

LYDNEY TENNIS CLUB

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2018

By the time you read this, the Beast from the East will hopefully be a distant memory and all the snow will have melted: spring *is* just around the corner so let's turn our thoughts to tennis.

Although having said that, this winter more than ever, even more people have continued to play on regardless of the calendar whether at clubnights (where quite regularly 3 or even 4 courts have been in use), Sunday social, winter league matches, Touch Tennis, Cardio or Rachael's increasingly popular Live Ball sessions – all evidence of our thriving club.

But for those who prefer to play their tennis in slightly warmer temperatures, now is the time....

Firstly, just to let everyone know that at the AGM on 30th November some changes were made to the committee.

For health reasons, and after more years than anyone could remember, John Martyn stood down as our Treasurer. John has done an amazing job for the club for so long and will be much missed. We are hoping to make a presentation to John later in the year on behalf of everyone at the club as a token of thanks for all the hard work he has done over the years. I'm sure we all wish him well in his continuing recovery.

However, we are very fortunate that Rob Lewis, an existing member who many of you will know, agreed to take on the role and he was elected on to the committee as Treasurer at the AGM.

Chris Lewis, Rob's son, had already announced his intention to stand down due to work commitments so he is no longer on the committee. Thanks Chris for your contribution over the past few years – don't forget that you're welcome to return once the exams are out of the way!

Two more new members were also voted on to the committee – Cath Hutchinson in the newly created role of Membership Secretary (she will also continue to monitor the clubhouse and keep things up to scratch) and Kirsten

Mathews – so far Kirsten doesn't have a designated role but I'm sure one will be found for her!

So goodbye and thank you to those leaving and welcome to the newcomers.

For a round-up of last year's season and a look ahead to what awaits you this year, read on...

TENNISATHON 2018 – SATURDAY 17TH MARCH 8 AM – 8 PM

Sign up, sign up! You should already have received an email with the link, so what are you waiting for? A chance to play the sport you love and raise money for Sport Relief at the same time – how can you resist?

Followed on Sunday 18th March by our first Open Day of the year.



OPEN DAY

SPRING 2018

Sunday 18th March

Mini Tennis (Age 5-7) 1-2pm **(Reserve Online)**

Mini Tennis (Age 8-11) 2-3pm **(Reserve Online)**

Juniors (12-16) & Adults 3-4pm **(Reserve Online)**

Cardio Tennis 5-6pm **(Reserve Online)**

RESERVE YOUR FREE SESSION ONLINE

More information on our website
www.lydneytennisclub.net

**Free afternoon of tennis, coaching, games
and activities for adults and juniors**

Find out what's on offer at Lydney Tennis
Club

Support our fundraising efforts for Sport Relief
2018

Discounted club memberships available



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Lydney Tennis Club



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Sport Relief is an initiative of Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England/Wales) ; SC039730 (Scotland)

SUBS 2018 – ONLINE PAYMENT VIA CLUBSPARK

You should already have received an email about the online payment system we have introduced this year. We are using ClubSpark which we already use for our online court booking system and which Rachael uses for booking coaching sessions etc. You can either pay in one go or spread the cost over 10 monthly payments. This is definitely the best way of collecting subs – it is easier for you and much easier for us as a club to administer and keep track of payments. We also need everyone to have paid by 1st April. Once you have

paid, you will be given this year's entry code for the keypad. If anyone has a genuine issue with paying online then please contact Cath.

As a reminder, subs for 2018 are as follows:

Adult: £115

Family: £180

Young Person: (18 – 23 years) £50

Student: £25

Junior: (11 – 18 years) £40

U10 Junior: £15

Country Member: £60

65 & Over: £60

Jason, Rachael's son, has put a lot of time and thought into setting up the online system for which we are very grateful. Thanks Jason!!

CLUB FACILITIES

Let's highlight the positives first – of which there are many:

- Newly painted changing rooms, toilets and entrance lobby
- New lighting in those areas
- Four courts cleaned
- New windows throughout the clubhouse
- Wood cladding around the clubhouse re-stained
- Practice wall repaired and painted
- New guttering
- New gates and keypad
- Area at the back of the clubhouse cleared
- Picnic bench (in memory of Dee)
- New curtains
- All the extra small improvements Cath has made in the clubhouse
- Flower tubs
- Two sets of score cards

That is a long list and it all adds up to making the club look much smarter at the start of this season than it did at the start of last. Huge thanks to Martin for all the hours he put in on decorating the toilets and changing rooms – they look SO much better.

Thanks also to Kelvin Webb for painting the entrance lobby and the outside and to Phil Anderson who painted the practice wall which has made a huge visual impact to the look of the courts. Thanks also to Kirsten who organised the new gates and keypad.

Massive apologies to anyone I've omitted to thank!!

Unfortunately the long list of positives is followed by one fairly large negative – namely that the issue of the sewage system is yet to be resolved.

In an ideal world we would just be able to replace the old septic tank with an updated model and our friends from the Recreation Trust/Town Council as landlords would offer to help out with the cost.

However, we can't put in another septic tank as regulations have changed and it is deemed too close to the Lyd and liable to flooding.

Of the other options available to us, one involves running a pipe over the Lyd to a sewer on the other side (Severn Trent/Environment Agency not happy with this option as there is a (very slight) risk of pollution if the pipe leaks – seriously, have they looked in the Lyd recently??

Option 2 is to run pipework across the practice pitches to a sewer by the Football Club (the Trust aren't happy with this as it will disturb the drainage system on the practice pitches).

So the only option we are left with is to instal a sewage treatment plant which, of course, is the most costly option.

At present, there is still some debate about which size of plant we need and what additional costs would be involved. However, we have just learned that the funding bid which Martin put in to the Town Council has been successful and they are going to give us £1000 towards the cost. Although this represents a small part of the total cost, we should be able to finance the rest through club funds although it will use up pretty much all our cash. So, who knows, by the end of the season you may be able to flush with confidence!

FUNDING/FUNDRAISING

Thanks to all of you who took the time to go online and vote for us on the Aviva website as part of our bid to get funding towards the cost of replacing the sewage system. Although we weren't successful we still got £500 for making it through to the final round – so definitely worth having. Thanks to Martin and Kelly-Ann El-Shawk at Wildin's who assisted with the bid.

In the autumn we took part in the Tesco in-store funding initiative – many thanks to everyone who put their little blue tokens in the appropriate place! We have received £1000 from Tesco which will go towards the re-painting of 2 of the courts as this is what was stipulated on the bid.

Although the club receives regular information about funding opportunities, if anyone hears of anything for which we might be eligible to apply then please let a member of the committee know.

Our in-house fundraising continues with the Bonus Ball organised by Julia. £24 will secure you a number, half of which goes into club funds and half goes into the monthly prize draw. If you haven't already joined then contact Julia – julia_goss@yahoo.co.uk or 517117.

Raffles which have taken place at various club events throughout last year have also made a contribution to club funds, especially the one held on the day of the Junior Christmas/Adult Touch Tennis tournaments. It raised sufficient to buy 2 sets of score cards to go on the nets. Particularly good for those of us who are concentrating so hard on their game or who have completely lost the plot by 8 pm, that they can't remember the score!

Thanks, as ever, to the unsung heroes who provide raffle prizes, buy tickets etc.

RESULTS OF CLUB TOURNAMENTS AND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Start of Season Knockout Doubles Tournament:

Men: Winners – Chris Comins & Martin Godwin

Runners Up – Phil Anderson & Paul Hutchinson

Ladies: Winners – Kirsten Matthews & Nikki Salter
Runners Up – Julia Goss & Pat Lacy

Arthur Lambert: Cindy Ieli

Junior Tournament 14th May

Girls: Rebecca James

Older Boys: Jack Harris

Intermediate Boys: Tommy Wilkins

Ann Bayliss Tournament: Matt Leach & Barbara Firman

Club Champs:

Junior Boys:

Winner: Alex Crossman Runner up: Tommy Wilkins

Junior Girls:

Winner: Rebecca James Runner up: Rachael James

Ladies:

Winner: Cath Hutchinson Runner up: Cindy Ieli

Doubles:

Winners: Cath & Rachael Runners up: Cindy & Barbara

Men's:

Winner: Harry Hale Runner up: Matt Leach

Doubles:

Winners: Harry Hale & Matt George Runners up: Paul Hutchinson & Anthony Mott

Mixed:

Winners:

Cath Hutchinson & Matt Leach Runners up: Zena Jenkins & George Ieli

SENIOR/JUNIOR TOURNAMENT:

Older Junior Winners: Adam & Tommy Wilkins

Younger Junior Winners: Toby & Neil Smith

DEE MAGUIRE-TOOMBS MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT:

Winners: Nikki Salter & George Ieli

Runners up: Pat Lacy & Storm Maguire-Toombs

Tie Break Tens

Winner: Cath Hutchinson

Touch Tennis

Winner: Mikaela Coopey

Christmas Touch Tennis

Winners: Barbara Firman & Cindy Ieli

AWARDS EVENING

If you couldn't be at the O₂ Arena on Saturday 18th November for the ATP Tour Finals, then Watney Hall in Lydney was the place to be for our annual Awards Evening. It was a great chance for everyone to get together and celebrate the many successes of the season. Christine Rivers, our LTA rep, kindly agreed to hand out the trophies and awards.

In addition to those already named as tournament winners for 2017, the Junior Club Player of the Year was awarded to **Tommy Wilkins**, the Senior Club Player of the Year to **Di Webb** and the Coach's award to **Connor Edwards**.

The U18 team won their division in the Aegon League – team members were **Ryan Shiners, Will Pritchard, Robert Bowman and George Davis**.

Many congratulations to all the winners.

Thanks to Caroline for an excellent quiz and all those who donated raffle prizes and bought tickets. The money raised went towards the cost of engraving all the many trophies!

CHRISTMAS MEAL

Nineteen gathered at The Woodman in Parkend for a lovely festive meal – thanks again to Julia for organising.

COACHING NEWS

Rachael has continued to lead another varied and packed year of coaching at the club – a year which has also seen her mentor Cath Hutchinson to achieving her first tennis coaching qualification. Congratulations Cath!

Rachael started the year by attending the Female Coaches Conference in Birmingham, hosted by Judy Murray and returned with even more specific ideas for coaching female players.

In February she was selected by the LTA to be a 'Tennis for Kids' Coach and, after a training session in Exeter, ran a 6 week course at the club for 10 five to seven year olds. It proved very successful and some of the children have continued to play. She has applied to run another Tennis for Kids course this year.

Then of course there was all the usual junior and adult coaching, Cardio, Open Days, organising Touch Tennis and Tie Break Tens tournaments, Live Ball – oh yes, and helping the newly-formed Ladies C team to win their division!

For her endless enthusiasm for a coaching programme which draws in more and more people each year, the committee again nominated Rachael for the Gloucestershire Coach of the Year Award. Having finished in third place in 2016, last year she was runner up to the coach at Oxstalls, for which many congratulations but given that the LTA's stated aim is to attract more girls and women into tennis, we feel she should have won. Even though we may be biased, we can't believe that anyone else in the county can have done more to raise the profile of the women's game.

Next year!!

LEAGUE NEWS

The fortunes of our 3 Men's teams were rather mixed last summer. The A team finished 3rd and will stay in Division 2A this season. Unfortunately both the B and C teams were relegated and will be going down to Divisions 5 and 6 respectively.

The ladies on the other hand had a particularly good season. The new C team won Division 6 by a country mile – they won every match 4 – 0 and only dropped one set!! All 5 team players occupied the top 5 positions in the player rankings.

The A team came 2nd to Minchinhampton and will be going up to Division 2 this season. Slightly frustrating having lead for most of the season it all came down to the final match against Minchinhampton who ended up clinching the extra point to top the division. Barbara and Cindy topped the player rankings.

The B team also finished 2nd in their division and will be going into Division 3 this season. Caroline Stanley topped the player rankings.

All in all, an excellent season and this year we have also entered a D team which will be captained by Shani Courtney, giving even more ladies the chance to play regular competitive tennis.

We ran 2 teams in the mixed floodlit Winter League – nominally an A and a B team but in fact no real difference between the two. The A Team finished 3rd in Division 5 and the B Team won Division 7 by a very wide margin so they will be onward and upward for the coming winter season.

Rich Jones topped the player rankings for Division 7.

Congratulations and thanks to absolutely everyone who played for the club in the 2017 season – you know who you are! Here's to even greater success this year.

Anyone who hasn't played team tennis and wants to give it a go, please contact either Dave James or Caroline Stanley.

JUNIOR TENNIS

We entered 7 junior teams in the Aegon league last year – 36 players taking part in total all of whom showed great commitment and a good sense of fair play. The U18 team of Ryan Shinnars, Will Pritchard, George Davies and Robert Bowman won their division – adding to the growing number of awards our Junior teams have won in recent seasons.

Congratulations to everyone who represented the club.

We have 6 teams entered for the coming season – good luck to all of you!

DEE MAGUIRE-TOOMBS

As many of you will be aware, very sadly Dee passed away last year.

For those of you who didn't have the great good fortune to have known Dee, she was a former long-standing member of the club and had maintained a strong interest in the club through her children. Her warm and generous spirit will be much missed.

It was decided by the committee to inaugurate a new annual tournament in her name. This took the form of a mixed doubles tournament in October and it was particularly good that Storm, Dee's son, was able to play.

Prior to this, the committee organised a barbecue and afternoon of tennis for Dee's family, giving them the chance to see the picnic bench we had bought in her memory. It was a happy afternoon – a fitting tribute to a lady who was so full of life.

TOURNAMENT DATES 2018

Early Season Doubles Tournament: **Saturday 24th March 10.00 am**
(Men's & Ladies' Doubles)

Arthur Lambert Tournament: **Saturday 5th May 1.00 pm**

Great British Tennis Weekend: **12th/13th May (Details TBC)**

Junior/Senior Tournament: **Saturday 30th June 1.00 pm**

Touch Tennis Tournament: **Sunday 22nd July (Time TBC)**

Ann Bayliss Tournament: **Sunday 12th August 1.00 pm**

Club Championships: **Start Monday 27th August**
Finals Day Saturday 15th September

Junior Tournament: **Saturday 8th September**

Dee's Tournament: **Saturday 13th October 1.00 pm**
(Mixed Doubles)

Dates for the first **Junior Tournament**, the **Tie Break Tens Tournament** and the **Phillis Beeley** have yet to be decided.

An email with full details of each tournament will be sent a couple of weeks before each event.

CLUB SURVEY

Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey which was sent out in the autumn. All the comments/suggestions have been noted and they will be discussed at committee meetings throughout the year. We will do our best to address all the issues raised but if you have particular concerns, please feel free to talk to any member of the committee at any time.

Hopefully, you are now completely up to date with what happened at LTC in 2017!

Have a great 2018 season.



March 2018