

ASHTEAD TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB

Spring Newsletter

March 2007

As Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote, and let's face it, who are we to argue – "The old order changeth, and yieldeth to the new"

Oh yes change is everywhere. We are threatened with a new prime minister and a new climate, not to mention a new fleet of Trident submarines.

How comforting to know there is a corner of Woodfield Lane, where the passage of the years is marked only by the colour of the shoe tags (orange this time), and a rise in subscription rates to match inflation; (if it's good enough for the Bank of England, it's good enough for us).

Send us your cheques and membership forms! And please, please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Programme for 2007 / 8

Our calendar for the new year includes items ancient and modern. Among the newcomers:

Club Open Afternoon, 7th April

We are celebrating the start of the new season with a vigorous programme of adult recruitment, more of which later.

As part of this campaign, we will hold an Open Day on Easter Saturday, when new players are invited to join us for the afternoon club session.

This has been advertised in the Mole Valley Public Events Diary, and will be supported by local posters in strategic locations (the dry cleaners, the library, the station, etc).

Once they are on court, our visitors will surely be lured into permanent membership.

Night out at The Woodman, 11th May

Here is a relaxed and informal event, inspired by current doctrines of inclusivity.

Turn up at The Woodman any time after 8.00pm, and you will find people you recognise. More to the point, you may discover club members you have never met. The gentlemen who play on Sunday mornings could confer over drinks with the ladies who turn out on Tuesdays, and the stars who attend team training can share a packet of Twiglets with those of us who struggle with Saturday afternoon club sessions.

Club tournaments

Adult

It was generally agreed that the 2006 adult tournament hit the right formula, although compressing all events into such a short time was daunting. (For example zestful Dee Woods played 64 games in a single afternoon, and still summoned up reserves of energy to continue as Membership Secretary.)

And our 2006 champions were:

Gentlemens Singles	Andy McGregor
Ladies Doubles	Lynda Tarling and Helen Abbott
Gentlmens Doubles	Roger Parker and Derek Harwood
Mixed Doubles	Roger Parker and Diane Chivers

In continuation of a splendid tradition, the Ladies Singles final has yet to be played.

The 2007 tournament will be played over two weekends; entry forms are enclosed.

Junior

Once again, the juniors showed us how it should be done.

All tournament matches were completed on time, with finals day on 8th October.

Junior champions and 2006 Medal Winners are shown on the enclosed rolls of honour.

As in the Woodman, barriers will be coming down in the 2007 Junior Tournament; there will be a mixed doubles competition for under 15s.

Once again, entry forms are enclosed.

Adult recruitment campaign

We have the best Equality and Diversity policy of all: Ashted Tennis Players Club is open to everyone.

But we need more adults.

Many of our players live in the roads surrounding Woodfield Lane, walking to the courts, or arriving by bicycle – deriving the benefits of additional wholesome exercise, and minimising the club's carbon footprint.

To augment these virtuous patterns of behaviour, 1,500 post cards have been printed, inviting potential new players to join us for a club session, and will be distributed to households in the immediate area, as from 1st April.

On court, our new friends will be subjected to the same charm offensive as the visitors to our Open Day.

Likewise there will be a recruitment desk on Ashtead Village Day, when we shall also mingle with the crowds, distributing more post cards.

Of course, one of our post cards may be delivered to you; if so, please pass it on to a friend (or an enemy, come to think of it – we'll take anyone).

Meanwhile, advertisements are being placed in The Mole Valley Leisure Guide, The Ashtead and Leatherhead Magazine, and The Ashtead Residents Association Newsletter.

2007 AGM

The queue for admission to our AGM stretched almost to Dorking. Soon there was standing room only, with proceedings being relayed to those outside on a giant screen erected in the car park of Ashtead Peace Memor.....

Oh all right, I wasn't quite like that, but there was a congregation of 22, not all of whom were committee members. We are very grateful to those who took the time attend and contribute their views.

Tom Traboulsi had very kindly offered to serve as Chairman, and was elected, along with the existing Committee.

The traditional items of business were covered – the minutes are displayed on the clubhouse noticeboard, and for those who were unable to attend, here is.....

A closing address from our new chairman

Many thanks to Edward for all that he has done as chairman; I am delighted to join with the committee in continuing the good work.

We have an exciting few years ahead, with courts 1 & 2 to be resurfaced. We also have new lease negotiations to complete by 2010; as part of this I hope to develop closer relations with the council, and see how they can help us. We must work together to combat vandalism - for example by installing better lighting around the courts, to provide protection on dark winter nights.

Meanwhile, I am delighted that we now have junior players representing the club at adult level in league matches, and I do hope that all players, of every standard, will enjoy another great season of tennis.

Tom Traboulsi