

LYDNEY TENNIS CLUB

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2015

WELCOME and congratulations! If you are reading this you are a member of Gloucestershire's Tennis Club of the Year 2014 – 2015.

Thanks as ever to Martin who took on the task of filling in all the necessary paperwork, and there was a lot – this is the LTA we're talking about....

We were given the award for several reasons – overcoming the difficulties posed by the lack of access to the club when the bridge was out of use and still maintaining our membership levels; a thriving junior membership with good participation in junior league tennis; attracting and maintaining new adult members – and just for being such a wonderful bunch of people!! As you may have seen from the email which was sent at the time, the £500 prize money will be going towards equipment for the mini-reds and painting mini-orange markings on 2 of the courts to enable the young juniors to compete in league matches.

The club has been well used over the winter months with coaching continuing and good attendance at clubnight.

The courts are due for cleaning 2nd/3rd April and Courts 3 & 4 will also be re-painted so we will all be set for the new season. Enjoy your tennis!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday 22nd March - Open Day - 1 – 4 pm - All welcome

Tuesday 14th April - Cardio Tennis starts - More details to follow

Wednesday 15th April - Junior Clubnight starts - 4.30 – 6.00 pm - All juniors welcome.

Sunday 3rd May - Road to Wimbledon Competition (Lydney TC)

Saturday 9th May - Arthur Lambert Tournament

Sunday 10th May - Junior Tournament

Thursday 14th May - Road to Wimbledon Competition (The Dean Academy) - 9 am – 3 pm

Sunday 19th July - Second Open Day + Junior/Senior Tournament

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TENNIS FACT: A TENNIS BALL WEIGHS 56.69 G OR 2 OUNCES.

Saturday 15th August - Ann Bayliss Tournament

August Bank Holiday weekend - Club Championships begin

Saturday 5th September - Junior Tournament

Saturday 12th September - Club Championships Finals Day (Juniors & Seniors)

Saturday 3rd October - Phillis Beeley Tournament

Saturday 17th October - Annual Awards Evening. Venue TBC.

SUBS 2015 – DUE 1ST APRIL

The new rates for 2015 are as follows with last year's subs in brackets.

Adult: £108 (£104)

Family: £170 (£166)

Young Person (18-23): £45 (£42)

Student: £20 #

Junior: £35 (£32)

U10 Junior: £12 (£10)

Country: £55 (£50)

Over 65: £55 (£50)

At the AGM a new Student membership category was agreed. This is designed for students who are away at University but still want to remain as members and be able to play during vacations and be eligible to represent the club in matches.

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 or pay by BACS (full details in a recent email).

All subs are due by 31st May at the latest. 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.

ERNIE SMITH

It is with great sadness that we learned that Ernie passed away in October last year.

Many of you will have known Ernie who was a member of the club for many years. He was a real character and had lived a varied and interesting life. Those who played with him will, I'm sure, fondly remember his rather unorthodox tennis style but he was a true sportsman and unfailingly kind and courteous to everyone. In particular, he always had an encouraging word for the younger players.

He was a lovely man and will always be remembered affectionately by all here who knew him. Cindy, Pat and Julia represented the club at his funeral.

MIXED WINTER FLOODLIT LEAGUE

Unfortunately we were unable to enter a team in this year's winter league but we certainly intend to enter a team for the 2015/2016 season. For those of you who are new to the club, this is a mixed doubles league and matches are played against other clubs in Gloucestershire. It is a great way of ensuring that you don't hibernate completely over the winter months. New players are always welcome to join the hardy band who regularly brave the elements! Entries for next winter have to be made in August so a reminder email will be winging its way to your inbox at the end of the summer.

TEAM NEWS

For the coming season we have 6 junior teams entered in the Aegon Junior League (our U18 Boys won their division last year), 3 senior Men's teams (our B team won their division last year too) and 2 Ladies' teams.

Just a reminder that under LTA regulations, players representing the club in matches must have paid their subscriptions before the first match of the season.

Good luck to everyone taking part!

BONUS BALL

At the time of writing we have 100 members in the Bonus Ball which means that each month the first prize will be £70 and the second prize £30. The money raised will supplement grants already secured to clean all 4 courts and repaint courts 3 & 4. If you are new to the club and have no idea what this is all about, please contact Julia who organises the scheme (Tel: 517117 or julia_goss@yahoo.co.uk). It's still not too late to join. We don't have a rollover and it may not make you a multi-millionaire but the odds of winning are far better than the National Lottery!

WIMBLEDON BALLOT

Good news! We have just heard that this year we have been allocated 11 pairs of Wimbledon tickets, more than twice as many as last year. The allocation is based on the number of BTM members who have opted in to the ballot on the LTA website, so thank you to all of those who have done so. We will be carrying out the draw in early April and we'll be emailing you with further details shortly.

Mike Wyatt – Ballot Administrator

TENNIS FACT: YELLOW BALLS WERE USED AT WIMBLEDON FOR THE 1ST TIME IN 1986.

AWARDS EVENING 2014

There was a good turnout for our 4th annual Awards Evening which took place on Saturday 18th October at The Annexe in Lydney. Tony and Ruth again organised a very enjoyable quiz and, as always, members donated some great prizes for the raffle. Fraser, as outgoing coach, presented the awards. The winners of the various awards were as follows:

JUNIORS

Early Season Tournament: Joe Moore

Junior/Senior Tournament: George Ieli & Luke Pratt

Junior Player of the Year: COSTNER LANE

Junior Champion: BEN HOWELLS (RUNNER UP MATT LEACH)

Young Junior Champion: Oliver Wong

Junior Club Player of the Year: Rory Davies

Coach's Award: Matt Leach & Ben Howells

National Junior Club League Players: 31 in total!

Boys U18 – Division Winners – Matt George, Matt McGirr, Harry, George

ADULTS

Ann Bayliss: Mike Wyatt & Andrea Bailey

Arthur Lambert: Harry Hale

Phillis Beeley: Ben Howells, George Davies, Caroline Stanley

Senior Club Player of the Year: Mike Wyatt

Ladies Singles Champion: BETH WILSON (RUNNER UP CAROLINE STANLEY)

Men's Singles Champion: FRASER DREW (RUNNER UP COSTNER LANE)

Ladies Doubles: BETH & JENNI WILSON (RUNNERS UP BARBARA FIRMAN & CINDY IELI)

Men's Doubles: DAVE REID & COSTNER LANE (RUNNERS UP GEORGE IELI & MATT MCGIRR)

Mixed Doubles: CINDY IELI & MIKE WYATT (RUNNERS UP HARRY HALE & ZENA JENKINS)

Men's B Team – Division Winners – Tony, Simon, Mike, Dave R, Harry, Costner & Matt G (Harry was the highest ranked player in the division).

For this year we are hoping to use The Annexe which, as a venue, works really well, but maybe without the catering. Those attending could then provide a dish for the buffet; this would certainly help to reduce the cost of tickets.

Although finer details are still a bit vague at the moment, the date for the Awards Evening will be **Saturday 17th October**, so if you are lucky enough to win any club tournaments this year, please try and keep this date free and come along – the evening is much more meaningful when the winners are there to receive their award in person.....

COACHING NEWS

The spring coaching programme is now well underway and so far the weather has been very kind, if a little cold!

Mini Tennis continues on a Thursday evening and Sunday morning and some fantastic improvements have been made over the winter. The children have a great attitude to learning and this shows in their tennis development.

Ladies beginner sessions have kicked off to a great start and there's some real potential among the ladies. I would say it's only a matter of time before they're playing for the teams!

Bookings are still being taken for the Junior Easter Camp on Tuesday 31st March. I will be running these sessions alongside fellow coach Chris Davis (Senior LTA Coach). Chris is one of the most experienced and talented coaches I know, having worked with him for a number of years. I would encourage as many of you as possible to take up this opportunity of a fantastic day of coaching.

Chris and I will also be running a 4 week adult coaching course starting on 16th April. This follows the successful 'Dynamic Doubles' course run by Chris last October. This is expected to be a very popular course so again I would recommend that you book your place as soon as possible.

There will be a few new sessions coming to the programme in April. Firstly Tots Tennis, which will take place on Thursday afternoons. This is for pre-school children and will be delivered by my assistant coach Ayse. Ayse has lots of experience working with children of this age. These sessions will develop their agility, balance and coordination and allow them to learn the very basics of the game.

Secondly, Cardio Tennis will be up and running from 14th April. I know many of you have been patiently waiting for this and for those of you that have never tried it, it's a fun, tennis-based fitness group designed to improve your fitness and burn calories. It is suitable for all abilities, even if you have never played tennis before. More Cardio sessions will be added in the near future.

Well done to all of you that have signed up and played box league matches. The feedback I have received has been very positive and I've heard that some fantastic matches have taken place. The next round of matches will be starting soon and I will keep you updated.

Full details of all coaching sessions can be found on the coaching section of the website or by emailing me at coaching@lydneytennisclub.net

Don't forget we have a very active Facebook page which is updated regularly with club and coaching news – if you haven't already done so, please 'like' our page!

Keep playing and enjoying your tennis this summer.

Rachael

LOST PROPERTY

There are a large number of (mainly children's) sweatshirts and other items which have been left at the club. They are in a pile on a seat in the clubhouse – if you may have lost something please have a look next time you are down at the club.

DON'T FORGET, THIS IS YOUR TENNIS CLUB – IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE. MOST OF YOU WILL KNOW WHO WE ARE, BUT ALL OUR CONTACT DETAILS, TOGETHER WITH SOME RATHER UNFLATTERING PHOTOS OF US ALL, CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE!!

HERE'S TO AN ENJOYABLE TENNIS SEASON.

TENNIS FACT: IVO KARLOVIC HOLDS THE RECORD FOR THE FASTEST SERVE IN THE MEN'S GAME. DURING A DAVIS CUP TIE IN 2011 HE SERVED AT 251 KM/HR (155MPH).