

ASHTEAD TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB



Spring Newsletter

March 2006

Spring and Easter are late this year, but 1st April is expected to arrive as usual. Let us celebrate the dawn of a new tennis club season.

As you will see from the enclosures, we have the traditional round of competitions, along with the customary and modest increase in subscription rates.

The membership renewal form includes an exciting new box to tick, if you would like to receive correspondence via email. This would save stationery, printing and postage costs, and would consolidate our grip on the new technologies, established in the autumn by our beautiful website <http://www.ashteadtennisplayersclub.org.uk>

Shoe tags this year are a Queen Motherly lilac.

Programme for 2006

Our first round robin of the season (22nd April) is an adult / junior event.

The traditional format is mixed doubles. In this case the doubles will be adult / junior rather than lady / gentleman. We hope this will bring the two sections of the club together, and will be enjoyed by all.

A small amount of organising will be needed to ensure a suitable turnout; entry forms will be posted in the clubhouse, with persuasive skills being deployed as required.

The club championships always feature prominently in our calendar, so.....

Club tournament 2006

In previous years, there have been fewer entrants than we would like to our adult championships.

We are always looking for ways to improve levels of participation. This year we hit on the idea of changing the name, and not calling the championships the championships.

Instead, let us launch the Club Tournament, so christened to retain the competitive element, but to highlight the sociable nature of the contest.

The three doubles events will be staged on Saturday 17th June, with the singles competitions scheduled to fit in with this – timetable to be fixed when the number of entrants is known.

Entry will be via a list posted in the clubhouse, or for ladies events please contact Lynda Tarling, for gentlemen Andy McGregor, or for mixed Diane Chivers

For doubles events, you are invited to select your own partner, or to avail yourself of our introductions service (discretion assured).

The junior championships are always well supported, and entry forms are again enclosed. Andy and Hammonds will arrange with seasonal zeal.

Team news

At the AGM, ladies team captain Lynda Tarling spoke wistfully of a good and enjoyable summer, so good that the club secretary was asked to look for the results table that he had managed to lose.

Similarly hampered by lack of concrete evidence, Andy McGregor recalled a season in which the mens team had been augmented by the welcome addition of three junior players to its ranks. Ben and Dan Lerpiniere, and Andy Webb have joined in Monday team practices, and represented the club, which this year will play in division 5 of the Dorking and Leatherhead league.

For the mixed team, Diane Chivers bouyantly announced a 100% record, of losses yes agreed, but that didn't detract from the thrill of the chase, nor from being in the enviable position that things can only get even better.

The ladies winter league team, captained by Chris Townsend had achieved a record of two won, one lost, and one to play.

Junior tennis

Friday evening club sessions continue to attract very good attendance, despite biting wind at this time of year - warmed no doubt by Janice's multiple roles of joint supervisor and catering manageress.

For the new season, cheques for junior coaching will be paid directly to Andy, rather than to the club. This will streamline our procedures, and ease the burden of financial management.

As mentioned above, we now have juniors moving on to adult events, a trend that we hope will continue.

2006 AGM

The table and chairs in The Marshall Room were laid out at a ninety degree angle to the norm, along *this* wall instead of *that* one, which had a disorienting effect on some of us traditionalists.

Apart from that, there were no upsets.

Having taken on the role of Treasurer, Mark Vidler modestly declared that he had no financial background, before launching into a series of initiatives. These included transferring all data onto a finance package on his pc, earning better returns on savings, and buying tennis balls at cheaper rates.

Edward provided a learned commentary on the accounts, including clubhouse depreciation for the year, which was a delightful £1,234.

There was no mention of million pound loans, or seats in the House of Lords.

Edward also presented his review of the year, culminating in an announcement of his decision to stand down as chairman.

He does so with the thanks and appreciation of us all. This was memorably expressed by Barry Cox, who likened the chairmanship of our club to that of General Motors or Coca Cola, noting that the workload might be less, but the steely charm had to be about the same. And it was. Thanks again, Edward.

The team captains presented their reports, referred to above, and miscellaneous items were discussed – a copy of the minutes is displayed on the clubhouse noticeboard.

At 9.20pm, there being no further business, Tom Traboulsi arrived as the meeting closed, and the bar opened.

The committee

Last year, Dee Woods joined the committee as membership secretary, and this year we are delighted to welcome three new members aboard.

Mark Vidler's starring role as treasurer has already been recorded, and we are very pleased that Diane Chivers and Roger Parker have joined our ranks (Diane ran the mixed teams last season).

In the absence of Edward, as a temporary measure, the committee will elect a rotating chairman for its meetings.

Situations vacant

Thriving friendly tennis club in
Woodfield Land has vacancy for position of

Chairman

The role entails presiding over delightful committee,
congenial club membership, and annual general meeting.

Previous experience not essential.
Apply now, to any committee member

Around the clubhouse

The area to the front of the clubhouse is to be tidied up and surfaced. Materials that we have considered include gravel, tarmac, paving, or finest marble with splashing fountains, strutting peacocks, and the call of the turtle dove.

Dee is locked in negotiations with the council.

At the AGM, it was pointed out that a number of rackets, sweaters, and other clothing are left permanently in the clubhouse.

If they are yours, please remove them – or, it was darkly hinted, the next place you see them might be on e-bay.

And pride of place in the clubhouse goes to:

The champions board

This is rather overdue for an update (well OK, six years overdue).

Unfortunately we have a few gaps in our collective memory, so here are a couple of questions for anyone taking our club's championships as their Mastermind specialist subject:

1. Who were the winners in 1999?
2. Who won the ladies singles and the ladies doubles in 2,000?

Before long, we shall be entering the winners for 2006.

I wonder who they will be.....

Another great year lies ahead.