

HANNEY TENNIS CLUB

SEASON 2011-2012

NEWSLETTER No.3 – January 2012

From the Umpire's Chair

Best Wishes to all club members from your committee for the New - Jubilee and Olympic - Year! Will it also be a Murray Wimbledon year?

So far this winter has not lived up to the Siberian forecasts, allowing good tennis to be played on some even balmy evenings. Some fine 'Silly' hats were on view on the Club Tuesday evening session before Christmas, and seven members detoxified on Boxing Day.

There have been few major issues since the last Newsletter, perhaps the most worrying being the tendency of the courts to become more slippery than usual – see Maintenance below. A major contributing factor to adhesion on court is one's tennis shoes, and members are urged to make sure theirs have good treads. Shoes do wear out more quickly than one might hope! Also the clubhouse floor becomes very slippery if wet – so please wipe your shoes on the mat and take care!

We must now look forward to our **AGM on 20 February 7.30 pm** HWMH (bar requested), and the new season ahead. There are a number of important points to discuss at the AGM including a change in our constitution as recommended by the LTA, so please do come along and contribute to the betterment of your club!

Sign-Up Day for the new season will be on **Sunday 1 April 10.00 to 12.30** in the clubhouse, when the court lock will be changed. Please renew your membership then or as soon as possible afterwards with Gill Thompson, and enter the Club Tournament – especially you Ladies! Also state if you, as a British Tennis member, wish to enter the Wimbledon ticket ballot. Usually there is only a week or two after Sign-Up Day before the Tournament draw and Wimbledon ballot take place. David Smith will be running another **American Tournament on 15 April 10.00**, when the Tournament Draw will also take place

Currently Winter League matches are at an intermediate stage, and our Box League has started a new round.

Our treasurer Jim Gulliver is resigning after the AGM, and so there is an opportunity for a member to take his place for the new season and really help the club. We only need one volunteer! Many thanks to Jim for his help over the past two seasons.

This issue contains a short 'Memo' from Edith Craig, our founder Chair. Please follow her example and contribute your thoughts or reminiscences in an article.

We must congratulate Bob Wilson on his successful expedition to the South Pole, skiing and pulling a sledge of equipment over 100 miles. Bob is of course well known for his many brave expeditions, but this must have been the most adventurous so far! Another member, Adrian Hodges, showed his talents stretch way beyond the tennis court, and those of us who witnessed his excellent screenplay can only envy 'His' Week with Marilyn! Another BAFTA? Maybe Mrs T will have a say! Personally I prefer Marilyn.

Sorry to emphasise the point again, but we do encourage all members to join British Tennis at <http://www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/>. It is free, and all BT members get a chance of winning the opportunity to buy a pair of Wimbledon tickets. The number of tickets allocated to the club is in proportion to the number of enrolled BT members we have on 31 January – so act now!

Again - no apologies for once again repeating some important notices at the end of this newsletter.

Michael Hutchings
Chair

AGM Agenda

As well as the usual items there are a number of points the committee wishes us to discuss on 20 February. These are listed below so that you can consider them beforehand! If you have any item for inclusion please let our secretary, Sarah Kitt, know.

- Change of Constitution – as the LTA wishes. To see, go to www.lta.org.uk and search 'Proforma G'.
- Junior Club Sessions.
- Club Child Policy.
- Possible Men's C Team?
- Friendlies – nature of matches.
- Practice wall
- Wimbledon Draw Rules.

The Committee

Membership

At present we have 132 members. Of these 38 are juniors, which is very healthy. We have 10 winter members from Wantage tennis club who are included in the above numbers. The total number of members is very similar to last year.

Gillian Thompson

Maintenance

Although they seemed in much better shape than last year, we decided to have the courts cleaned in October, since a few complaints had been made about their slipperiness. However cleaning seemed to make only a slight improvement, and more complaints were made! We contacted the firm Sports Courts UK Ltd. who did the painting and cleaning, and after a court visit Chris Rolph suggested an objective test. Consequently this was carried out by Scott Ward of SC Sports Technical on 12 December in damp conditions, using a scientific pendulum machine developed originally for testing motorways! This showed that the places tested on both courts were satisfactory – giving readings of 60-67, above the minimum level for safety of 60. That is all except one test on court 2 nearest the bus shelter which gave 57 on the white line nearest the road. Indeed our experience is that the white lines can be very slippery when wet. He recommended re-painting the lines, but not until the Spring. Also, if necessary, we could repaint critical areas with a more slip resistant paint used for netball courts.

Remember – good tennis shoes with ribbed soles are essential!

Michael Hutchings

Our Coach

David Smith, Hanney Tennis Club resident coach, has been coaching tennis at three Oxfordshire clubs, plus developing links between local school-and clubs, for the past ten years. Previously he has worked at the Vale of White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre. David is a LTA licensed coach recently qualifying as a Club Coach level 3. David has over 30 years playing experience and currently represents Hanney in the Wilson league and Thames Valley league teams.

David has developed both Junior and Adult coaching programmes within the clubs he works at. David is looking forward to the coming season with Hanney Tennis Club helping to create a vibrant coaching culture and building upon the existing programmes on offer. He is especially keen to increase the adult coaching programme by offering both 'Beginners' and 'Rusty Rackets' sessions to new members and those who wish to brush up upon their skills.

So if anybody would like to improve their game and get the most out of tennis, both in enjoyment and technical/tactical terms, please contact him at:- Home 01235 768204, mobile 07790813710, or email davidcoaching2@tiscali.co.uk
Committee

Coaching

Prior to the Christmas break the coaching scene was quite lively, with three childrens' groups and two adults' groups running. We have three 6-7 year olds, seven 7-11 year olds, and six to eight over 10s receiving weekly coaching on Thursday afternoons. Five adults - three more would be great to fill the course – participate on Monday evenings. Five or six active ladies participate on Thursday mornings, whilst two ladies are having a break due to work commitments and injuries. I am also running my Winter Camps with Wantage Junior Members. Unfortunately the weather has been awful on many days with sessions cancelled, which doesn't help my paying job!!!

David Smith, Coach

Singles Box League

Hanney Tennis Club will be launching its Third Wednesday evening Box League starting January until April 2012. The league is open to all adults of both sexes irrespective of playing standard and is aimed at members who would like to get involved in regular singles activities. The format is very simple. There are three boxes of five to six players. The matches consist of one normal set with a tie break at 6-6 if necessary. Scores are recorded and points awarded for each game won. For example, if Player A wins 6-4 he/she get 6 points awarded, and Player B will get 4. Everybody within the Box plays each other over the period, and the player with the highest points total wins. If in the case of two players having the same point score at the end, then the result of the winner between the two will decide who is in first place. The same applies for the last place. The winner and runner up of box 3 are promoted to box 2, and the last and next

placed player in box 2 will be demoted to box 3. Only 1 player moves up/down between box 1 & 2, the winner of box 1 is the overall champion.

Please don't forget to place your scores in the appropriate section within the boxes. Ideally the matches should be played on Wednesday evenings. This makes good use of the courts. About six matches can be played then, under floodlights. However, if people want to play the match at another time then, as long as there is an available court, then that will be acceptable. A separate booking sheet will be located in the 'Bus Shelter' to avoid clashes.

In the October – December Second Box League, the overall winner of Box 1 was Jonny Cornish, with Oliver Cornish 2nd. Dan Cornish won Box 2 and is promoted to Box 1, well done! Jim Gulliver was a very close 2nd. Tim Bullen won Box 3 and will be joined in Box 2 by Duncan Vale. Very well done both!

We hope everybody enjoys this extra competitive opportunity. There have been some good closely-contested matches.

David Smith, Organiser.

Match Team Reports

Mens A Team

The A team are currently lying fifth after a fast start where we were placed first or second for most of the period leading up to Christmas. We now have games in hand over most of the teams above us and are therefore looking up rather than down! Unfortunately we lost John Culley, our captain, who has a persistent elbow problem. So we have battled on with Tom Bradshaw, Dave Carey and Adrian Noke playing most of the matches. On the positive side, Jonny Cornish, who is many years younger than the rest of us, has come in and done well! Thanks also to Trevor Russell, Ken Lewtas, David Smith and Joe Davis for their contributions to a successful season so far.

Adrian Noke, Acting Captain

Mens B Team

Hanney Mens B team started the Thames Valley Winter Tennis League with two wins and a draw. We then lost three matches in a row before Christmas. After the New Year we have achieved a draw against Wantage Mens D team. We are currently sitting in the lower half of the table and need some good results against some strong opposition in our remaining six matches if we are to retain our position in the league.

It has been great to see some of our younger members playing for the B Team this season, in particular Jonny Cornish who has played some very competitive and hard hitting tennis.

David Corps, Captain

Ladies Team

We are at present halfway through the winter matches. We have found it hard as we still are without Heather McAlpine, and Jan Lewtas and myself have had injuries. But we are hoping that this will improve and that we will have a stronger second half.

Gina Davis, Captain

Club Sessions

As usual these are:-

Sunday: Morning Club Session: 10.00-13.00

Tuesday: Evening Club Session: 19.00- 22.00

These are occasions for all Seniors, and Juniors by invitation, to come and play. All standards are welcome. The sessions provide a good opportunity to practise and perfect your play – so do come along! Attendance has been good this autumn, and has led to some excellent sessions. It is very pleasing to see our new members enthusiastically taking part.

Michael Hutchings

Memo from a Member

As 2011 drew to a close, I found myself thinking that I've had yet another good year on the tennis courts. It's hard to believe that it has been almost 25 years since I first took up membership of Hanney Tennis Club. During this time :-

- Members have come and gone.
- New faces, with enthusiasm and good ideas, have joined.
- Committees have changed, but the high standard of decision making has remained.
- Floodlights have been erected.
- A clubhouse has been built – now with a loo!
- Teams have been formed that are competitive in tournaments at a local level – but let's not forget 'the friendlies'.
- Coaching is available at all levels.
- Court maintenance, as always, is to a high level with forward thinking.
- Membership subscriptions have been kept to an affordable level for anyone interested in joining the club.
- So – let us look forward to another year of friendship, fun and fulfilment.

KEEP PLAYING – AND HAVE A VERY GOOD NEW YEAR!

Edith Craig (Founding Chair).

Reminders of Important Points - PLEASE READ!

Court Bookings

Each member may book only one hour per week, and each family two hours per week, and only one week ahead. Of course anytime the courts are free, any member can play. Any regular booking (Coaching, Matches, Club Sessions) have absolute priority for the full allotted time. However it was agreed at 2011 AGM that if a court becomes free before the end of such regular booked time, it may be used as long as there is no interference with the booked activity.

Ball Sales

Gina Davis (820866) looks after the club balls for matches and the Tournament. She has tubes of 4 balls for sale at £5 per tube.

Light Tokens

Each light token gives 20 min. of play and costs £1. They may now be obtained from six members:- Bob Wilson (868389), Clive Fewins (868378), Mike Hutchings (868256), Jim Gulliver (764996), David Gahan (868933) and Gill Thompson (868261). Please phone first before collecting tokens to save a fruitless journey.

Help the Treasurer

When paying in money or requesting payment of a bill, please give full details to the treasurer. Keep each transaction separate, and state in a note or on an envelope exactly what it is for, and whether cash or a cheque is involved.

Guests

Each member can bring guests to play on his/her booking. Costs are £2 per adult, £1 per Junior/Youth. All guests **MUST** be signed in on the Guest Sheet for insurance purposes (LTA imperative). Each member should pay the fees directly to the Treasurer once a few guests have been signed in. They should then write 'Paid' on the Guest Sheet. Otherwise the treasurer will chase up the fee.

First Aid Kit and Accidents

A First Aid Kit is in the Clubhouse above the sink. Please note all on-court accidents, however minor, in the Accident Log Book kept near the First Aid Kit. This is also an LTA imperative, as it could lead to a compensation claim.

Lost Property

Kept in the box by the ball cupboard. Please retrieve anything you have left behind.

Key Diary Dates

British Tennis Membership – sign-up! Numbers count is on 30 January 2012

New Box Leagues Start January until April 2012.

AGM Monday 20 February 2012, 7.30 pm, Olde Hanney Room.

Sign-Up day Sunday 1 April, 10.00 to 12.30, Clubhouse.

American Tournament Sunday 15 April, 10.00 onwards.

Club Tournament Finals Day, Sunday 15 July

Adult-Junior Tournament and BBQ – September

Your Committee

Chair & (temporary) Friendly co-ordinator- Michael Hutchings

Vice Chair & Web Manager – Tom Bradshaw

Secretary – Sarah Kitt

Treasurer – Jim Gulliver (**Vacancy after 20 February**).

Membership Secretary & Promotion – Gill Thompson.

Maintenance – Bob Wilson.

Tournament Director – Trevor Russell

Social and Junior Activities – David Gahan

Coach – David Smith.

Other Key Members

Men's A Team – Adrian Noke (standing in for John Culley)

Men's B Team – David Corps

Ladies' Team – Gina Davis

Mixed Team – Chris Noke

Newsletter sub-Editor & Promotion – Clive Fewins

Suggestions

If you have any suggestions or concerns, please mention these to a Committee Member. All contributions to the Club Newsletters are very welcome.