



BLAYDON TENNIS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Issue 7
April 2021

Welcome to the April newsletter, a little late, as is the norm, and also thin this month. It more resembles a letter from the Chairman (so apologies for the poor formatting), but please rest assured that all the committee and volunteers are still working hard for the club.

Open Weekend

As I'm sure the more observant among us will have noticed, we held open days at the club over the bank holiday weekend. The idea of the 2-day event was to introduce new potential members to the benefits of tennis and in particular Blaydon Tennis Club and expand our membership. I'm pleased to confirm that, we had 198 people register over all the available sessions and of these 111 turned up at the club. Monday's weather understandably put off some people!

The event was a tremendous success and has to date generated 42 adult members, 3 retired members, 7 junior members, 29 mini members, 10 parent members and 5 coaching only members. A total of 96 new members and we're still hoping this will increase more before the end of the week. I'll look to update you all on current membership numbers next month.

I'd like to thank all those volunteers and committee members who helped out to make both days such a success. Special thanks to Jonathan and his team of coaches who went above and beyond, especially in Monday's rain.

Finally, I'd like to welcome all of our new members to the club and hope to meet some of them over the coming weeks. If we can all welcome any new members that we meet, we can help to ensure they have a happy introduction to Blaydon Tennis Club. Then I'm sure that BTC will thrive and we will all enjoy our tennis even more.

New gate installation

The other major event in April was the installation of the new entry gate. So far it has been a relatively painless process and we have carried on with the existing code that was previously on the padlock. During the next month this code will be removed and all members will need to use the specific codes associated with their bookings, whether it be a personal, a social session or coaching. Please don't worry though, we'll communicate this before we remove the current code. One issue that we've found so far is that if the wrong code is typed in, the error can compound itself time and time again. To prevent this, if you're having issues with your code then please press the # key and start again, hopefully that will do the trick. P.S. Don't forget you have to actually push the gate open...



Other news in brief

- League Active have confirmed that we will only be playing a **pop-up league** again this summer. The captains have been great in co-ordinating the various teams for the N&D League. Please help them out in any way you can.
- In addition to this, the club is planning an **intra-club league** and also a **club tournament**. One of our new members, Kevin Watson, has volunteered to support this, so please watch this space for more information re format etc.
- We also have a new volunteer, Clare Freemantle, assisting with the club **Facebook page**. A new, member's only Facebook group has been added and I encourage everyone to join and have a look to see what this has to offer. We're hoping this will prove popular and improve communications further.
- Since Danny left the club in December last year Ian Pearson has been carrying out the maintenance activities to keep the club and courts clean and tidy. We are currently looking for someone to take over this permanently and have generated a job spec for the role. We'll disseminate shortly but if anyone would like to discuss this job, or know anyone else who might, please get in touch via the club email and I'll be in touch. We anticipate the **maintenance role** will involve around 6 hours a week at the club carrying out the various duties.
- If you've been playing on courts 1 to 6 you'll have probably noticed an inconsistency between the 2 sides of these courts. I've been chasing Replay who, carried out the original **court rejuvenation** last year to return and address this issue.