



Members' Newsletter

June
2019

Upcoming Events

Sunday 7 July 1:30 –
5:30pm Adult Team
Tennis Tie-break Tens
– a new event run by
Coach Greg

13 - 20 July: LTA
Grade 3 Dan Burden
Trophy tournament
jointly awarded to
Byfleet and Elstead --
a great opportunity for
adult and junior
members to watch and
participate against
new opponents

Saturday 17 August:
Summer's Evening
Picnic/BBQ + Live
Music. Details to follow
soon

Sunday 29
September: Club
Tournament Finals –
please put this date
into your diary

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

What's happened

What's coming up

What we're doing

this issue

On Court & Social News/Upcoming Events **P.1**

Around the Club **P.2**

On Court & Social News (since AGM)

Social Tennis & Events:

- Nearly 30 members enjoyed a morning's play to earn the feast that followed in the pre Christmas mixed social tournament – thanks to Mary Braddock, Rachel Whitehead and Pam Lansdell for organising.
- Another very popular quiz + curry night with over 50 brains battling it out. An excellent rowdy evening was had by all – our appreciation to our esteemed quiz master, Martin Read.
- Successful social Mixed Doubles tournament of 'rabbits with rackets' held on Easter Monday. Many thanks again to Martin for organizing.
- Braving rather blustery conditions in early June, 18 determined ladies enjoyed a Ladies doubles morning with bacon butties & Danish pastries – thanks again for the expert organization by Mary Braddock & Rachel Whitehead

Internal Competition:

- Internal Club Box league kindly run by Ethan Clements continues to prove popular – the recently introduced ladder seems to be encouraging a wider range of players. Details are on the website – do sign up and join in!
- Club Tournament is now under way with 20 events for adults and juniors. This year Barbara Awbery is kindly organising under a slightly revised format. We have introduced an entry fee to try and make it self-funding rather than subsidised by club.



Match players and Teams

- New pre-season practices for men and women interested in playing for the Surrey and Woking league sides were well supported – thanks to organisers Sue Willoughby & Alan Genzel. Squads have been selected for 9 Woking Summer League teams and 14 Surrey League teams involving more than 80 members – many thanks to all the captains for their efforts.
- There are more members playing in teams than ever with a new men's 5th Surrey league team and mid-week vets team.
- There have been fantastic results for BLTC in the winter leagues and early season matches – results have been posted on the website and BLTC. Facebook page -- highlights include:
- Mens 1st team have won back to back promotions in the Surrey Winter league and have moved from Division 5 to Division 3.
- Convincing wins for our Team Tennis Mens and Ladies 1st teams and U18 Boys. squad – well done all!

Around the Club

House & Grounds: on-going and planned changes

- Installation of new car park signs and issue of windscreen permits to make clear the car park is for our members only
- A clearly marked disabled bay in the car park
- Replacement sand for courts 1, 2 and 3 to improve the playing experience and contrast with lines + additional sand for courts 6 and 7
- Repairs to wire fencing on all courts to address safety issues and prolong life of existing wire panels
- Following a successful fact finding visit to Oxshott Tennis Club and trial of their new LED lighting, the replacement of floodlights for courts 6-9 is planned. The lower power usage from LEDs should allow all floodlights to be used simultaneously

Membership

- Most members have now taken up their new subscription starting on 1st April – there are a few yet to join -- please ensure you do so as we will soon be changing the door/gate code – please look out for updates



- Our allocation of 46 pairs of Wimbledon tickets was successfully offered to members this year run via the LTA's automatic ballot system. We hope those members lucky enough to be given one will have a memorable day out.

Many thanks to Alan Genzel who has managed both the membership processing and the ballot

Running the Club changes

- The club is now incorporated as a members' club limited by guarantee – thanks to all those who worked hard to make this happen, including the members who attended the SGM in March and voted to support this important change of legal status for the club's long term future
- Joan Hovelmeier joined the staff in January and has been a very welcome addition, working in the mornings to help with club administration
- We also welcome Richard Baggott who ably assists and covers for Fred to maintain our club, courts and grounds
- As members will know, there is a lot of work involved in running, maintaining and developing a club of this size. Therefore, we are currently recruiting a Club Manager to help manage the efficient running of the club and to help to deliver a better member experience.

Strategic Update

At the club's incorporation the previous club committee was replaced by a Board of Directors supported by a number of committees. The club continues to be in a stable financial position and the Board has agreed to follow a financial strategy for the day to day running, maintenance and like for like replacement of existing facilities. This is to be covered from annual income thereby maintaining the club's reserves for future club developments and enhancements.

To improve our member offering, during the next few months the Board and its committees are planning to review all the membership categories, subscriptions and income opportunities as well as the services offered to adult and junior members, staffing, rules and coaching programmes.

Other key objectives include:

- Recruit a Head Coach to be responsible for programmes to cover all club members and work alongside the Club Manager
- A review to change of use of the club office, coaches' room and ground floor kitchen
- Review indoor and outdoor court usage
- Revise induction process and create new member pack
- Review colour playing standards, how set & maintained
- Investigate changing the club's administration system so that we can offer self-administered on-line payments and membership data maintenance including use of debit and credit cards for fees, court bookings, coaching

Reminders.....

- Clay Courts - Please sweep AFTER play
- Do not walk behind a court during play
- Recognised tennis kit only allowed
- Only park cars within marked bays
- Please do not use the Nuffield car park
- Return club supplied mix-in tennis balls to the kitchen
- Do not leave unwashed cups in the summerhouse
- LASTLY, protect our club by NOT giving out the door /gate code to anyone - ever!!

