

GERRARDS CROSS (DUKES WOOD)

TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Dukes Lane, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7JZ

Pre-Season Newsletter – March 2010

With the start of the 2010 Tennis Season only a few weeks away, I thought it might be helpful to update members briefly on a number of things.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

To those of you who have already renewed your Membership for the coming season; "thank you" very much indeed on behalf of the Club and a very warm welcome to our new members. We sent the forms out slightly earlier than usual this year and I am really pleased that so many members have returned their forms quickly and early. This is a great help with cash flow.

For those of you who have still to do this, a Membership Renewal Form is attached. I would be very grateful if you would complete and forward this form with your cheque to Gillian Vargassoff or any Committee Member, as soon as possible please?

LTA TENNIS CLUBMARK

Now some very good news. I am absolutely delighted to tell you that we learned last week that **Dukes Wood LTC have been accredited as an LTA Tennis Clubmark club**. This is great news and follows a lot of hard work by many people including Paul Richmond (Club Secretary) and Tom Dean (Head Coach) which led up to last week's assessment by the LTA.



The LTA developed Tennis Clubmark to recognise and reward clubs for the important contribution they make in developing tennis players and to British tennis in general. Tennis Clubmark is the LTA's club accreditation programme.

Achieving Tennis Clubmark means the LTA endorses and supports the tennis programmes which our club delivers on court, and the policies and procedures we have in place off court. These are all crucial to ensuring that our club is managed effectively and that we provide our members and visitors with a safe environment to enjoy and play tennis.

The LTA state in their literature that:

"Tennis Clubmark provides a framework to help clubs improve themselves, and to ensure that their programmes, policies and procedures are all in line with best practice. This isn't a tick box accreditation exercise. Rather, in achieving Tennis Clubmark you are demonstrating your contribution to the delivery of the Blueprint (LTA Plan for British Tennis), by improving the quality of your club, the coaches that work within your club environment and the competition that your club delivers."

Being a Clubmark Club also means that the LTA and other awarding bodies may look more favourably on any applications which we subsequently make for grants and loans to help with club development.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Some important dates for your diary to get your season off to a flying start.

Easter Monday 5th April – American Tournament

Friday 16th April – Start of New Season's Supper

Saturday, 17th April – New Members' Welcome Day (includes free coaching and tea) new members from 2009 and 2010 will be invited to attend but play will be open to all

Saturday 24th April – Open Day

If you are interested in any of the social events, please contact: Beverley Halliday on 01753 882496, for further details.

Following the success of last year's event, we are planning another Open Day with a number of attractions for new and existing members on Saturday, 24th April. Watch-out for more information in the coming weeks and please mention it to your friends and neighbours if they might be interested in joining the Club.

SENIOR SOCIAL TENNIS

From the beginning of this coming season, I am pleased to say that a small group of our senior members are going to ensure that play on Senior Club Night (Friday) and on Saturday afternoons is better organised. Rachel Knight, Richard Fensome, Allan Watson, Richard Cox, Simon Jobling and Graham Louer have all kindly volunteered to organise social play on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons between them through the summer season.

COACHING

Tom Dean starts his second season with us and building on his success last year has a comprehensive Tennis Programme for 2010 for players of all ages and abilities. He will also be arranging the usual Junior Easter Camps. These run in the three weeks:

- **29th March to 2nd April**
- **5th April to 9th April**
- **12th April to 19th April**

Watch-out for Tom's notices and adverts about this which will be appearing in the next few days.

TEAM TENNIS

I am aware that there is considerable interest in playing team tennis this summer. If you are interested and have not already made your interest known to the Team captains, please let **Tim Barber** know by e-mail on: tim@pulsarconsulting.com or by calling Tim on Tel: 01753 885494. We are planning to run some Team Trial evenings followed by Team Practice on Thursday evenings in early April for players interested in playing team tennis.

FLOODLIGHTS

I am pleased to say that discussion with our neighbours over the winter about our plans to install floodlights have gone well and our initial approach to South Bucks Council (a pre-planning enquiry) has not raised any surprises. We are currently in discussion with Bucks LTA experts for advice on the preferred lighting systems to use in our situation and following this hope to be in a position to submit our formal application for Planning Permission in four to six weeks time.

Bob

Bob Mason, Chairman

Dukes Wood LTC

March 2010

