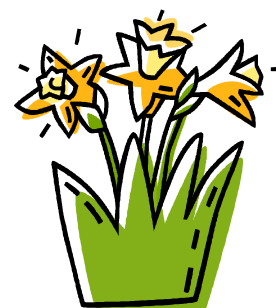


ASHTEAD TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB

Spring Newsletter

March 2009



This week, the leaders of the world's largest and most stricken economies converge on London for the G20 summit.

They could stay on for a few days, and join us for the round robin (although some of them might have trouble coming up with the £2 guest membership fee).

They should; we could teach them a thing or two. The committee has decided to freeze all membership fees for the coming season at existing levels – our finances are that good. The same applies to junior coaching fees.

And this despite major expenditures over the last twelve months –

We have spruced up the clubhouse with repainted walls, and a new floor covering that would not look out of place in a Mecca ballroom.

We installed a new water heater, before the old one exploded.



And most importantly, the resurfacing of 1 & 2 began on 16th March. When complete, the courts will be protected by sleek new fencing, selected to achieve resilience without invoking Guantanamo Bay.

So do not delay - sign up now for another twelve months of sparkling tennis and sound money.

Our new membership secretary Les Hammond will be delighted to exchange your membership form and cheque for a prestigious shoe tag.

Resurfacing of courts 1 & 2

Three firms were invited to tender for the work, and their submissions were scrutinised by Roger Parker, Kate Ashton and Brian Bickers who had agreed to evaluate the responses. We are very grateful for the time and expertise that they brought to the task.

Their findings were presented to the committee at our December meeting.

Roger reported that Doe sports was the clear winner, their tender being the most thorough and professionally produced. They have an impeccable client list, and had made good comments about Health and Safety, supervision, and quality of work.

They had proposed a sensible timetable for laying the surface, then painting it two weeks later.

We also have the benefit of lower VAT.

Chairman Tom has been keeping a beady eye on the work, and reports good progress. The completion date is of course subject to the weather; think mid-April.



Events diary

And to launch the new surface, the old favourites are lined up – with some subtle changes.....

Competition for **The Daphne Mortimer Trophy** was originally confined to ladies. But there's probably a Brussels directive saying that's illegal, and anyway Hugh McKenzie won it a few years ago, so it's time to bow to the inevitable, and throw it open to everyone.

Joan Janse has suggested holding it on a Wednesday evening, which would be delightful – long summer evening, tennis, ripples of applause, chilled white wine and refreshments on the veranda. Join us if you can, on 20th May.

We are also planning a grand opening of the courts on **Ashtead Village Day**. This could be a great opportunity to recruit new members, with celebrity guests and a sense of activity - tennis being played by members of all ages, plus handouts of leaflets, membership forms, and what Jenny calls those fluffy things.

Having experimented with a variety of formulae over the years, the 2008 adult **club championships** proved very popular and well supported.

We were so pleased with the outcome, that we even asked Keith Andreae to update the champions board. He very kindly and expertly did so, to the relief to Roy Beveridge, who has been suggesting we do this since 1987.

We are planning a similar format for this year's tournament, over equivalent weekends. So please complete a tournament entry with your application form.

Wimbledon ticket ballot

The LTA has announced that club ballots must be restricted to members who have joined British Tennis.

We are asked to encourage all our players to join. Doing so brings many benefits – see <http://www.britishtennis.com/>

We ask for your membership number on our ballot slips and on our own membership form. This is to ensure we have a complete list of BT members, as our allocation of tickets depends on how many of our players belong.

Junior tennis

Our junior section has a pedigree as fine as anything the adults can boast.



Even as our championship board was being updated, Les Hammond reported that the boys Mark Cox Shield (for under 18s) is full up. Winners names now have to be recorded on the back.

(Mark Cox, who used to live in Ashtead Woods Rd was very involved with the club in the early years, and donated the shield. He is now President of Tenniscoach UK).

The girls Taylor cup (also for under 17s) has changed hands so often that it succumbed to metal fatigue, and parted from its stem.

We must replace these trophies to an appropriate standard, in recognition of the thriving state of our junior competitions – and there is a late result:

This year's winner of the Mark Cox Shield is Will Culhane, with Robert Brown as runner up in a match played on 23rd December! Congratulations to both, and to everyone who took part.

Junior club night

The Hammonds are away, taking a well earned rest between the dates 4th – 11th April.

Assuming the courts are ready, junior club nights will re-start on Friday 17th April. As an experiment, times will be brought forward. We hope thereby to avoid the unruly element who congregate in the park, especially towards the end of the summer term. The new timetable is:

4.15 – 5.15	Eight to eleven year olds (approx)
5.15 – 6.15	Twelve to sixteen year olds (approx)

We would welcome your comments on this arrangement.

Junior coaching fees and cheques

As mentioned earlier, there is no increase in coaching fees.



We would be very grateful if you would help us by submitting separate cheques for club membership fees (payable to Ashtead Tennis Players Club) and for coaching (payable to Andy Hammond).

Committee changes

Tom announced two appointments at the AGM:

Dee Woods has joined the jet set, and now divides her time between Ashted and Athens.



Happily, she and her sun tan will still join us on court from time to time, but it would not be practical for her to continue as membership secretary.

Many thanks to Dee for all the work she has put in during her period of office, and to Les Hammond for taking over.

Tom was also delighted to reveal that June Moody-Stewart has agreed to become club president.

A founder member, June modestly informed the meeting that her only qualification for office was longevity.

But of course, the president personifies all that is best about our club as well as, in June's case, wielding a surprisingly mean forehand drive.

So let us join our president, and all members, on our splendid new courts - for another great year in the life of Ashted Tennis Players Club.

