



ARTC AUTUMN **NEWSLETTER** **2023**

Dear Members,

I would like to bring you up to date with everything that has been happening in the club over the summer months and also give you some information about what is coming up. You'll find my comments are in italics throughout this newsletter.

Firstly, a warm welcome to all our new members, both adults and juniors. The adults have been taking advantage of what we have to offer by playing in coaching sessions, tournaments, and club sessions. Our younger juniors have benefitted from the new membership category of "chaperone", which enables a parent/carer to book a court and enjoy some tennis in their own time, whilst building on their coaching experience.

To the outside world, it may appear that the club is quietly swimming along but that belies the hard paddling that is going on! You will see from the reports below, just how much effort by all our volunteers goes into running the club.

Chris Howat
ARTC Chair

Our Tennis Environment

Court Maintenance (Richard Barwick)

In June, Replay Maintenance were contracted to add extra sand to all 3 courts. The reason being to ensure that the pile of the Astroturf remains vertical and to ensure that the courts remain in good order. On 27th September, they returned to do the twice-yearly maintenance job of cleaning the sand infill and brushing the courts. In addition, they spray and kill any moss found growing in the sand. This is a 4-hour job and, prior to the visit, we remove all the nets and court furniture. They have also provided a new net for court 3, a prize that we won in their customer competition. The courts are now 11 years old and, due to the regular maintenance Replay have provided, they are still playing well and should last for many more years.

Thank you Richard, for organising the maintenance work with Replay and to Geoff Bullock for his assistance in prepping the courts before and after the rejuvenation. The new net is now proudly in place on court 3, thanks to Richard entering us in the competition!



Mark Baxter has continued to brush the courts every fortnight in order to redistribute the sand, which makes them look in pristine condition. Thank you Mark.

Autumn leaves are now falling, so I urge everyone to remove any leaves/debris from the court surface before playing. You can do this quite quickly by using the dragnet, which is hanging on the fencing. It is vital to do this to prevent any debris being trodden into the Astroturf, so that we can prolong its life for as long as possible.

I would also like to thank Steve Temple and Mick Miller for regularly mowing the grass surrounding the courts. Newly mown grass certainly sets the courts off beautifully. Sadly, our lawnmower recently reached the end of its life, despite all Mick's efforts to remedy the problems, and a new one has now been purchased. Mick has also put up a new secure cupboard in the clubhouse. Thank you.

Gary Carpenter has kindly continued to produce a monthly Health and Safety Report, which is necessary for insurance purposes. It is a valuable piece of information that highlights any issues that we need to address - for example, we are currently looking at levelling the paving around court 3, to avoid any trip hazards and also tightening the fencing around the courts. Thank you Gary.

Safeguarding (Welfare Officer, Chris Howat)

It has been a relatively quiet few months, following on from all the work put in at the beginning of the year to ensure that our club meets all of the LTA's safeguarding standards. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that it remains **everyone's** responsibility to report any safeguarding concerns to me, as Welfare Officer, or to contact the emergency services if someone is in immediate danger.

The LTA has produced an extensive new list of support agencies you can contact in times of need. You can find this displayed in the clubhouse and on the website. There is also a new flowchart for reporting a concern, which shows some changes in

how the LTA Safeguarding Team follows through any matters that are escalated to them.

I would like to welcome Gary Carpenter to our Safeguarding Team which consists of Kath Temple, Suzanne Webb and myself. As our Health and Safety officer, he will make a valuable addition to the team.

Coaching News

Adult Coaching (Pauline Belt)

The adult coaching on Monday nights is ending due to the light after what has been another fabulous season of coaching with Rob Jones. The coaching focuses on doubles tactics and drills and improves tennis fitness. It takes place on a Monday evening from the beginning of April to the end of September with some time off for holidays. This season saw some 'beginners/rusty rackets' players move up into the intermediary class, it has been great to see their progression over a couple of years. These sessions are likely to recommence at the beginning of April 2024 when the clocks 'spring forward' at 5/6pm and depending on interest there may be one or two sessions for different levels.

There is a WhatsApp group to manage the adult coaching and if any of the current attendees know of anybody else who would like to join in, please let me know on 07981419760. All members are very welcome to join.

Juniors Coaching(Chris Howat)

Junior coaching, led once again by Damian Galloway, took place during the summer term on Wednesday afternoons. The mini red group was very well attended, but the mini orange group was not full. The number of coaching sessions was reduced this term to allow for Damian's wedding and honeymoon. We wish him well in his new married life. Just before the start of the autumn term, he announced that he did not want to continue group coaching, preferring to focus more on individual coaching. This led to some hasty investigation to find a replacement coach and I am delighted to report that, thanks to her name being passed on to me by Kelly Hunter; we now are working with Jill Le Pla. She is a county standard player and an ex primary school teacher, who has recently gained her LTA Coach Accreditation Level 2, having done her training at York Tennis Club and St Peter's School. She is also keen to help develop our links with Appleton Primary School.

Friday afternoon junior club sessions have taken place through the summer term and will continue until October half term. There have been 2 groups - 1 primary school age group and Teen Tennis for the 11 - 16 yr olds. It is especially good to have the older juniors back playing and enjoying some fun games and competitive singles play.

I met with Matthew Snowden, the assistant head of the school, earlier in the summer. He is very keen to liaise with our club to enable the children to make use of our great village facility. Consequently, at the end of the children's 6 weeks of tennis at school, the teachers brought classes down to the courts to experience playing on

actual courts. Furthermore, as part of the PTA Experience Passport, Kelly Hunter organised a Wimbledon Experience Day. This was a tremendous success, as you will see from her report, and something we hope to repeat next summer.

Wimbledon Experience Day (Kelly Hunter)

This summer saw the first ever Wimbledon Experience Day held at Appleton Roebuck Tennis Club. Classes from Reception up to Year 6 at the primary schooled the excitement of walking down to the courts for the session and taking part in fun and engaging tennis activities.

The day was an enormous success and there were smiles seen from both pupils and teachers, who embraced the session and provided lots of really positive feedback. Some members of the club kindly gave up their time to help run an open family session after school, which was attended by several keen families, who were eager to have some more time on the courts.

The school and the club are both excited to make the day an annual event, with the hope to help strengthen the school-club link and grow the junior section of the club.

Tennis Tournaments

The Spring Cup Tournament (Chris Howat)

This tournament, in appreciation of Liz Maunder, was held on Friday evening 16th June. There were twelve players, and it was great to see two of our newest members, Kathryn and Laura, taking part. It provided them with a good opportunity to meet and play with other club members.

Congratulations go to Sara Heron and Geoff Bullock, who won the trophy. I found this particularly appropriate as Geoff held the position of Mixed Teams Fixtures Secretary prior to Sara taking it over at the beginning of this year. Liz previously held this role for many, many years.

After the tournament, we adjourned to The Roebuck and were joined there by some of the players' partners and spectators for refreshments. It made for a very enjoyable and sociable end to the evening and, as with the Christmas tournament, a pattern worth repeating. Apart from the trophy, another presentation was made on behalf of Brian Maunder, who generously donated two bottles of champagne for the lowest scoring lady and man; this was in appreciation of Liz's sentiment that it is the taking part that really counts. A nice touch from Brian. Thank you.



The David Bradley Men's Tournament (Tom Shouksmith)

There was a fantastic turnout for this year's tournament, which was held on Sunday 17th September. After David's sad passing, this was the second running of the tournament in his name. David's family and the club were keen to build on the success of last year's tournament and David's sister, Vivienne, was instrumental in ensuring the day went well. She very generously laid on coffee and treats for the players, and even a buffet after the tournament at The Roebuck Inn.

It was great to see friends and former teammates of David, along with new members of ARTC, and the usual contingent, all come together to make up the field for this year's tournament. 9 pairs were fielded in total. These were divided into two groups and battled it out, with the top two pairs from each group going through to make up the semifinal matches, and then the final. After a morning of hotly contested matches, I'm sure David would be delighted to see old school friends Paul Harrison and Adrian Shakeshaft face off in the final against close friends Richard Phillips and Rob Jones. The crowd of onlookers enjoyed a great final, with Richard and Rob

proving too strong in the end. A convincing win and Vivienne presented them with the trophy as champions for 2023.



Ladies Doubles Tournament 8.10.23

The ladies enjoyed unseasonably warm weather to have a harlequin end of season tournament on Sunday 8.10.23. It was great to see so many newer members playing and everyone enjoyed a glass of fizz to toast Sara Heron and Chris Howat who won the final against Julia Campbell-Barwick and Lucy Holiday 6-3. Many thanks go to Julia who organised the event and provided refreshments.



York and District Mixed Tennis League

Mixed Doubles Summary (Fixtures Secretary, Sara Heron)

Once again, we entered 4 mixed teams into the York League, an amazing achievement for such a small club. Many thanks go to the team captains who committed to weekly meetings, and a great deal of work behind the scenes, to ensure we sent 3 couples to every single match. This was no mean feat in a season with unexpected illnesses and injuries. New and old members alike all stepped up to play for the club, some for the first time and some several times a week and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your commitment and support throughout the season.

In addition, we embraced the league's new recording platform, My Division, submitting results digitally for the first time. Thanks again to captains in recording results on time and successfully negotiating initial teething problems.

1st Team Report (Pauline Belt)

The first team finished third in division 3 behind Heworth 1 and Bubwith 1 ending with a close win versus Fulford 2, 57-51. We had a narrow loss against Bubwith who were second in the table, 50-58 and our best win was against York 5, 72-36. The core team were Ruth Jones, Kate Gilman, me, Tom Shouksmith, Paul Dadvar and Geoff Bullock, a huge well done to all and thanks for your commitment and support to the team. A huge thanks also goes to players who stepped in to support us: Mick Miller, Dominique Morrissey, Chris Howat, Ed Zeigler, Rob Jones, Sara Heron and Jess Dawkes.

When possible, we cooled down and stretched with a few beers and Yorkshire tapas at Ye Olde Sun Inn in Colton, The Marica and some other pubs in York. We ended the season with a do at The Angel on the Green and Rice Style on Bishy Road. Looking forward to next season already.

2nd Team Report (Sara Heron)

The second team were very much looking forward to a competitive season of tennis in Division 5. It was a tough division but nevertheless it was all to play for in the middle of the table. Unfortunately, as the season progressed, we were beset with unexpected illness and injury affecting pairings and performance and we struggled to convert as many matches as we would have liked into wins. We were unable to find the one additional win which would have secured our place in the division.

As a team we were disappointed as overall, we had all enjoyed some fabulous tennis. Thank you so much to everyone who played, your commitment and enthusiasm has made for yet another enjoyable season.

3rd Team Report (Sara Heron)

It was a tough season for the third team this year in a very strong division. There were several hard-fought matches with some close scores and some very enjoyable tennis, but unfortunately the wins escaped us.

The loss of captain Suzanne Webb, due to injury, at the beginning of the season was a blow and the team also suffered with several injuries as the season progressed. However, they were very well supported with players from other teams, and we would like to extend thanks and gratitude to everyone who played. Indeed, there were an amazing 17 different players representing Appleton 3 throughout the course of the season and, whilst it's a great shame, we are facing relegation from the division, the commitment and energy from every player has been outstanding.

4th Team Report (Julia Campbell-Barwick)

The 4th Mixed Team reverted to being run on traditional lines this season, i.e., the best players selected as available and regular playing partnerships used whenever possible. Only 10 matches were played due to one Club withdrawing their team before the start of the season. There were 2 teams in the division who were playing at a significantly higher level and those were the tough matches. In the remainder of the games, our 4th team were always on a competitive level with 2 of the matches being lost by only 2 to 3 games.

I would like to thank Amanda McVey for her determined recruitment of new players into ARTC this season, and these occasional players meant that teams like the 4ths could field 3 couples each match. Thank you Amanda.

Finally, I would like to mention that it has been a pleasure to be captain of the 4th Mixed Team this year. The indefatigable enthusiasm of the regulars - James Dutton, Kelly Hunter, Tim Spakouskas, Lucy and Tom Holliday - however tough the match - was a credit to themselves and the Club and I send them sincere good wishes for the 2024 season.

Division 10 Played 10 matches - Won 3 and lost 7.

Thank you, Sara, for all your work this season, not only in your new role as Fixtures Secretary, but also coping with the challenges of the new match recording system, My Division. Thank you also to the team captains for all their efforts in managing 4 teams each week - no mean feat! Chris

Fulford Ladies Invitation League

Ladies 1st Team Report (Julia Campbell- Barwick)

The 1st ladies' team was beset with injury problems from the very start of the season right to the very last game. And the other problem this year was the weather, resulting in 3 matches needing to be rearranged and the final match of the season being played on the first Saturday of September with the League extending the season to accommodate this.

With 5 wins, the team ended with 10 points and just managed to remain in Division 5, with the final match being the decider as to who would be demoted - ourselves or New Earswick. But we secured a comfortable win in the end, which meant that the team should remain in Division 5 for next season. Thank you so much to those ladies who played that day.

Division 5: Played 12 matches, won 5 and lost 7

The other aspect of the season which we would like to report, was the reintroduction of the post-match tea. This had stopped since Covid and was not obligatory, but we felt that it would be nice to provide a get together after the match, and we believe this proved to be the case with most of the other teams in our division doing the same. It also gave us the opportunity to enjoy Chris Howat's wonderful lemon cake!

So, we go forward to 2024 in the hope that the season sees easier availability and kinder weather.

Ladies 2nd Team Report (Amanda McVey)

As captain of the Ladies 2nd Team, I would like to thank all 17 other ladies who played 1 or more matches in Division 6 of the Ladies Fulford league during the 2023 season. There were 12 matches and some very strong opposing teams. It was the first time playing in matches for several of our ladies. It is brilliant that we have so many new members who both played well and were invaluable for ensuring we were able to field a team to play in every match.

Sadly, some injuries meant that a few players were injured for most of the season too - wishing them a speedy recovery and return to playing tennis. We had a lot of fun despite finishing in the bottom 2 teams in the division. The results were ... won 2, drew 1 and lost 9 ending 6th out of 7 teams. Let's keep up the good work and look forward to another exciting season playing new teams in 2024. Thank you again to all the ladies who played in the team this year. I would also like to thank the ladies' captains for all their efforts in managing to field two ladies' teams - particularly Amanda, who has been very proactive this year in recruiting several new members. This has enabled all those ladies to play more and enjoy competitive tennis against other clubs.

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Pink Weekend for Breast Cancer 1 & 2.7.23

Every year the Fulford Ladies Tennis League encourages all ladies playing on a specific weekend to wear pink and fundraise for Breast Cancer Awareness. This year the previous target was more than doubled and a fantastic £1001 was raised. Well done to all the ladies from ARTC who took part in such a worthwhile event.



York Men's League

Men's 1st Team Report (Tom Shouksmith)

After being promoted into Division 2 last season, this season was always going to be a tough one. The loss of two key players from last year's team made the goal of survival in this division all the greater. Despite the struggles, four strong regular players were ably supported by a cast of thousands! This meant that we had some extremely competitive matches and managed to secure victories in key fixtures, ensuring we avoided relegation.

Thanks go to Paul Dadvar, Steve Duree, and Ed Ziegler for their continued commitment, and to all those who stepped in and helped us out in our moments of need.

Men's 2nd Team Report (Steve Temple)

Excellent season, champions of Division 6!! We rounded it off with a comfortable win in our last game, followed by a well-deserved beer and curry celebration the same evening.

My thanks go out to the thirteen players who represented the team, with a special thank you to Andy, Paul, Tim and Gary for stepping up to the 1st team, and the dizzy heights of Div 2. Also, thanks to Tom Shouksmith for always considering the 2nd team's promotion aspirations when selecting his 1st team. Looking forward to Div 5 next year!!

A brilliant result for the men's second team. Congratulations! I would also like to echo Steve's comments and commend Tom for always taking the 2nd team into consideration, when fielding his own team each week. That really demonstrates a good ethos in our club, which I believe you will see across the board. The men's first team will remain in Division 2 next season - quite an achievement, given all the challenges they faced. Well done to them, too. Chris

What's happening over the Winter months?

Calendar of events for the next few months.

Clubhouse refurb	<u>Painting the woodwork on the veranda and clubhouse</u> A few committee members are going to undertake this, but if any other members would be willing to assist, they would be very welcome! We are also planning to do the internal painting in the Spring. Contact Chris via info@artc.co.uk if you would like to help with the upkeep of the clubhouse.		
Sundays 1 Oct- 5 Nov Court 3 only	9-11 am	Junior Club Coaching with Jill Le Pla & Cardio Tennis	Contact Chris via juniorcoaching@artc.org.uk for further information.
Fridays until Oct half term	4-5pm Primary 5-6pm Teens 11-16	Junior club sessions	SEE ABOVE
Sundays from 15 Oct Courts 1 & 2 only	1-3pm	Mixed Club session	Contact Amanda directly or via info@artc.org.uk to be put on the Whatsapp group.
Thursday 16 Nov	7.30pm	ARTC AGM	Agenda to follow.
Sunday 3 Dec with 10 Dec as a reserve date	11-1pm tbc	Christmas Cracker Tournament and quiz in The Roebuck	Ho! Ho! Ho! A fun harlequin mixed doubles tournament.

We hope to see you down on the courts very soon!
Chris Howat
ARTC (Chair)