**LYDNEY TENNIS CLUB**

**NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2014**

Hello and welcome one and all to a new season of tennis.

As you are all no doubt aware, it’s been a challenging and frustrating winter for those who have battled with the elements to get to the courts, and even more so for Martin who has had to do battle with the Town Council/Recreation Trust over the bridge.

If, like me, you thought the role of the Town Council might be to assist organisations like ourselves who provide an amenity for the people of Lydney and the surrounding area – think again!

As a club, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Martin whose supply of patience and determination has been endless. I think the Town Council was expecting the club just to roll over and accept their decision. Little did they expect press coverage, letters, poems, petitions…. Underestimate devoted tennis players at your peril!

This support, together with regularly seeing all the courts in action despite the dark, muddy, slippery walk to get there, has been one of the most encouraging aspects of the whole sorry saga and the best possible response to the Town Council’s efforts to make life as difficult as possible for us.

There may be a twist or two in the story yet so keep an eye on your inbox for the final episodes…..

We are optimistic that there will be a happy ending, but if there isn’t, it’s certainly not for the lack of trying.

On a lighter note, despite the wettest winter for centuries (or whatever it was) we managed to just about escape flooding. Whether this was divine intervention or the work of the Environment Agency, who knows, but I think the club was due a bit of luck.

**OPEN DAY – SATURDAY 29TH MARCH - TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!**

Free Entry - Rackets available - Balls provided

Juniors 5 – 7 years - 10.00 am – 10.45 am

Juniors 8 – 11 years - 10.45 am – 11.30 am

Junior Cardio 8 – 16 years - 11.30 am – 12.15 pm

Juniors 11+ - 12.15 pm – 1.00 pm

Adult Cardio - 2.00 pm – 2.45 pm

Adults - 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm

As usual we have advertised this widely in local schools etc but word-of-mouth is invaluable, so please tell anyone you know who may be interested.

It would also be good to have some extra members of the club at the event to help/add atmosphere etc, so if anyone can spare an hour or two or even just half an hour then please come along. Also, we will be selling refreshments so any contributions of cake (homemade or otherwise) etc would be much appreciated.

Fingers crossed for a sunny day and look forward to seeing you there.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday 29th March Open Day 10 am – 4.00 pm.

Saturday 5th April Opening Saturday of the 2014 season 2.00 pm Please bring a contribution to refreshments.

Wednesday 23rd April Junior Clubnight begins 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm.

Saturday 3rd May Arthur Lambert Tournament.

Wednesday 14th May Dean Academy Road to Wimbledon Tournament.

Saturday 17th May Lydney Tennis Club Road to Wimbledon Tournament.

Saturday 24th May Junior Tournament.

End of May Entry for Club Championships opens.

Saturday 12th July Second Open Day and BBQ plus Junior/Senior Tournament at 2.00 pm.

Mid-July Entry for Club Championships closes.

Saturday 19th July Ann Bayliss Tournament.

August Bank Holiday weekend Club Championship matches begin.

Saturday 6th September Junior Club Championship Tournament.

Saturday 13th September Junior and Senior Club Championships Finals Day.

Saturday 4th October Phillis Beeley Tournament.

October – Club Awards Evening – Date to be confirmed.

In addition to these, there are all the usual activities – Monday Clubnight from 6/6.30 pm, Tuesday 7.00 pm Ladies Team Practice, Wednesday 6.00 pm Mens Team Practice and 7.00 – 8.00 pm Cardio Tennis, Sunday 3.00 pm Social Tennis and Fraser’s coaching takes place on Thursdays 4.00 – 9.00 pm and Sundays 9.00 am – 3.00 pm.

The Fixtures Planner (thank you Alan) will be appearing shortly in the clubhouse and will give all these dates plus all the summer league fixtures and all the junior matches. As last year, a calendar will be emailed to you each month reminding you what’s happening.

**SUBS 2014 - DUE 1ST APRIL**

New rates for this year are as follows:

Adult - £104 (£100)

Family - £166 (£160)

Young Person (18-23) - £42 (£40)

Junior - £32 (£30)

10 and under Junior - £10 - No change

Country - £50 - No change

Over 65 - £50 - No change

Last year’s rates are given in brackets. If you pay by 31st March you can pay at last year’s prices, so get your cheques (made payable to Lydney Tennis Club) to John Martyn, 34 Grove Road, Lydney, GL15 5JG.

All subs are due by 31st May at the latest and any paid after this date will incur a £5 per month charge. Please don’t forget that under LTA regulations, if you play for the club in one of the teams you should pay your subs before the first match.

When you consider that there are no extra charges for balls or the use of floodlights, this is probably the best value tennis in Gloucestershire….

**BRITISH TENNIS MEMBERSHIP**

This is our annual reminder to any of you who haven’t signed up for British Tennis Membership to please take a few minutes to go online and join ([www.lta.org.ul/membership](http://www.lta.org.ul/membership)).

Or there are plenty of application forms in the clubhouse if you prefer.

This year ALL team players must have a BTM number and must be linked to Lydney Tennis Club as their Place to Play. It is possible to be linked to more than one Place to Play, for any of you who are members of another club.

The more of our members who sign up, the more Wimbledon tickets we are allocated. This year we have been allocated just 5 pairs of tickets and with 20 applying, there are going to be quite a lot of disappointed people. Mike Wyatt has kindly agreed to organise the ballot for us this year and tickets will be drawn shortly – good luck!

**WINTER LEAGUE**

Despite the rain, all matches were played and the team finished 4th in their division with a respectable 80 points.

Thanks to all who played: Jan & Dave James, Nikki, Martin, Mike, Cindy, Tony, Julia, Gill.

Anyone who hasn’t played in this mixed doubles league and would like to, please contact Nikki some time before the autumn (01594 368031/07962 022044/nikkisalter@mail.com).

**TEAM NEWS**

Three Mens Teams and 2 Ladies Teams will again be entered in the Dunlop Gloucestershire Summer Leagues. Here’s to a successful and injury-free season….

As for the juniors, in 2012 we entered 3 teams, in 2013 we entered 5 and this year we have entered 7 teams in the Aegon Junior League. This rivals the number entered by the biggest clubs in the county and is testament to a very active and increasing junior membership. Good luck to all the players.

**CARDIO TENNIS**

If you haven’t yet tried one of Fraser’s Adult Cardio sessions – you just don’t know what you’ve been missing.

It’s for both men and women of any age, it improves your fitness and your tennis and is really good fun. It takes place on Wednesday evenings 7.00 – 8.00 pm. £5 per session.

If you would like to book on a session or would like more information please text or call Fraser on 07590 479901.

**COACHING**

Coaching continues for adults and juniors on Thursdays and Sundays, again text or call Fraser on 07590 479901 or email fraserdrew@hotmail.co.uk for more info.

**BONUS BALL**

Julia has taken over the administration of the Bonus Ball this year and we currently have 103 people taking part. This means that the first prize each month is £70 and the second prize is £33.

At the end of last year you will recall that the Bonus Ball enabled us to fund our part of the new floodlights on Courts 1 and 2. The next fundraising target is to replace all the surround netting – a major expense.

As things stand, we currently have enough in the Club’s account to pay for any repairs to the bridge, assuming we do eventually get ownership. In the longer term, we would also need to look to replacing it, which would require some fundraising to match any potential grants etc – but perhaps we are getting a bit ahead of ourselves….. So there are no shortage of things to spend our money on.

The main point is that the money the Bonus Ball raises has made a big difference to the facilities at the club and, thanks to you all, will continue to do so.

**THANK YOU**

A few well earned thank yous…

To Martin for all his hard work on every front.

To those members of the Town Council/Recreation Trust who have supported the club.

To The Forester for their coverage and Mark Harper’s office for their interest.

To everyone who took part in the petition campaign, attended meetings, wrote letters and poems, came up with ideas etc.

To Fraser who has continued to coach throughout.

And to all who continued to use the courts, despite everything.

HAPPY TENNIS EVERYONE!!