

# ASHTEAD TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB

## Christmas Newsletter

December 2011



**“Ring out the old, ring in the new”** (Alfred Lord Tennyson)

Christmas already! Another new year coming up!

But at the tennis club, we don't have to wait for the new - we already have it: new fencing, new benches, new players, new signs, new coat hooks.....and a new lease!

Our agreement with Mole Valley District Council was completed on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011, and is for 25 years (for a while it looked as though 23 of them would be taken up agreeing the terms.)

But these things take time, and we enjoy excellent relations with the council - who put a couple of ideas to us:

### Limited company



The new lease, like the old, is in the name of the club's three trustees. As previously advised, this means they could be liable in the event of an unforeseen incident or problem. To overcome this, the council suggested we might convert to a limited company. The lease could then be re-assigned.

Having considered the idea in detail, the committee concluded that we should form a company limited by guarantee. This historic change was presented to a special general meeting of the club on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, and agreed by unanimous vote.

We are now formulating a detailed final proposal. This will be legally vetted in readiness for the 2012 AGM, and a final vote. And there is more.....



## **Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)**

It was also suggested that we apply for CASC status, as the limited company would then be exempt from corporation tax, and would be eligible for rates relief. (At present we pay zero rates, but this is reviewed every five years).

Again, final details are being worked out for presentation to the AGM.

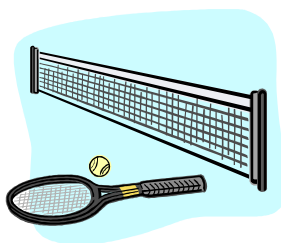
Registration is with HM Revenue and Customs, who publish a schedule of activities upon which they look favourably.

It is a fascinating portfolio of wholesome pastimes, including baton twirling, bicycle polo, skipping, and Tang Soo Do (though not, presumably, Tang Soo Don't.)

Let's get back to the tennis:

### **Club championships**

#### **Adult**



Roberto Simonetti strode into the clubhouse clutching two enormous trophies, with the air of a man who had come to renew his library books.



Sure enough, by the end of the day they were his for another year.

Congratulations to him, and to Eunan McGregor who joined him as the winning team in the gentlemen's doubles.

Our mixed team champions this year are Helen Abbott and Derek Harwood, who put on a fine display, despite all that their opponents and the weather could throw at them. Well done them!



Sadly there was no 2011 ladies' competition, as injuries have been a frustrating feature of the ladies' game all season.

Let's hope for better luck next year.

## Junior

Finals were played on 9<sup>th</sup> October – a great day, and with a much better climate than for the adults in high summer.

There are of course far more matches to be played than with the adults, due to the different age categories.

But the Hammonds arranged everything into a flawless routine; many thanks to them for this – and for their work throughout the year.

And this year's champions are:

Girls Under 14	Winner – Harriet Crawford	Runner-up – Tegan Coyle
Girls Under 17	Winner – Alison Hall	Runner-up – Lucy Smith
Boys Under 12	Winner – Jonnie Millett	Runner-up – Alex Creswell
Boys Under 17	Winner – Tom Minns	Runner-up – Callum Elmer
Played Later		
Boys Under 14	Winner – Ben Simonetti	Runner-up – Callum Parker

Congratulations to them too! Also to the winners of coaching medals (shown on the final page of this letter).

## Team news

As you may remember from an earlier newsflash, the gentlemen won their division of the Surrey County 2010 / 11 Winter League.

This achievement was followed by a barnstorming summer, to the extent that Martin will be entering *two* teams for next summer's competition.

Excellent news – Martin has delivered the growth which the prime minister only talks about. Well done him, and the team(s)!

The ladies' team was hampered by the injuries mentioned previously. Despite the reduced pool of available talent, all matches were played – which in itself is no mean feat. Team captain Helen Abbott enthused “We drew one and lost seven, but the food was great!”

Many thanks to Helen that we never let another club down with a no-show.

The mixed team won 2, drew 2, and lost 2 – which sounds like a perfect mix (so to speak), although it may not be enough for the team to keep its place in division 2 of the league. But it's still an excellent set of results for Dianne and the players, given the shortage of ladies who are match fit.

### **Club website**

When not playing tennis or running the ladies' team, the multi-skilled Helen manages our club website. In case you have not seen it recently, feast your eyes on <http://www.ashteadtennisplayersclub.org.uk/>

As you see, there is a notices tab. Club members can use this to arrange matches, advertise items for sale or wanted, post gossip and scandal, seek ideal partner for tennis, romance, or whatever springs to mind – anything.

Why not give it a try; brighten up the long winter nights!

But before that –



New members are always welcome to join the club, especially at the moment, while we are short of ladies to play in our teams. Over the years we have experimented with various types of advertising, but the simplest and best is word of mouth – to friends, family, passing dog walkers - everyone.

So this Christmas we are offering £20 – yes, twenty pounds – off next year's subscription, to anyone who introduces a new member to the club.

And there's no limit to it. So if you go over the road and recruit the cricket team, you'll make a fortune! Wow!



All you have to do is notify Les, our membership secretary, of the names of those you have introduced.

This fabulous promotion runs until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, but meanwhile.....

## Diary dates

### Christmas round robin mid – day Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Dec

This annual tournament is an ideal opportunity to work off some calories, before we put them back on with sausage rolls and bucks fizz.

If you have friends and relatives to stay, do bring them with you. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to join us, please email [jamesmhadley@aol.co.uk](mailto:jamesmhadley@aol.co.uk) or call 01372 721104 no later than 9.00am on the day, as I will be travelling to the courts via Tesco, and need to know how many bottles to buy (and the food, of course).

### 2012 AGM 8.00pm Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> March

Marshall Room, Peace Memorial Hall – here we come again!

And finally –

### A Christmas message from our chairman

As we come to the end of 2011 it still seems a bit like summer with flowers still flowering and the leaves still on the trees, so we can continue playing tennis on our floodlit, fabulous tennis courts.

We can look forward to 2012 happy in the knowledge that our new lease with the Council is in place, making the future of the club secure, for another 25 years; so may I, on behalf of the committee, wish all members a happy Christmas, and a sunny and successful 2012.



*Jenny Snow*



# Coaching Medals October 2011

## **Saturday 9 o'clock**

Gold - Sophie Harris

Silver - Laura Goodwin

Bronze - Rowena Bailey

## **Saturday 10 o'clock**

Gold - Seb Williams

Silver - Heemish Goomanny

Bronze - Josh Cooke

## **Saturday 11 o'clock**

Gold - Matthew Goodwin

Silver - Rustom Parekh

Bronze - Ollie Forsyth

## **Sunday 1.00 o'clock**

Gold - Sam Burdon

Silver - Joe Pilgrim

## **Sunday 2.00 o'clock**

Gold - Emily Burdon

Silver - Laura Burdon

Bronze - Harry Fraser

*Andy*