



Wrecclesham Tennis Club

Spring Newsletter

News from the Chair

The year started with sad news of the passing of John McConnell, who served the Club as Treasurer for 10 years up to last November. He worked tirelessly for the Club trying to get grants for the new clubhouse even when he was unwell. He will be greatly missed at Wrecclesham Tennis Club, not least for his tricky little shots across the net! I know members will be keeping in touch with his wife Helen as she and her sons try and grapple with their huge loss.

After a bitter December when the courts were covered in snow or too icy to play on, signs of Spring are a welcome sight. We can begin to look forward to lighter evenings and playing tennis without wearing layers of clothing, plus hats and gloves!

I seem to have been sending out a lot of emails for you all as Pippa, our secretary has been in New Zealand for the last month. Thanks to everyone for any feedback given on social events - this helps to organise what you want. Thanks to those putting up and distributing flyers about Open Day and free junior sessions. We always need new members to keep the club revitalised.

Committee

I am delighted that we have new committee members bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Welcome to Pippa Gray, Secretary, Louise Cousins, Treasurer and Shirley Caldwell, Ladies' Captain.

We have a smaller committee this year. The following functions are now being done off committee:

Maintenance - Brian Greig and Rob Golding
American tournaments - Madeleine Stanford
Club Championships - David Gladman
Winter Mixed Handicap Tournament - Brian Greig
Web site management - Jennie Kinnersly

Sub committees:

Lease - Margot Rowdon, Simon Jones, Ian Sharpe
Clubhouse project - Margot Rowdon, Rob Golding, Kathy Norkett and Sandra Harvey
Grants - Margot Rowdon, Kathy Norkett, Dolores Robertson
Juniors/Coaching/Schools links - Diane Pettitt, Jasper Allen, Linda Taylor, Louise Cousins, Jim Pressly

It is always surprising to stop and think about the amount of tasks that need to be done to keep the club running. That list above says it all..... there is a lot going on! Thank you everyone for your work and contributions.

Updates

Lease - we are still sorting out the fine detail with Waverley BC and hope to have it sorted out in the next couple of months. We are contesting an increase in rates from £42 p.a. to £940 p.a. and negotiations have been somewhat protracted. We expect to hear the final outcome within the next two weeks.

Clubhouse replacement - We feel that it is vital to push on with this as a nice clubhouse will encourage new members. We are aware that the current clubhouse is deteriorating but do not want to spend precious money on doing it up. Please keep it as tidy as possible and let a committee member know of any problems. The timescale to replace it is 1 to 2 years.

We have found what we believe to be the best value and best designed clubhouse for our needs from a provider with good references from other tennis clubs. We will try to get some pictures up for Open Day. It will be well insulated and cosy and give us a nice place to socialise. There will not be enough room for a table tennis table but otherwise it is perfect. We now have to get the finance in place. The whole project will cost approximately £50,000 which includes removing the current clubhouse.

We have £25,000 set aside, including £3,500 in grants. We are waiting for confirmation of a grant from Waverley Borough Council that should cover the cost of the demolition and removal of the clubhouse. WBC wish to support the Club, recognising that we provide a valuable sporting facility which we generally maintain without much assistance. We will be applying for a lottery grant, but competition will be fierce. We can apply for an LTA loan, but that bites into future income. If anyone has any knowledge of any funds that might be worth trying or know any philanthropists keen on tennis please, let me know.

We have started fundraising and need to keep this up. So far we have raised £340. If anyone would like to organise an event, run a Club Lottery or anything else, please let me know. We are having a big Quiz night at the Royal Oak on 7 May to raise funds. Please come along and bring your friends to make up a table.

Should anyone wish to give a gift towards the Clubhouse Fund we can claim gift aid as we are a registered Community Amateur Sports Club. Any gifts of £100 or over will be recognised in some way, if the person wishes to be named.

Margot Rowdon, Chair

Dates for the Year

Open Day

Juniors 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Seniors 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Quiz night at the Royal Oak

Wimbledon Draw night with Cheese and Wine

American Tournaments

2.00pm start

Ladies Charity Tournament 2.00pm start

Junior Tournament

Finals Day

Terry Davies Junior Tournament

AGM 7.30pm

Dinner Dance/Disco

Saturday 2 April

Saturday 7 May

Wednesday 11 May (tbc)

Sunday 15 May

Sunday 12 June

Sunday 17 July

Sunday 25 September

Sunday 21 August

Saturday 9 July

Sunday 18 September

Saturday 8 October

Thursday 10 November

Saturday 19 November

Committee meetings for the year: 14 March, 6 June, 5 September, 31 October.

Subscriptions

It will soon be time to renew your membership - in April - but there is no need to fill out another form unless any details have changed. (You can download a form from the club website if you need one. Click on **joining** for this at www.wreccleshamtennis.org.uk) This year we will circulate addresses to other members if you give your permission. You can either email me this on ditaylor80@btinternet.com or send a note with your subscription. Otherwise we will only circulate phone numbers of those who gave permission for this last year.

If you pay by 30th April there will be a £10 reduction in the fee for seniors renewing and £5 for juniors, so it's worth being prompt! If you would like to pay the extra £10 anyway as a donation towards the new clubhouse, we would be pleased to accept your gift. We could even collect the tax back on that £10 if you are a taxpayer. A gift aid form for your use is attached to this newsletter.

The subscriptions, with the prompt payment reductions are in red, are:

Senior £91 (£81)	One Parent Family £116 (£106)
Student over 16 in full time education £54 (£49)	Two Parent Family £197 (£187)
Junior/University Student £38 (33)	Senior Citizen £75 (£65)
Non Playing Member £9	

Family memberships are inclusive of any number of junior members but there is an additional £16 for each student member included in a family membership (including a university student living and studying away from home).

New members will have their keys included in their fee so neutralising the prompt payment reduction.

Subscriptions and enquiries to Membership Secretary - Linda Taylor 80 Riverdale, Wrecclesham, Farnham GU10 4PJ tel: 01252 714111 or email membership@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk

Juniors

The Juniors have their own newsletter written by Diane Pettitt, which is on the web site. There is a full junior programme.

Congratulations to the U16 Boys' team who won all their matches this winter.

Juniors will be issued with membership cards this year instead of shoe tags. They should have them with them when at the Club so that Senior members can check if necessary.

League tennis

Match fees will be £3 for seniors, including senior citizens, and £1 for students and juniors playing in senior teams. Captains will not pay a match fee for home matches but will provide refreshments.

Ladies: All teams have had a very enjoyable season despite the difficult weather conditions over the course of the winter. The Ladies A team did extremely well, finishing top of Division 1 and they will be promoted to the Premier Division for next winter. The Ladies B team finished the season in second place in Division 2B.

Mens and Mixed: All three Men's teams were promoted last year, but it appears to have been a step too far for the A and B team and both face the prospect of relegation this season. The Mixed A has had a successful season, with prospects of promotion.

Three Ladies', two Men's and three Mixed teams have been entered into the Aldershot and District League for the summer.

All league match results are to be submitted on line. Help will be given to team captains where necessary.

Maintenance

Court netting - The netting at the ends of courts 1 and 2 has been replaced.

Waverley BC are paying for the replacement of the posts, gate and netting on the recreation ground side of court 3 for us. It is in a very bad state and gets a battering from the recreation ground sports activities. We are grateful to WBC for helping us with this. It is the first financial support we have had from WBC for many years and particularly helpful at the moment.

Court 1 needs to be resurfaced this year and this is scheduled for the end of April. Again we are trying for grants but maintenance projects are not well covered by grants.

Coaching

Some members are organising coaching in groups and individually with Jasper Allen, our head coach. If you want to organise your own group coaching and book courts ahead this MUST be agreed with the committee due to pressure on the courts at peak times. Individual coaching is subject to the usual court booking procedure in your handbook.

Contact for Jasper is Tel: 0333 577 1540 or e mail: info@jatennis.co.uk

Brian Greig continues to run some groups which beginners and returners can join. Brian tells me he is winding down a bit, so sadly won't be starting any more groups. He can be contacted on 01252 793762. Many thanks to Brian for his help and encouragement to members of all abilities over the years.

Club sessions

In an effort to make club sessions more appealing to all members we are encouraging people to organise games so the stronger players will have a chance to play against each other and the weaker players don't feel like cannon fodder! David Gladman is running an energetic and innovative drills session from 8pm on Wednesday club night so do go along. Contact David for details: 01252 687860.

Shirley Cauldwell and Louise Cousins are organising a ladies social morning on the first Friday of each month. The next session will be at 9.15am on Friday 1st April so do go along. This is for members and anyone who might be interested in joining.

We would really like a morning session every week for ladies and gentlemen. If there is anyone who would like to organise that please talk to any committee member or email secretary@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk Any morning would be ok to suit the organiser and potential players.

Singles boxes

These were enjoyed by all who participated. The winner of Division A was Simon Fabry and the winner of Division B was Jack Cousins.

Jim Pressly will be sending out an email about changing the format to a singles ladder as people would like to try this.

Court booking

Just to remind people that the match fixture list is on the web site. We will try to get rearranged matches put on the web site too, so you can see if courts are likely to be busy. The booking procedure is in the handbook you received by email and it is also on the website.

Website

Please use the website and give any feedback to: secretary@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk

Wimbledon Tickets

This year we are following last year's format as it worked well. The draw and allocation of tickets will take place at the clubhouse on one evening only. Eligible members must attend on that night if they wish to be included (or send a representative). The draw will take place and the member must choose and pay for their tickets at the time, otherwise they will forfeit the tickets.

Only British Tennis Members registered through Wrecclesham Tennis Club are allowed to take part. There are a few blips in Surrey LTA's list of Wrecclesham British Tennis Members. We are checking members against the BTM list for WTC but if you are not receiving a regular online newsletter from BTM you are not a registered member. Please register online as soon as possible. Any registered member aged 9 or over is eligible.

Members are reminded that these tickets are not for resale and should be returned to the Club if the purchaser cannot use them. Failure to do this could put the club's future ticket allocation in jeopardy.

The draw date will be advertised once I have received the tickets. It is likely to be at club night on Wednesday 11th May. I will send out an email about this as soon as our ticket allocation is confirmed.

Advertising board

We are putting up in the clubhouse a separate advertising board for members who wish to use it. The charge for advertising is £25 p.a. All payments will go to the Clubhouse fund.

Hardship fund

The committee has decided to establish a small hardship fund. This fund is to give assistance to existing members who are experiencing sudden and unexpected financial difficulty. It may be for help with the subscription or essential sports equipment. It will be managed by three committee members and all personal information will be kept confidential to those three. Any enquiries in confidence to: chairman@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk

Feedback

We need your views so please feel free to complete a feedback form available on the website or email: secretary@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk with any thoughts or ideas.

Last but not least....

Old balls

Don't forget to bring your old tennis balls to the Club. Please leave them in the Ladies' cloakroom. We can sell these on.

Cricket balls - important!

Wrecclesham Cricket Club A team have gone up into Division 1 so we are likely to have some bigger hitters around. Please be aware of this - usually the cricketers yell if a ball is heading our way. Let us know if this happens so we can monitor the incident level.

Pippa Gray, Secretary

March 2011