

ASHTEAD TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB

Spring Newsletter

March 2005

The year 2005 marks the centenary of the publication of Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

But the timetable of The Ashtead Tennis Players' Club ticks on with clockwork, Newtonian, predictability; the new season starts on 1st April.

You are cordially invited to complete and return the enclosed membership form with your cheque – and we would be very grateful if this could be done by 1st April.

As you will see, there has been a small increase in subscription rates, to help with our costs – particularly resurfacing of courts 1 & 2 which is likely to be needed in 2006 (more of which later).

Please remember to collect court fees from members of the public playing on 3 & 4, as this important source of revenue helps us maintain subscriptions at a reasonable level.

All members are welcome to invite guests, in keeping with club rules; but they too should pay the appropriate court fee – including family members who have not paid a subscription.

Programme for 2005

We have our traditional round of tournaments, detailed on the enclosure.

The adult championships will follow last year's pattern. The singles competition will be by invitation only, whilst everyone is invited to

enter the ladies' or gentlemens' doubles, by adding their names to the list on the clubhouse noticeboard by 4th June.

Following a discussion and vote at the AGM, doubles partnerships will be selected by the seeding committee.

Preliminary rounds will be played on consecutive Saturdays in June, with finals day on Sat 9th July, when the mixed doubles will also be contested.

The date for the junior finals is to be announced, and we hope that this year, some of the experienced juniors will take part in the adult tournament. Already, three of the boys - or rather young gentlemen – are attending Monday evening club sessions, soon to be joined by some of the young ladies.

Team news

We did well last year.

Margaret attended the AGM of the Dorking and Leatherhead League, and came away as if from the Argos sale, with bags filled to bursting with emblazoned coffee mugs.

This time, they were for the Gentlemen and the Veterans, both of whom were runners-up in their divisions last season. Good for them.

Margaret and Tom are now standing down from their roles as Ladies' and Gentlemens' team captains. They do so with our thanks and appreciation for their work and enthusiasm, which have brought the teams to their current levels of performance.

Chris Townsend is running the ladies winter league, and we are delighted that Andy McGregor has agreed to take over the gentlemens' team, while Diane Chivers will captain the mixed team, and Jenny Snow continues to run the friendly matches.

The ladies' team captain for the summer will be announced shortly.

Junior tennis

Friday evening club sessions continue throughout the winter, with warming soup and hot drinks to fortify the players.

On Boxing Day, there was a junior open session, with parents and grandparents invited to come along and sample a glass of Christmas cheer, before trying their luck on court.

Despite the frost many did so, with a splendid mixture of generations demolishing age barriers along with the sausage rolls.

Our thanks to the Hammonds (Janice, Les and Andy) for thinking of, and arranging this.

Another of the famous fish and chip suppers for the senior juniors was celebrated on the last Friday of February, with the junior juniors to follow shortly.

We are delighted that teenage juniors are coming through to adult events, thanks to the coaching of the two Andies – McGregor and Hammond.

Committee changes

As with captains, so with the committee, and we enter the new season with our version of a cabinet reshuffle.

For many years, Roy Beveridge has combined the roles of president, treasurer, constitutional expert, and locksmith.

As Edward remarked at the AGM, Roy knows everything about the club, and likened him to the Delphic Oracle (with the helpful difference that when you ask Roy a question, you can understand the answer).

He also presented Roy with a mysterious envelope. A clue to its contents lies in an email from Roy the following day, expressing his gratitude, and the dilemma of whether to redeem it in the bookshop or wine cellar.

Our new president is Barry Cox, who has already done so much for the club, including a stint as chairman, negotiations with the national lottery, resurfacing the courts, and installation of the floodlights – which are such a dazzling testament to his achievements.

Having stepped down as gentlemen's captain, Tom Traboulsi has kindly agreed to take over as vice-president, and over the past twelve months has provided excellent accommodation and wine for our committee meetings.

These symposia will now be joined by James Wilson as treasurer, and Dee Woods as membership secretary.

Tom is to arrange a special meeting to consider the various roles, particularly treasurer, so that we do not ask too much of committee members with young families and full time jobs.

Courts and clubhouse

We are continuing to monitor the cracks on courts one and two. Whilst they do not yet seem to affect play, resurfacing will soon be inevitable, and we will keep you informed.

Otherwise the courts and their surroundings are in good shape.

Brian Bickers has once again turned in a star performance as maintenance tsar, recent projects including repairs to fences and clubhouse veranda.

Brian has also masterminded the re-engineering of our water supply, so that the outside tap is shielded from vandalism and frost.

The cupboard under the sink now resembles the flight deck of a submarine, with a tapestry of pipes valves and spigots, whence raging torrents are sluiced to the four corners of the clubhouse.

It is generally agreed that describing the scrub and weeds in front of the clubhouse as the “garden” is wishful thinking, and the latest project is to pave this area.

To allow this, Dee is conducting planning negotiations with the council, flushed with her victorious persuading of their workforce to prune the leylandii.

WWWWoodfield Lane.com

Helen Abbott has designed the club web pages, and Tom has been supplying her with photographs (of the tennis, we hope).

The site will soon go live. This will attract global interest, and maybe younger players will stumble on our little corner of Woodfield Lane in cyberspace, and feel tempted to join us.

If you have any contributions or ideas for this venture, please let us know.

2005 AGM

The Marshall Room glowed snugly through the snow and ice, as the customary formalities were observed.

In his review of the year, chairman Edward recalled that when he first moved to the area, he was told that Ashted people are not just *busy*, they are *frightfully busy*.

To prove it, Edward was double booked for the evening, and was unable to visit the free bar.

So the committee loyally took up his position, and with the assembled membership, launched us into another epic year.