New Committee Members

We are pleased to welcome 2 new Committee Members this year and have asked them to introduce themselves here to the wider Club membership.

#### Kathleen Charlesworth



I was really late into the sport. I was more of a runner in my younger days and introduced to tennis 4 years ago by my husband Graham, when I had to stop running due to back and knee niggles. I was keen to find something else to keep me fit and keep my competitive nature, also a sport that I could potentially play for ever! I was put onto Lyndhurst Tennis Club by a friend of a friend and instantly fell in love with the Club, its members and particularly my coach Saps, who has opened my eyes to the joys of the game. I just can't get enough!

#### Tim Stevenson



I started playing tennis on a court at a friend's house close to the Fenwick Hospital in Lyndhurst in the latter part of the 1960s. A group of us young lads used to be coached, and I played a little bit at school. While I lived in Farnham in the 1990s I played a fair amount at the Club there.

I moved back down to near Lyndhurst in 2002, but have had no time for tennis until I retired in early 2019. As I knew of Lyndhurst Tennis Club when I was very young and we lived in Lyndhurst years ago, I decided to try it out and have been overwhelmed by the friendly and welcoming atmosphere and excellent facilities.

## *Attracting New Members*

We have set up a sub-committee to review the process by which the Club attracts new members. We need to recognise the way that the Internet, e-mail, social media and smart phones have changed the way that people now find information and communicate.

If you have any thoughts or ideas to offer on the way that the Club should attract new members, please [Click here](#) to message us.

## *Club Maintenance - Many Hands Make Light Work*



A considerable amount of maintenance is required to keep our courts and other facilities up to the high standard we all enjoy. Brian van Hoof leads on the upkeep of the courts and other Committee members undertake much voluntary work in addition to their primary duties. But beyond the obvious major jobs there are numerous other tasks necessary to keep the Club going. You don't have to be on the Committee to help and we need volunteers to take on some specific tasks, most of which can be done at a time that suits the individual concerned.

When life is 'normal again' If you would like to do your bit, a copy of the task list will be displayed in the Clubroom, or at present please email [anthonyroe@btopenworld.com](mailto:anthonyroe@btopenworld.com) for further details.



## 2020 Subscriptions

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

## 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 16 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.

At present we are not sure how this draw will be made as the previously designated evening draw cannot take place due to Coronavirus restrictions. Susan Kenny is working on an alternative strategy and obviously at present the future of Wimbledon is unclear for this year.

## Defibrillators Save Lives

If you still need to be convinced that defibrillators can save lives, please



## 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.)

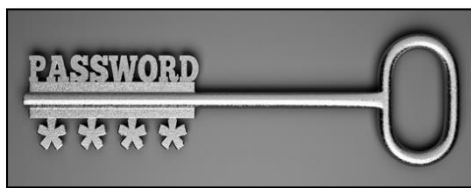
To access the defibrillator you will need to:

- 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**.

## 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](#).

## Newsletter

We hope to produce our Summer update in June/July 2020. 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