

LYDNEY TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

Well, here we are again, another year has rolled around and we are all poised, like the finely tuned athletes we are, ready to leap into the 2017 season.

Or, more likely, we are still struggling with the excesses of Christmas or trying to kick off the winter blues. Either way, a new season of tennis is the answer!

There was so much going on last year and this year promises to continue in the same vein, so read on.....

Just a quick reminder of these two events as they are happening soon!

OPEN DAY – SUNDAY 5TH MARCH 1.00 – 4.00 PM

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH – MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS FROM 1.00 PM

CLUB FACILITIES

As most of you are aware, there have been issues over the winter with our water supply – or lack of it. A little background info on the situation: our water supply comes via the Cricket Club and over the winter, when their pavilion is not in use, they prefer to turn the water supply off to prevent the pipes freezing. Consequently, during those times we also have no water. This has been the situation since the club first started and normally the water is only turned off for short spells during really cold weather. However this year it was off

for a couple of months. This happened despite agreeing with the Cricket Club last September a means of ensuring that even when they turned off their supply, ours would still continue. They were more than happy for us to undertake the work but it has taken so long because we felt we ought to secure the permission of our landlords, the Recreation Trust, by which time the person who was doing the work was too busy/the ground was frozen etc.

However, a couple of weeks ago the work was completed and we now have our own independent water supply. So, one major problem solved and the season proper has barely started.

Thank you all for your patience – playing cross-legged adds a whole new challenge to the game!

The other major issue we have is sewage. In case you happen to be tucking in to a bacon sandwich whilst reading this, I'll spare you the gruesome details. In short, our septic tank is no longer functioning and, even if it were, it no longer meets legal requirements and needs to be replaced. There are background discussions going on between us, our solicitors and the Trust as to which of us is responsible for the not inconsiderable cost of replacing the tank. Regardless of who ends up paying for it, it is something which needs to be done urgently (no pun intended!). It is proving difficult to get detailed quotes for the job as it probably won't be clear until they start what exactly it will entail. The only thing that is certain is that it will be a major expense which, at the moment, the club would struggle to afford.

But it's not all doom and gloom, there are positives on the clubhouse front.

Cath Hutchinson has kindly volunteered to take on supervising the 'housekeeping' at the club and has also organised a cleaning rota etc. She has replaced lots of things around the clubhouse which have

made a real difference to the feel of the place – new blinds, shower curtain, washing up bowl, Hoover etc etc. Obviously, it doesn't alter the fact that the facilities need major refurbishment but until that can be done, it does make the clubhouse a much better place – so huge thanks to Cath and everyone else who has contributed in one way or another.

On a related note, the clubhouse looked amazing at Christmas after Rachael and team had decorated it for the juniors' Christmas party. Thanks for that too!

In the coming few weeks, the toilets and changing rooms are going to have a quick lick of paint just to make them a little more welcoming for the coming season, but again a complete refurbishment of these areas is on our wish list.

A couple of club members have also kindly volunteered to paint the practice wall and also woodstain the outside panels.

A local builder has recently visited the club and given us a very detailed quote for everything from a complete refurb/rebuild down to painting and decorating. We are waiting for another quote from a different builder to get some idea of what amounts we are looking at.

Alongside this, a local charity, FACT (Forest Active Community Trust) are looking into funding possibilities on our behalf for anything from refurbishments to a complete rebuild and also to see if they are able to secure funding to replace the surround netting, as our bid last year was unsuccessful. So fingers crossed that we may be able to get some financial help with at least one of the projects on our list.

FUNDRAISING

Whilst FACT are looking for funding for the large projects, the club continues with its own fundraising in terms of the BONUS BALL. You will have received emails about this and if you haven't yet responded you still have time to buy a number. It costs £24 per year half of which goes into club funds and half towards a first and second prize which are drawn each month.

For more details, contact Julia on either 517117 or julia_goss@yahoo.co.uk

In addition, several club members have said they would be prepared to organise fundraising at club events – cake sales, raffles etc

Adrian Goss is also in the process of contacting local businesses to see if they would be willing to offer any sponsorship and in return we will display banners along the netting advertising their businesses.

If you want to get involved in any of this or have other ideas regarding fundraising, please contact any member of the committee.

PEOPLE NEWS

Every year, Gloucestershire LTA asks for nominations from the county's clubs for various awards which are presented at the same time as the league trophies at the county AGM.

Martin proposed nominations for club members in 3 of the categories and the committee were unanimously in favour of the 3 nominations.

The first nominee was Rachael for Coach of the Year. What Rachael has achieved since becoming our coach in September 2014 is very

impressive and Gloucestershire LTA clearly agreed as she came third in the county.

The second nominee was George Davies for the Mary Eyre Junior Award. We all know George and his achievements on court last season, so we were delighted, but not surprised that George was named as winner of this award. He was able to attend and collect the award in person.

Last but not least, the third nominee was our very own Maisie Hoggard in the Outstanding Achievement category. Maisie has been a member of the club from the very start in 1952 and has seen it go through many changes. She was our Chairman for many years and is now the club's Life President. She still plays league tennis and played in every B Team match last season, helping them win their division by 9 clear points! Whichever club you go to in the county, all the lady players know Maisie and have huge respect for her (and that left-handed sliced backhand!). Maisie was completely unaware that she had been nominated, let alone that she ended up as joint winner of the category. She thought she was going with Caroline just to pick up the trophy for the B team! Unfortunately, Maisie was unwell at the last moment and was unable to attend which was a real shame.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WORTHY WINNERS!

LEAGUE NEWS

Last year the Men fielded 3 teams in the Gloucestershire League and the Ladies put in 2 teams.

The Men's A Team came a very good third in Division 2A whilst the B Team unfortunately finished last in Division 3A and will be playing in Division 4 this season. The C Team had an excellent season finishing top in Division 6B and will therefore be going up to Division 5.

The Ladies' A Team endured a very frustrating season in Division 2B – eleven of the matches were decided by a third set tie break – nine of which were lost. Hello Division 3!

The B Team fortunately fared much better and won Division 5A by 9 clear points – an impressive achievement. They will be playing in Division 4 this season.

The ladies are going from strength to strength largely due to a combination of Rachael's coaching, an influx of new, keen lady members and Caroline re-igniting Tuesday practice sessions and getting record numbers of ladies on court. So much so that, for the coming season, we have entered a C Team into the league – the first time for many years. There is such a large pool of lady players wanting to play league tennis that it is not inconceivable that we may even be able to run a D team in the 2018 season. But let's not get ahead of ourselves!! For now, we wish Cath (who has agreed to be captain) and the C team luck for their first season.

JUNIOR TEAMS

2016 was another very successful junior season – 7 teams entered the Aegon league with 32 juniors playing. The 16 & Under Boys did particularly well, finishing second in their division. The club received a plaque from the county to congratulate us on our 'excellent organisation and commitment'. So thank you to all who played, supported, organised, provided transport, encouragement etc. We again have 7 teams playing in the coming season, so good luck to all of them.

WINTER LEAGUE

Good news! The final match of the season was played last week, and although we are still waiting for our friends from East Glos to enter the score, I am pleased to announce that Lydney will be promoted to

Division 5 next season and it looks like we will actually come top on game difference although we have the same number of points as Bourton Vale. A certain justice in this as our first match of the winter season was at home against Bourton Vale and Dave James got injured and was unable to play the second match so we gifted them 4 points.

Thanks to all who braved the changeable weather – onward and upward hopefully next winter.

COACHING NEWS

Phew! It was a full-on year as far as coaching went and we, as a club, are indebted to Rachael for her hard work and enthusiasm.

Quite apart from the coaching, both adult and junior, which ran throughout the year with steadily increasing numbers, Rachael organised many other club events.

The 2016 season started with a bang with the Sport Relief 12 hour Tennisathon. Jason, Rachael's son, came up with the idea and organised the event. It was a tremendous success and much enjoyed by all who took part – in addition the club raised over a thousand pounds for Sport Relief.

Rachael organised 2 very successful Open Days which ran alongside the LTA's Great British Tennis Weekend initiative. Ever willing to try something new to get people playing tennis, she also ran an Open Evening in October to see if that might be a better time to attract more new adult members down to the club. The evening was well attended and may be something to try again this year.

Schools tournaments, coaching in the local primaries, 2 adults doubles courses in conjunction with Chris Davis, Cardio Tennis, 2 very well attended Touch Tennis tournaments and a children's Christmas

Party. That is a pretty impressive list – so get involved, get fit and improve your game – the opportunities are all there!

If that weren't enough, Mark Milburn, a top coach from New Zealand visited during the summer and many members of all ages took advantage of getting some coaching from him.

New for this season is a Boys Performance session and some Men's coaching on a Monday night.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS & CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arthur Lambert Tournament

Winner: George Davies

Runner Up: Cindy Ieli

Ann Bayliss Tournament

Winners: Cath Hutchinson & Phil Hardwick

Phillis Beeley Tournament – NOT PLAYED

Junior/Senior Tournament

Younger Group Winners: Rachael & Neil James

Older Group Winners: Tommy & Adam Wilkins

First Junior Tournament

Group 1 Winner: George Davies

Group 2 Winner: Bethan Gwynne

Group 3 Winner: Luke Bowkett

Group 4 Winner: William Trigg

Club Championships – Adults

Ladies' Singles

Winner: Cath Hutchinson
Runner Up: Cindy Ieli

Men's Singles

Winner: Harry Hale
Runner Up: George Davies

Ladies' Doubles

Winners: Barbara Firman & Cindy Ieli
Runners Up: Janice James & Nikki Salter

Men's Doubles

Winners: Harry Hale & Dave Reid
Runners Up: Matt Leach & Mike Wyatt

Mixed Doubles

Winners: Cindy Ieli & Matt Leach
Runners Up: Barbara Firman & Dave Reid

Club Championships – Juniors

Older Juniors

Winner: George Davies
Runner Up: Ryan Shinnars

Intermediate Juniors

Winner: George McMaster

Runner Up: Charlie Rule

Younger Juniors

Winner: Toby Smith

Runner Up: Rachael James

AWARDS EVENING

This took place in October at Watney Hall in Lydney. The evening was well attended and the venue proved very successful – plenty of room for everyone, good bar and buffet and they also put down the skittles alley for us to use later in the evening which was very popular, especially with some of the juniors.

Caroline organised a quiz in which most people (apart from George and Harry and their team) discovered how little they knew about tennis and the Harry Potter novels – amongst other things!

Chris Davis kindly agreed to present all the awards for the tournaments and the club championships. In addition, he presented some other awards:

All 32 junior players who had represented the club in a team received a certificate.

JUNIOR CLUB PLAYER OF THE YEAR was awarded to Fred Conridge.

SPECIAL JUNIOR AWARD went to Toby Smith

COACH'S AWARD was awarded to Freddie Kemsley

("For his progress and improvement over the last 12 months, his mature attitude in lessons, his willingness to listen and learn and his love of the game. He's a pleasure to teach.")

SENIOR CLUB PLAYER OF THE YEAR went to Cindy Ieli

Chris is such a good ambassador for the sport of tennis; his love and enthusiasm for the game is clear for all to see – his words were motivating and inspirational, especially so for all the young players present. Thank you again Chris!

Thanks to everyone who donated a raffle prize and to Cindy for organising the raffle.

We look forward to an even bigger and better event next year.

WIMBLEDON BALLOT

Most of you are probably aware that in order to be eligible for the club's allocation of Wimbledon tickets you need to have a BTM (British Tennis Membership) number and have opted in to be part of the Wimbledon ballot on the LTA website. Getting a BTM number is very easy to do via the LTA website and is completely free. The number of tickets allocated to the club is directly proportional to the number of our members who have signed up for BTM.

So if you missed out this year, make sure you have a BTM number and then you will automatically be sent a reminder by the LTA in good time to opt in. Mike Wyatt is our Ballot Administrator, so any queries please contact Mike on 516497 or mikewyatt7@tiscali.co.uk

JUNIOR NEWS

Whilst numbers of junior players are flourishing and junior coaching is continuing to be as popular as ever, numbers attending the junior social sessions are disappointing. Don't forget, Wednesdays from 4.30 – 6.00 pm is designated junior time. These are not structured sessions, although an adult member of the club is always present, but it gives juniors a chance to come and play and put the skills they've learned into practice.

During March, these Wednesday sessions will be geared towards team practice for those playing in any of the junior teams and Rachael and Martin will be there to supervise the team players.

From WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL general junior social sessions start. We will also be offering students at The Dean Academy the opportunity to come and use the courts during this time to encourage more play on the courts. So just come down, there should always be someone else there you can have a game with.

If any juniors (or parents of juniors) have any thoughts on what would encourage them to come to junior sessions more often then please contact either Nikki at nikkisalter@mail.com or Cindy on cindgeor@hotmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OPEN DAY – SUNDAY 5TH MARCH – 1.00 PM

MIXED SOCIAL, SEASON OPENER – SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2.00 PM

WEEKEND MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT – SATURDAY
25TH/SUNDAY 26TH MARCH – PARTNERS DRAWN AT RANDOM –
DETAILS TBC

ARTHUR LAMBERT TOURNAMENT – SATURDAY 6TH MAY - (MIXED ROUND ROBIN WITH CHANGING PARTNERS)

GREAT BRITISH TENNIS WEEKEND – SATURDAY 13TH/SUNDAY 14TH MAY – SATURDAY – 11+ TOURNAMENT PLUS ANOTHER EVENT, SUNDAY – PROGRAMME TO BE DECIDED

UNDER 10 TOURNAMENT – SATURDAY 20TH MAY

JUNIOR/SENIOR TOURNAMENT – SATURDAY 1ST JULY

ANN BAYLISS TOURNAMENT – SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST (MIXED DOUBLES, ENTER AS A PAIR)

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS START – MONDAY 28TH AUGUST

FINALS DAY – SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

PHILLIS BEELEY – SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER (TEAM EVENT)

AWARDS EVENING – SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

SECOND JUNIOR TOURNAMENT – DATE TO BE DECIDED

ROAD TO WIMBLEDON TOURNAMENT – DATE TO BE DECIDED

So if you want to be a part of all the good things going on at the club, there is the small matter of.....

SUBS 2017

The new rates for this season were decided at the AGM and, despite a small increase, they still represent excellent value for money as there is no extra charge for the use of balls or floodlights.

Adult Membership: **112**

Family Membership: **175**

Young Person (18 – 23): **48**

Student: **22**

Junior (11 – 18): **38**

U10 Junior: **14**

Out of County: **22**

Country: **58**

Over 65: **58**

Subs are due on **1st April 2017**.

Subs should be paid by 31st May at the latest. There are various payment options – you can pay by cheque (made payable to Lydney Tennis Club with your name and membership type written on the reverse) and sent direct to our Treasurer, Mr John Martyn, Holms Dene, 34 Grove Road, Lydney, GL15 5JG or placed in the box at the club. If you wish to pay in 3 instalments you can send 3 equal cheques dated 1st April, 1st May and 1st June.

You can also pay by BACS: Account Name – Lydney Tennis Club
Account Number – 00103831
Sort Code – 30 95 29

Please make sure you include your full name and membership type as a reference.

You can, of course, pay by cash via any committee member or the secure box in the clubhouse.

If, for whatever reason, you are not intending to renew your membership this year please could you email John Martyn (jmartyn@hotmail.com) and return your club key to any committee member or leave it in the box at the club.

Thank you to those who responded to the recent membership survey which went round. This raised plenty of new ideas of things you would like to see happening. This is **your** club and if you have any suggestions, queries etc, at any time during the year, please feel free to contact any of the committee. Our contact details are below but most of us are down at the club on a fairly regular basis, so just come and have a chat.

President	Maisie Hoggard	01452 616942
Chairman	Martin Godwin	01594 842159
	mgodwin@totalise.co.uk	
Secretary	Nikki Salter	07962 022044/01594 368031
	nikkisalter@mail.com	
Treasurer	John Martyn	01594 842708
Trust Liaison	Alan Keenan	01594 842228
League Captain (Ladies)	Caroline Stanley	01594 841118
Child Protection Officer	Julia Goss	01594 517117

Junior Rep	Cindy Ieli	01594 562092
Member	Chris Lewis	07810 021749/832582
Club Coach	Rachael Wintle	07890 527337

Grateful thanks, as ever, to Martin for his tireless work on behalf of the club.

HAVE A GOOD SEASON.