

# Spring Newsletter 2022



## HELLO FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Dear members, this is my first newsletter as Club Chairman. I have been a member of the club for around 15 years I've probably met most of you by now but if not, then I look forward to saying hello to you soon. I am a very keen player and try to get out on the courts four or five times a week. I also as play on various teams when my love of sailing doesn't get in the way.

I did a previous stint as Chairman about 10 years ago and am pleased to be taking over from our former chairman, Tony Roe, for a second innings. Tony has done a great job over the past four years and hands over the club in excellent shape. This should make my job a lot easier and, who knows, maybe I won't even have to deal with the effects of a global pandemic.

Alongside deputy chair Tim Stevenson and treasurer Debbie Ellsworth, I recently conducted a financial review to ensure that there are adequate resources to maintain the facilities as well as the need to replace the 10-year-old court surface in a few years' time. I'm pleased to say that the Club's finances are currently in a healthy state with a balance in the region of £60,000. However, the forecast did show that in order to afford our upcoming commitments we needed to slightly increase the subscriptions this year. We intend to keep this under review to enable us to maintain the right balance between subs, cash balance and any necessary expenses.

Fortunately, the recent storms did relatively little damage to the grounds, although you may have noticed the broken fence alongside court 3. Big thanks go to Tony who contacted the insurance company to ensure cover and is now in the process of finding a contractor to do the work. Meanwhile, the courts are not affected. (See Maintenance below).

As for the competitive tennis on offer – after a hiatus of a few years, the club leagues in Hampshire are once again now fully active. Lyndhurst Lawn Tennis Club now has teams in the men's, ladies, mixed and vets (over 55s) leagues - see details of the winter season below. In addition, we will be running our box league tournaments throughout the year and our usual club championship with the finals at the end of the summer. Please watch out for the entry sheets on the notice boards later in the summer.

Let me close by wishing you all the best for the coming spring/summer season and I look forward to seeing you on the courts.

**Rob Salter**



## ON THE COURTS

### Winter league report

This winter (2021-2022), our teams have had variable success. It's all about finding the right level where our players enjoy the challenge but also have some wins and fun too. What is exciting is that over the previous 12 months or so, we have welcomed some new players who are keen and very able to play matches – wonderful!

The summer season will involve more teams – Men's, Ladies', Mixed, Men's Vets 'A', Men's Vets B and for the first time - Ladies Vets which we are very much looking forward to. We have such a beautiful Club and you can't beat playing on a sunny day with perhaps a small buffet afterwards, as we are now allowed to do after the lifting of the lockdown restrictions.



I would personally like to say a very big thankyou to all our captains and members who volunteer to play for Lyndhurst. Good luck to you all for the coming season. **Gill Ellis**

**The Men's Team** had a season of two halves, losing the first couple of matches on the road. However, they turned things around by resoundingly winning the remaining matches in Lyndhurst, ensuring a comfortable league position in division 4.

**Matt Elsworth/ Captain – Men's Team**

**Our Ladies Team** played in the Southampton league Division 3. We managed to win one, draw one and lost the other three! We have one final match to play on 3rd April but it probably means that we will be relegated to Division 4 next year. The positives are that we had 13 ladies representing the club in the winter matches and it's great to see so many wanting to get involved. Our percentage of games won during this league was just 35% so our target next year is to beat that (and still have lots of fun obviously!)

**Ann Van Hoof Captain/ Ladies Team**

Sometimes miracles do happen! And the good news is that the **Mixed 'A' Team**, having been promoted last winter from Division 3 to Division 2 where we would normally bounce back to Division 3 at great speed, we have managed to stay up! Well done to all the players that have made this possible.

Many of the matches were of a high quality often played against young rising stars! The speed of the ball and accuracy of play truly amazing at times. So very well done to the Lyndhurst Team players. Onwards and upwards, we have a lot to look forward to with our fast-approaching mixed summer matches, (Division 3) with the first match being a home match on the 7th May. Keep practising and enjoy the summer season. **Jill Trant Captain/ Mixed 'A' Team**

**The Mixed Bs** have enjoyed a good season in Division 4 with closely fought matches and some good tennis. Unfortunately, we didn't get over the line and will now be relegated but can hold our heads high with three draws and three losses. My thanks as Captain go to this winter's squad - Jean-Marc Figard, Stevie Parker, Alan Hales, Sue Moss, Graham

Charlesworth, Gill Ellis, Paul Carey-Kent, Jane Mason, Chris Mason, Madeleine Parker, Catherine O'Mahony, Andrew Clough, Brigitta Barna and myself for turning out to support the club and playing some very competitive and enjoyable tennis.

We played and lost against Glebians in a close match and were thoroughly trounced by the very powerful young players at David Lloyd West End although we gave as good account of ourselves as possible with long rallies that belied the result. We drew against Compton & Shawford Bs, Warsash Bs and against David Lloyd Southampton, then lost against Riverside with one of our players unfortunately having to withdraw injured so that match was forfeited. Happily he is making a good recovery.

I hope that you will continue to support the Mixed Bs next winter when I will be calling upon you once again. **Ros Bowles Captain/ Mixed 'B' Team**

### **Match Play Tennis Courses**

The next Tuesday morning tennis courses with Candy begin on 26th April. This will be our fifth set of courses aimed at improving our match play. 27 club members have subscribed to the courses so far and I'm sure Candy will agree that we are all improving our level of play, our confidence and our positioning on the court.

Due to enquiries about joining the course we hope to run three courses for the spring / summer season starting at 9am / 10.30am and 12noon. The course lasts for six weeks and costs £45.

All enquiries should be directed to me please - [ann.vanhoof@aol.com](mailto:ann.vanhoof@aol.com) Please note that the courses are aimed at match play level, if you don't think you are at that standard yet then please contact Candy for some pre-course coaching. **Ann van Hoof Course Administrator**

### **Box league**

The Spring Box league is now well underway and at time of writing has about another five weeks to run. Sadly, a couple of injuries, both tennis elbow related, have meant that two of the teams (Jane & Phil and Sally & Alan) have had to withdraw. We wish both ladies a speedy recovery.



How about this for innovation? Two of our members, Chris Parker and Sue Jones, decided that the winners of the Box league should be awarded with a prize beyond a pat on the back and have kindly donated the following little trophies. These will be awarded to the winners of each league going forward and maybe even inscribed, if I can figure out how to do it! A great idea Chris and Sue. So, get those matches in the diary, there is now even more of an incentive! **Graham Charlesworth**

### **Mix-in sessions: Just turn up**

Our weekly Club Mix-In sessions are the lifeblood of the Club and are open to all members at the following times:

Sunday mornings 10.am to 12.30pm.  
Tuesday evenings 17.30pm to 22.00pm.  
Monday afternoon 2pm to 4 pm (improvers)  
Monday and Friday mornings 9.00 – noon (over 50s)

Everyone who attends any of the Mix-ins will tell you how much fun they can be. So, if you haven't tried one out yet come along and give it a go.

Our two floodlit courts enable play late into the evening and we are especially keen to build up the Tuesday evening sessions. If you are interested in attending this session please contact Alan Hales [alanarthales@gmail.com](mailto:alanarthales@gmail.com) to be included on the weekly reminder email. **Kathleen Charlesworth**

### Club coaching



We are fortunate to have two excellent coaches at the Club. Whether you are a beginner, a little rusty or looking to improve certain aspects of your game then expert help is on hand.

Candy Harrop specialises in the four pillars of coaching: Technical, Tactical, Mental and Physical. This can be improved at any age; all it needs is a willingness to learn and have a growth mindset!

The six-week doubles classes held on Tuesday mornings continue to go well. I work on strategy, positioning and technique as well as adding a bit of cardio in there at the same time to keep everyone on their toes! "The players are moving and poaching more at the net, so opposition... watch out!"

Please contact Candy on [candidarh@gmail.com](mailto:candidarh@gmail.com) or 07497155286



Neil Webb is a qualified Level 3 LTA coach offering private lessons and a group class on Wednesday mornings. He also runs classes for Juniors.

RED: Tots from 4.00 to 4.45 (on Wednesdays).  
ORANGE/GREEN 4-6 years and 6 -10 years from 4.45pm to 5.30pm  
YELLOW: 10-13 years 5.30 to 6.15pm (both on Fridays).

Cost is £5 per session for Junior members and £7 for non-members

Please contact Neil on 07952 025406

## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Club is run by volunteer members who meet about five times a year to coordinate the administration and maintenance it takes to keep the Club running smoothly. We hold our annual AGM in November where all members are invited to attend and elect new committee members.

Please don't wait for the AGM If you have any suggestions to contribute to the continued success of the Club. If you would like to be considered to join the committee. Feel free to approach any of the committee members below. Their contact details are available on the website.

Chairman: Rob Salter  
Vice Chairman: Tim Stevenson  
Hon Treasurer: Debbie Elsworth  
Hon Secretary: Catherine O'Mahony  
Membership Secretary: Sally Cleary  
Welfare/safeguarding officer: Alex James  
Newsletter editors: Kate Chambers/Rob Salter  
Kathleen Charlesworth  
Andrew Clough  
Chris Ellis  
Candy Harrop  
Christine Thomas  
Janet Martin  
Tony Roe  
Susan Kenny

Meet the new committee members for 2022...

### **Alex James**

Hi everyone, I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Safeguarding and Inclusivity Officer, taking over from Andrew Clough. Thank you so much to him for his time in the role!



Hopefully, some of you will already know me from the weekly mix-in sessions. I've been a member at the club for almost two years and am pleased to be able to contribute in some way to the running of this welcoming club.

Having played a lot of tennis growing up and then not playing regularly for a long time, I am really enjoying getting back into the sport.

My professional role as a primary teacher at the New Forest Small School in Lyndhurst means that I already have some background and experience in safeguarding.

If you ever have any questions or concerns around safeguarding at the club, please be aware that I am happy to be contacted at any time. See contact details under Safeguarding below.



### **Sally Cleary**

Hi everyone, you will probably recognise my name as I'm the new Membership Secretary demanding money from you to pay your subs! I'm the one to contact if you change your contact details, have friends who'd like to join the club - or lose your key to the Clubhouse!

I joined back in 2019 and was immediately made to feel very welcome at a club where I knew no-one. The Box Leagues and Club matches are a great way to socialise and we are very lucky to have such excellent coaching to help us to improve our game.

Meeting new people at the mix-in sessions and being able to practise without match pressure is wonderful. The way these sessions are run on a 'turn-up-and-play' basis is friendly and relaxed; it's possible to play mixed doubles several times a week without ever having to take the trouble to find partners or to book a court! I think that this contributes to the very special atmosphere that we all appreciate.

### **CLUB WEBSITE**

The Club website ([www.lyndhursttennis.com](http://www.lyndhursttennis.com)) is intended to be a useful tool for all members. Visit the website to find all sorts of information about your Club. If you've recently joined the Club please take a look in the Members' Area to find guidance for new members.



We aim to keep the website up to date, so if you think something is incorrect or missing please let us know. **Angus Brown**

### **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](#).

## MAINTENANCE

All hands on deck... please

General maintenance around the grounds and courts is largely carried out by volunteers. One member in particular, Andrew Clough, spends a lot of time and effort keeping the lawns trim, weeds at bay and generally making sure the grounds look as good as they do. Thanks also goes to Mike Downton who planted and maintains the flowerbed by Court 3.



However, it's important that all members do their bit to help maintain the condition of the courts by sweeping clear any debris, leaves and seeds etc before play. Replacement of the courts' surface is expensive and it's up to us to try to delay this cost for as long as possible.

The courts are now ready for their major 'Spring Clean' to remove the moss and the worst of the mud that can be seen after a huge downpour. Calls for volunteers to help with this will go out soon. But in the meantime, if anyone would like to contribute in any way, or has any bright ideas on how to keep the Club looking its best, please get in touch with any member of the committee and we'll be more than happy to add you to our workforce!

**Tim Stevenson, Deputy Chairman**

### **It's an ill wind**

Storm Eunice wreaked havoc over much of the UK on Friday 18th February with winds of more than a100mph recorded locally. Unfortunately, the club didn't escape her ravages and seven metal posts were dramatically bent back from their concrete foundation

These will of course need to be dug out and replaced. It seems that the club insurance will cover the damage (subject to a small excess). On a brighter note, the daffodils planted by a volunteer team last Autumn have now appeared in their full glory. **Tony Roe**



## SAFEGUARDING

Lyndhurst LTC is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults who use the club. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding at the Club please contact the Welfare Officer Alex James on [alexandclairjames@gmail.com](mailto:alexandclairjames@gmail.com) or 07772790609

### **Covid**

At the time of producing this newsletter (mid March) there are no government restrictions concerning Covid. However, with infections on the rise we should continue to keep each other safe by using the hand sanitiser and respecting sensible social distancing. Some members are still understandably cautious and may also be protecting vulnerable family members at home.

## **GOOD TO KNOW**

### **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.

## **LATEST NEWS & EVENTS**

The Club is delighted to be able to offer a Ukrainian refugee family membership to the Club during their time in the UK. This came about as a request to one of our members from the local neighbour who is sponsoring them. We look forward to giving them the warmest of welcomes. If you have any spare racquets or other tennis gear you would like to donate please contact one of the committee.

Look out for some upcoming summer events to include a barbecue and Club Tournament Day. If you have any stories/news/photos you would like to include in our Summer newsletter please send to Kate Chambers at [Katec9929@gmail.com](mailto:Katec9929@gmail.com)

Many thanks to member David Lock for his excellent Spring cartoon.