



BLAYDON TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Issue 5

Chairman's Update

We held our AGM earlier this month and there were a number of discussions around how the club functions. The highlight was that we managed to hold the AGM, and the medium of Zoom worked reasonably well. A lowlight was that we tried to record the meeting and unfortunately this function failed. Not the end of the world as it would have been the first ever BTC committee meeting that was recorded to the best of my knowledge. Notwithstanding I offer my apologies anyway as I try to do what I say I will do and, in this instance, it wasn't possible. The main outcome, the entire committee have been re-elected for another year and we welcome one new committee member, Trevor Walters.

As we start a new season, coinciding with the partial lifting of Covid restrictions, we are all really excited to be able to play tennis again. In addition to welcoming back our existing members on the 29th March we are also looking forward to welcoming new members as people are hoping to find a new Covid safe sport or return to tennis after not playing for a while. As new members start playing, we would like to encourage our existing members to be as friendly and welcoming as ever. We are a club of different ages, backgrounds, standards and abilities but ultimately, we all just want to come and enjoy a game of tennis with likeminded friends.

Included in this issue:

- Chairman's Update
- Ideas welcome!
- Help with redesigning social media pages
- LTA Youth Programme
- Opening and closing the Clubhouse
- Durham and Cleveland County Awards
- Wimbledon Tickets 2021
- Restringing/ Regripping Service
- Social Sessions Available
- New Gate



We would welcome any ideas from members of anything they would like to see from BTC; for example, Would you like a family fun tournament? A WhatsApp group to find a playing partner? Do you have a fundraising idea? Is there anything you think the club could do better?

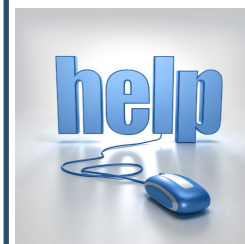
LTA Youth Programme

Blaydon Tennis Club run an LTA Youth Programme. Courses for children aged 4 – 18, packed full of fun games and dynamic training:

Blue Stage	Learn the basics	age 4-6
Red Stage	Serve rally & score	age 6-8
Orange Stage	Develop a rounded game	age 8-9
Green Stage	Test your skills	age 9-10
Yellow Stage	Take your skills further	age 11+

Get in touch if you want to know more and encourage your kids friends to join us and learn to play. As for the adults, our coaches run beginners and improvers adult groups on a Saturday lunchtime and Tuesday evening, as well as a fitness & coaching ladies session on a Thursday morning. Speak to Jonathan or Ian if you are interested in finding out more.

Are any of our members avid users of Facebook and Twitter?! Do you like experimenting with ideas and designs? Our social



media pages and club website would really benefit from a bit of love and attention! We

would really like to show off and promote the club a bit more and get the message out about events, offers and general club news. If you think you can help then we would love to hear from you. Get in touch with Helen at blaydontc@googlemail.com

Opening and Closing the Clubhouse

Due to Covid we still have limited use of the clubhouse facilities. We can however use the clubhouse for toilet facilities and to access the floodlights. The outside pavilion area can also provide shelter. As we are an unmanned club, it falls to all our members to look after the opening up and locking up of our clubhouse. Please if anyone opens up the clubhouse could they ensure they either lock up when they leave or officially pass on the job to another member present. If you are the last player to leave the club please can we ask that you take responsibility to ensure the clubhouse is secure before you leave. If any member is unsure about the process to open/ close the clubhouse shutters and set the alarm, then please get in touch with Helen and she will sort you out with codes and guidance.

Congratulations

Durham and Cleveland County Awards

Nominees for the Durham and Cleveland County awards will be held on line on Saturday 25th March at 5pm. If anyone would like to attend please get in touch with anneeclayton@ntlworld.com for the zoom link. Nominees from our club include....

- ◆ Blaydon Tennis Club—Club of the Year
- ◆ Remi Carriot— Performance Coach of the Year
- ◆ Ian Pearson-Brown—Development Coach of the Year
- ◆ Helen Clarence—Volunteer of the Year
- ◆ Anthony Wilson and Joel Taylor—Young Volunteers of the Year

Although very few leagues were completed our U8 red B team will also be recognised for winning their winter league in 2020.

Wimbledon 2021 Tickets update

The AELTC have said that, given the current guidance from the UK Government and Public Health Authorities, the most likely outcome is a reduced capacity tournament, and they are doing all they can to remain as flexible as possible in their ticket distribution for this year's Championships. The LTA have decided not to hold an LTA Advantage Wimbledon Ballot this year. However, they will continue to work closely with the AELTC to ensure an allocation of tickets will be available to eligible LTA Advantage members. They anticipate these tickets will be made available online from the beginning of June and will be in touch with more information as soon as they are able.

Restringing/ Regripping Service

Our coaching staff offer a restringing and regripping service. If any members want to rejuvenate their equipment before the season starts please contact Jonathan to discuss the services and prices.



All answers are all hidden in the letters of the Australian open champion NAOMI OSAKA

1. Which animal which is farmed to make fur coats, jackets and stoles?



2. What robe is the national dress of Japan?

3. Which American organisation can be accredited with the inventions of the camera phone, CAT scans, LED's, sports trainers, foil blankets, ear thermometers, wireless head sets, memory foam mattresses, baby formulas, artificial limbs and portable computers?

4. What type of acids help the human body to build proteins, synthesise hormones and neurotransmitters?

5. Which Polynesian Island country in the Pacific plays Rugby Union as its national sport?

Club Re-Opening!

Monday March 29th - the club is open! Anyone fancy a hit on the day we re-open but have no-one to arrange a game with? Sign up by emailing blaydontc@googlegmail.com and we will try and match you up with others and book some courts for you. Impromptu reopening club social!

Members are able to book courts up to 10 days in advance, so bookings for the club reopening on 29th March are available from the 20th March. Please remember you must book before turning up to play and please play on the court booked to avoid confusion with other members.

Social Sessions Available!

Courts are booked every week at the following times for Club Social Sessions:

Tuesday Night	6.00pm - 8.30pm	Ladies have priority
Wednesday Afternoon	1.00pm - 3.30pm	Mixed
Wednesday Night	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Team practice and Men's night have priority
Friday Afternoon	1.00pm - 3.30pm	Mixed
Saturday Afternoon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	Seniors Mixed
Sunday Night	6.30pm - 8.30pm	B eginners, improvers & new members

All sessions are open to all members and recommendations are given as guidelines to help with choosing your most appropriate session. All Club Social Sessions are free to members and can be booked under the social sessions tab at the top of the court bookings page. Members who book onto a session will be contacted on the day and arranged onto courts for their first game. Don't be shy! All the members who regularly attend the social sessions will be very welcoming to anyone coming along to join in for the first time.

New Entrance Gate

We have worked hard to achieve grant funding for a new gate entry system for the club. The gate is due to be installed in mid April and will mean we no longer have to fumble about with our padlock! We are hoping it will prove to have lots of advantages with regards to security and safeguarding, and it should help the running of the club by providing us with lots of useful data. For our members we are hoping not too much will change.

- ◇ When you book a court you will be given your gate code to enter the club for that court booking (all members playing on that court should use that same code to enter)
- ◇ When you book onto a Club Social Session you will be given the gate code for that social session
- ◇ When you book onto a coaching course you will be given the gate code for your coaching session time
- ◇ When league matches are scheduled, team members and visiting club players will use the match bookings gate code provided
- ◇ Any member just visiting the clubhouse (for example, not booking a court to play tennis) will use the Clubhouse gate code