

# ASHTEAD TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB

## Christmas Newsletter

**December 2005**

Christmas trees twinkle along Ashtead High St, and the Salvation Army band is playing carols at Waterloo; the season of goodwill is upon us.

And the night sky over Ashtead is ablaze, as our floodlights illuminate a parade of fashionable winter sportswear, this year featuring Dee Woods' Peruvian tennis hat, and Roy Beveridge's mittens.

### **Christmas highlights**

Boxing Day will be another **Open Day** for juniors and their families. This is thanks to the Hammond family, who will welcome you with Christmas cheer and coaching tips.

Come with your brothers, sisters, cousins, parents, grandparents, inlaws, outlaws - mid-day onwards.

Our **27<sup>th</sup> Dec Round Robin** has become as much a part of Christmas as mince pies and the Queen's address to the nation.

Again, we start at mid-day, finishing between two and three o'clock, depending on the weather, and how we feel.

Do join us (it's the Tuesday), and work off the side effects and waistline effects of Christmas. To enter, please add your name to the list in the clubhouse, or ring James on 01372 721104.

## **Club membership**

You may be interested to know that we currently have 64 adult and 83 junior members.

These are good numbers, but in common other clubs, we would like to attract more adults in their twenties and thirties. Towards this end we have harnessed modern communications, and we now have, yes, wait for it.....

## **The Club website**

Here we go:

<http://www.ashteadtennisplayersclub.org.uk>

It's a marvellous advertisement for the club, and many thanks to Helen Abbott for creating the site.

As you will see, factual information and membership forms are available on line, and Tom Traboulsi is supplying Helen with photographs (of the tennis, we hope).

Surfers in the remote Himalayas, in arctic weather stations, and even in outer space, will at last be informed of our subscription rates, and the date of the Committee Cup.

Do join them in visiting the site, and let us have your suggestions for improvements or additions.

## **Team news**

Thanks to our team captains – Lynda Tarling for taking over the ladies team, Andy McGregor the gentlemen, Diane Chivers the mixed, and Jenny Snow continuing to run the friendlies.

Highlights this year have included our top juniors playing for the gentlemen's team in the Dorking and Leatherhead League, while the ladies continue to perform through the winter, having entered the Surrey Winter League.

Our internet presence having set the tone, Roger Parker beamed this dispatch from the front lines into the newsletter via wireless technology:

*“The mixed doubles team came together for every match through the season. At least getting half the team together was comparatively easy, done by Dianne across the breakfast table. Ashtead stalwarts fully supported the effort, pitting themselves against adversity, such as the ringing bells of Shere, the low flying machines of Capel and the interesting experience of playing on the wonderful surface of the green, green grass of Reigate.*

*The enthusiasm and the sociability of the team outshone the score in every match! The unmentioned score is a clue as to what the results actually achieved in this division - so there is only one area to improve for next year - to win!”*

Like the old Tory leadership, friendly contests seem to emerge without much of a formal procedure, which is just how it should be. The suppers afterwards are, of course, planned carefully.

## **Club competitions**

The annual round of tournaments and competitions continue.

In June, Derek Harwood became the Gentlemen's singles champion, with Andy McGregor and Andrew Boardley winning the doubles.

Diane Chivers and Roger Parker carried off the mixed doubles title – congratulations to all our winners.

## **Junior tennis**

It has been another year packed with action and incident.

Luke Brough and William Poole served up a magnificent summer barbecue that was much enjoyed, while the junior championships culminated in a very well attended finals day.

The results, and coaching medal winners are shown on pages six and seven.

## **The courts**

We continue to monitor the cracks on courts 1 & 2. Brian Bickers takes regular measurements, and is keeping a record of the overall condition of the playing area.

We have not yet reached the stage where resurfacing is needed, but it will not be long.

At the same time, there was a suggestion that the courts could be turned through ninety degrees, so that players would not find the sun shining in their eyes.

More measurements were taken, sight lines checked etc. Then it was pointed out that if we swivel the courts, the sun will continue to dazzle - earlier in the afternoon.

After that, there didn't seem much point in it really, so we all went home and had tea.

Meanwhile, a number of holes have appeared in the nets. We think it unlikely that these are impact damage from attacking forehands and volleys.

There was a theory that foxes are the culprits. But this would mean they have opened the combination lock on courts 1 & 2 – a task that defeated our own club members earlier in the year.

Thanks again to Brian, who has fitted a more robust tamper-proof lock, which seems to have solved our access problems.

### **Situation vacant**

The club needs a Treasurer.

We are recasting the role, to ease the workload, which will now largely consist of:

- Managing the club bank accounts and ledger.
- Paying bills (eg for gas, electricity, water, tennis balls).
- Liasing with auditors, who produce annual accounts.
- Attending approx four committee meetings a year.

The job is not too onerous, but is essential. If you enjoy club membership, and are willing to contribute a little time, please contact a member of the committee.

We would even offer free membership as an inducement – how's that for an offer?

### **2006 AGM**

The Marshall Room, Ashted Peace Memorial Hall is booked for 8.00pm Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March, along with light refreshments and free bar.

### **A Christmas message from the chairman**

*I hope you have had an enjoyable year both on and off court.*

*May I wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas – and a prosperous new year.*

*Edward Bonner*

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