

# Tennis Talk

March 2011

Issue 35



Welcome!

The new season is upon us and although tennis is played throughout the winter, weather permitting of course, it is always a pleasure to anticipate those sunny days, blue skies and long summer evenings ahead. On a grey grim February day that may be hard to imagine. However it might seem a bit nearer when you read the plans for the year.



## Important Notice

Technology is now taking over the tennis club as it has our lives so most of you will receive this by email along with (but not necessarily at the same time as) the full programme for juniors and seniors, a time table and calendar. Coming by post to everyone will be a renewal notice and welcome letter. For those without access to e mail, all the documents will be sent by post. Whichever way you receive things you should have everything by the end of the first week in March. So examine your emails and peruse your post!

The committee is trying to move towards sending everything by email so can we put in plea for e mail addresses if you haven't given yours in. You can be assured that the database will remain confidential.

## AGM

The Annual General Meeting took place as usual at the beginning of December. There was a bigger than usual turn out which might be explained by the fact that most of us had been stuck indoors for days because of the snow and ice and were desperate to get out of the house. However all went according to plan, the committee remains the same except in one respect, of which more later, and we were rewarded for our attendance with a most welcome mulled wine and warm mince pie. A good start to the festive season.

As most members will be aware the Chairman of the club, Brian Willifer was taken ill late last year and remains very poorly in hospital. For that reason Nicki Constant has stepped in to take over temporarily as Chairman. This is in addition to being President of course. She will steer a steady course having done the job before but I am sure she will be looking for strong support from the membership.

In the meantime we send sincere best wishes to Brian for progress in his recovery and to his wife Ann as she cares for him.

## Dates for your Diary



Open Day Saturday April 2nd  
12-4pm  
Barbecue  
Tennis  
Tea



Start the Season Spring Social  
Saturday 9th April  
DJ  
3 course meal  
Eat, drink, dance and be merry!

## Social Events



The heart of our club can be said to be the social side and that has been a roaring success all round. The last event of 2010 was the Christmas party which went with a swing with the usual fare being devoured with enthusiasm.

For the coming season Sue and Tina have planned a wide variety of activities which should appeal to us. Just take your pick and come along. Some of the highlights are linked to tennis events but there will be dinners and charity events and parties through the season. Consult your calendar for the dates and watch the notice board.



**Monday 2nd May Starting at 2 pm**  
**Mixed tennis tournament**  
**All welcome.**

**This replaces the former tennis and tapas but there will still be food around 5 pm after play has finished. That should encourage a good turn out. Always a popular day.**



Thursday Suppers have been running all winter but as we welcome new members and all those who have been hibernating, April 7th is the date to mark the transition to summer! It is also the time to ask for volunteer chefs. Remember this is not Master Chef and Messrs Torode and Wallace will not be scrutinising your method or result! Something simple will suffice and for most members it's the appreciation and relief of not having to cook for themselves!!



Tea is traditionally served at 4pm during Saturday club tennis so someone has to put down their racket and pick up the tea pot. Angela Walker coordinates this rota and will be coming to a phone near you..... Be ready to say yes!

## Tennis

Now, I hear you say, never mind about all this eating and drinking what about the tennis. What's been happening? Well play continues in the winter months and our teams have been doing their best to catch up after all the snow and ice. Final league matches have still to be played but the results so far are as follows:

Ladies	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st team	0	1	2
2nd Team	0	0	2
3rd Team	1	1	1
4th team	1	0	2
5th team	0	0	4



Promotion or relegation is still in the balance but the resulting tables will be in the next issue.

Men	Won	Drawn	Lost
1st team	4	0	1
2nd Team	3	0	2
3rd Team	2	0	2
4th team	1	1	2

There is of course plenty of non team tennis going on and on most evenings the lights are ablaze as people get out their gloves and woolly hats to brave the elements. In fact Wednesday night match practice for the ladies is so popular that we all have to take a turn to be reserve. Poor Linda has a real brain stretching job to arrange the rota. Well done to her.

The friendly mixed league seems to have an ever growing list of pairs which is tremendous for keeping up winter play. We all suffer from a reluctance to leave the warmth but if you have an arranged game or are on a rota you have to turn up.

## Tennis Matters

It certainly does!



And it matters particularly to Sue Denman and her tennis committee who have been organising the summer programme during these dark days of winter.



**The Club Open Tournament starts on May 21st** which means entries will have to be in well before then. Watch the notice boards for details of how to enter and then get your name down! Finals day is on Sunday 19th June.



**The Club Handicap Tournament** has been something of a moveable feast in recent times but it has been decided to hold it like last year in September. **The important date is September 3rd. with Finals Day on Sunday October 16th.**



**Club tennis** for all members continues on Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm and on Thursday evenings. Meanwhile Joan's Monday nights (how can we call them anything else after so many years) start on Monday 9th April. So if you need to brush up your tennis, want some free coaching or, like so many, simply enjoy Monday nights then put that date in your diary.

For all things tennis related, your ideas, complaints or even volunteering to help, the tennis Committee comprises:

Linda Parsons, Frank McDonald, Maureen Pinnegar, James Smith, Claire Barraclough, Kerry Hint, Paul Ellison, and Neale Powell- Cook.

## House and Ground report

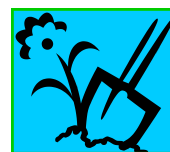
Paul Hunt reports



The new season is upon us and a number of major changes to the club are on the horizon.

Courts 5 & 8 are due to be resurfaced in March with the same surface as 6 & 7. The subsidence to court 5 will also be dealt with and multiple court perforations will help with the drainage.

Court 8 is to have a drop net at the rear of the run back to prevent those annoying rebounding balls. It is also to have an additional gate in the perimeter fencing on the roadside for easy ball retrieval.



In general the perimeter fencing is to be tightened up and a new water removing roller is to be purchased for courts 1 & 2.

Courts 3 & 4 are to be repaired and repainted. Obviously all these works will take time to complete and will involve some court disruption.

**On that note I would appeal to all the members to exercise patience and understanding whilst the repairs are being carried out. Perhaps think about adjusting your game lengths to allow more people to play on the reduced number of courts.**

The rebuild time is short and the reward is virtually a new club with all the courts being renewed within a two year period.



The railway end behind courts 3 & 4 has been cleared of all the brambles and weeds and we are embarking on a new planting scheme of shrubs to brighten up this dark corner. **Any suggestions for this area will be gratefully received. Please put your suggestions in the box in the bar door or see me personally.**

**Finally could all members when leaving the courts remember to take their belongings, balls, water jugs, coffee cups etc with them.**

### More Tennis



For those lucky enough to be available don't forget that Tuesday morning is also a club session. It is not just for retirees but for anyone who happens not to be at work. Simply turn up from 9.15, mix in and stay for coffee afterwards.

### A reminder



If you are booking a court for a match the master plan is held by Alison Newman. She would prefer you to contact her via email with your requests. She is at: [alisonnewman@onetel.com](mailto:alisonnewman@onetel.com)

### Advance Notice



The annual McMillan Coffee Morning so ably organised by the Woodalls for a number of years will take place as usual on a Friday at the end of September. Look out for confirmation of the date next time.

### Bridge



There is often no room to fit in a decent bridge report .... We're in luck.

April 1st. is the last of the monthly Chicago sessions at the club. We move on, courtesy of Mike and Kate Dalton to the first of the summer duplicate evenings in May while Jackie and Peter Ellis kindly allow us to admire their garden in between hands in June. Joan coordinates the exact numbers needed for these as well as sorting everything else! Thanks to her for all her efforts.

Meanwhile we have been trekking up and down the motorway to play our league matches. Mixed success but always a challenge and great if you get to go to the AELTC. They look after us very well there! Looking forward to it already!

### Congratulations

To Pauline and Antony Ebbutt on the safe arrival of Jessica Rose. A first grandchild for Marion and George, she was born on February 10th weighing 6lb 14oz. Good news!



To Kevin and Sharon Sensier on the birth of their daughter Laura Pippa who arrived on November 6th last year weighing 7lb 5 oz.

Two more potential juniors in years to come!

### Jenny Martin

It is a great sadness to all of us who knew Jenny that she has lost her long bravely fought battle of almost four years. She has shown such courage in adversity, such a positive attitude that is an example to us all. It is a great testament to a special lady that so many attended her funeral service and no greater tribute could be paid than to reproduce here the poem which she wrote for her family and her many friends.

*Please don't wear black  
Unless you always do.  
It never suited me  
And probably won't suit you.*

*I don't like funeral flowers  
What I'd like you to do  
Is buy an outstanding bouquet  
And keep it just for you.*

*You and I have had some fun  
Throughout the passing years.  
Think of me from time to time  
With smiles, laughter, few tears.*

*I've lived a very happy life  
Too short I must admit.  
But if I had it all again  
I wouldn't change a bit.*

The poem says it all. A lovely person and a brilliant club member she will be greatly missed.