



GERRARDS CROSS (DUKES WOOD) TENNIS CLUB

Dukes Lane, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL97JZ

MID-SEASON NEWSLETTER: JULY 2011

How good it has been to see the courts in full use virtually every evening recently. A combination of an active Coaching Programme, various Club Tournament matches and the remaining inspiration of Wimbledon perhaps! Despite the variable summer weather, it is great to see so many members wanting to get out and play tennis.

MEMBERSHIP and COURT USAGE

Membership numbers now stand at 385, a further encouraging increase on last year. Total membership is now approaching the peak levels of a decade ago and the Committee is continuing to monitor this very carefully to ensure that this does not impact adversely on court availability.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, this year we issued Shoe Tags to all members to provide an easy and immediately noticeable confirmation of membership. I am grateful to those members who are using their Tag but for those that have not yet done so, can I encourage you to attach your Tag. Anyone using the courts can then be easily identified as a member. It will also be helpful to coaches and Committee Members in challenging anyone who they do not recognise as a member.

This is important because there have been several instances recently where non-members have been found to have been using the courts. Having established that they were not members, the people concerned were asked to leave. But this does raise concerns particularly when these people had not paid a Membership Subscription or even a Visitors' Fee. If non-members are able to use the Courts in this way it is very unfair to our members who have properly joined the Club and paid the appropriate subscription to do so.

A non-member may use the courts, but only with an existing member of the same category (ie. not adult with junior) and provided a daily fee is paid in advance. The member is responsible for paying the fee to either a club Coach, Committee Member or at the club bar. The appropriate fees are: Adult £5 and Junior £2.

For this and a number of other reasons, we have decided to update and reissue the Club's Court Usage Rules.

[Rules – click here](#)

A copy of these will be displayed at the entrance to each of the Courts.

CLUB TOURNAMENT

It is good to see that all events in the Club Tournament are now well underway with a number of matches having been played over the last few weeks. It is important to see progress being maintained over the next few weeks, and certainly before the peak of the holiday season in August, so that we can avoid the congestion of matches as we get closer to Finals Day on Saturday, 10th September.

CLUB ROLES

I am delighted to report that **Lucie Holmes** has agreed to take-on the role of Fixtures Secretary from **Sally Buckley**. Lucie is now in the process of setting-up the fixtures for the various Winter leagues for 2011-12. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record the thanks of the Club to Sally for her many years of hard work and her contribution in this role.

I am also pleased to report that **Barbi Watson** has recently taken on the role of **Health & Safety Representative** for the Tennis Club. Barbi has already reviewed Health & Safety arrangements, renewed the First Aid kits and taken-up a number of minor issues with the Sports Club Management Committee. The Committee is very grateful to Barbi for taking on this important responsibility.

CLUB TREASURER

At the time of writing, I am sorry to say that still no-one has come forward to take-on the role of Treasurer when Steve Prokopiou relinquishes the position in the Autumn. It goes without saying that the maintenance of accurate club accounts and good financial control is very important and the role of the Treasurer is key in making this happen. I really would welcome hearing from any member who feels that they might have the necessary time and interest in taking-on this role. If you would like to have an initial 'no-commitment' discussion about what is involved, do please let me know and Steve and I would be pleased to provide further information.

EVENTS

On 20th May, we held a very well attended (in fact a 'sold-out') **Wimbledon Ticket Draw Supper** with approaching 100 members attending. Although the Club receives a good allocation of Wimbledon Tickets each year, we are not able to make a return on the sale of the tickets which must be sold strictly at face value to registered British Tennis Members. However, after covering John Price's charges for the supper, the evening itself did contribute £900 to club funds. The Committee is most grateful to all those members who attended and extends apologies to those members who would have wished to attend but couldn't due to lack of space.

We are pleased that John Price has agreed to run a series of **Club Suppers** on various scheduled Senior Club Nights through the season. The recent Friday night supper was very well attended and enjoyed by over 30 members. The next Supper is planned for Friday, 5th August. Watch-out for details on noticeboards and put your name down early to avoid disappointment.

It is very encouraging to see the popularity of John's suppers this season. We remain keen to work with John to see that we run good events which appeal to members and which make good use of our Clubhouse as a club asset. By running successful social events through which John makes a good return on his efforts the Tennis Club, and the Sports Club as a whole, benefits.

Some other dates for your diary:

Friday, 5th August, Senior Club Night Supper

Monday, 29th August, Bank Holiday Tournament

Saturday, 10th September, Club Finals Day

Friday, 23rd September, Summer Ball at Harewood Downs, Golf Club

[Summer Ball Details](#)

October, Junior Disco (date tbc)

October / November, Wine Tasting (date tbc)

Friday, 20th January 2012, Burns Night Supper

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

ELECTRICAL WORK

The Sports Club Management Committee have given the go-ahead for a programme of essential electrical works to be carried-out in the Clubhouse which might disrupt the supply during both the day and night. The electricians will do their best to minimise inconvenience. The work is expected to last around ten days and members are asked to take particular care whilst moving around the Clubhouse during the period the work is carried-out.

COACHING

Tom continues to provide a wide-ranging and well-supported **Coaching Programme** and in addition to the ever popular 'Cardio Tennis' sessions is now running weekly 'Rusty-Rackets' coaching group sessions for members wishing to improve the basic shots in their game.

Tom's summer camps are already up and running every week, through to 19th August. Tom asks that you book directly with him in person, via email (tomcoachgxsc@gmail.com) or via telephone 07814 440841

Members will also be interested to learn that Tom has also been selected by the LTA to be one of the coaches taking part in a TV programme (Allplay) to be screened later in the year in which he will be coaching the athlete Denise Lewis to play tennis. Filming has already taken place at the Club. Watch-out for further details.

TENNIS CLUB LOGO

A new design for a Club Logo (see header to this Newsletter) has been developed with the valuable help of Richard King's father (a renowned local artist) and various items of tennis clothing bearing the logo will soon be made available to purchase through the Pro-shop.

CLUBHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS

The Committee has been continuing to develop plans for the possibility of developing the **Tennis Terrace** over-looking Courts 1 and 2. The plan is to make the Terrace slightly larger and able more comfortably to accommodate additional tables and chairs.

We are now in the process of drawing-up architect's plans for the project prior to formally applying to South Bucks Council for Planning Permission. We are also exploring opportunities for sponsorship support to help meet the cost of necessary building work.

I hope you continue to enjoy your tennis in 2011.

Bob Mason

22nd July 2011

