



Caversham Park Tennis Club

Newsletter Issue No. 81



Dear Member

Happy Easter everyone! Hope you're all enjoying a bit of time off from all the tortuous diversions that life throws at us. These days our brains are besieged by all manner of urgent distractions vying for our attention. Addictive social media platforms exploit our vulnerabilities and undermine our thoughts and judgments. The mainstream media creates and manipulates stories in order to sway our opinions and provoke outrage and anger. Even our taste buds are exploited as food scientists seek to re-tune our eating habits. And that's just a small subset of the forces acting on our thoughts, senses and emotions to distract us from the things that truly matter.... things like tennis! To a greater and greater degree, I think the tennis court now serves as a metaphorical oasis, a salutary getaway from the bewildering frenzy of modern life. However.... this isn't a tennis court. And I need to besiege your brains with some urgent and tortuous distractions! ☺

Firstly, annual memberships are deemed to be lapsed if they are not renewed by 1st April, so you really need to get that sorted out if you haven't already done so.

Secondly, you can get some practice for the general election by voting for officers and members of the committee at the club's AGM. Unlike Mr Sunak, we've announced a date – it's Thursday May 9th and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



The focus at the club right now is the PYWTW event we're hosting on the morning of Sunday April 14th. There's still space for a few more if you'd like to join in. You'll find all the details about the competition and eligibility, etc on [the club website](#).

The Area Finals for Berkshire & Oxfordshire will be held at North Oxford Lawn Tennis Club on 23rd June. Last year, Lottie Botterill and Laura Salinas featured in the national finals on the lawns at Wimbledon. You can read all about their experience further on in this newsletter.

There are provisional plans for another Wimbledon-themed fun tournament this summer. It's likely to be on the afternoon of Sunday June 30th and I can reveal that it might take place.... on GRASS!! Don't tell me that hasn't messed with your head!

Dave Winship (Editor)

"I've been playing a lot of what I call Cinderella tennis recently... that's when you can't get to the ball." ☺

Mike and Miriam



Miriam and Ruth switch on the floodlights and take to the courts for an evening club session...

Miriam: Oh dear, it's yet another cloudy night. No chance of seeing Jupiter tonight.

Ruth: I didn't know you were interested in astronomy, Miriam.

Miriam: I'm not. I just need the sky to be more interesting.

Ruth: Why?

Miriam: I spend a lot of time staring up at it while Mike's talking.



Members who joined during March:

Welcome!

David Addawoo, Eve Carnall, Andrey Kalinin, Agata Kalinina, Mia Muniz, Daniel Muniz, Pol Muniz, Rogelio Ochoa, Andrii Okolovskyi, Oxana Sidorova.



Shorts

- Chris Hatton was the Group 2 winner in Round 60 of the Reading Singles League. Georgios Chatzakis and Chris Lock were hot on his heels, finishing second and third respectively.
- Sports retailer, Sportscene Ltd, will be visiting the club on the evening of April 8th (during the Rusty Rackets & Match Practice sessions). They will have demo rackets along with shoes, clothing and tennis accessories. And they'll be offering a 15% discount on all items in their store (other than sale items or restrings).
- The 2024 season of Junior & Mini club sessions starts on Tuesday 7th May (Minis 4-5pm, Juniors 5-6pm). The free sessions are coach-led and take place every Tuesday throughout the summer months (apart from half terms and school holidays). More details can be found [here](#).
- A 'Rusty Rackets' tournament will take place in May. More details in next month's newsletter.
- Steve Vaux, who organises the Berkshire Seniors Doubles League, would like to know if there are any older players (aged 65 and over) who would be interested in taking part in some friendly but serious competitive mixed doubles competition this summer. Initially this might be in the form of a handful of friendly weekday round robin tournaments at Shinfield, Kintbury and perhaps one or two other clubs. Please [contact us by email](#) if you would like to be included. If the initiative proves successful, Steve may organise a more formal weekday league in the summer of 2025.



This month's riddle

If you walk due south for four miles and then due north for three miles, what is the maximum distance you can be from where you started? Send your solution to: cavparktennisclub@aol.co.uk for a chance to win a tube of new tennis balls.

And now for the solution to last month's riddle. The question was: "Imagine you're in a rowing boat that is slowly sinking. You cut yourself and start bleeding. Before too long, you're surrounded by sharks. How do you survive?" I quite liked Beryl's suggestion that you "throw your passenger overboard and swim away while the sharks are occupied!" But Celine claims this month's tube of balls, having provided the correct solution which is:... *Stop imagining!*



This month's quiz

Can you identify these players from their childhood snaps?...

A



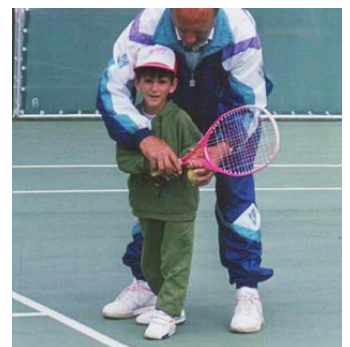
B



C



D



And here (according to ITF rules) are the answers to last month's quiz....

1. You hit a dropshot and believe the ball bounces twice before your opponent hits it back. Your opponent disagrees and claims the ball did not bounce twice. Whose call is it?
 - a) it's your opponent's call ✓
 - b) it's your call ✗
 - c) as you don't agree, you should play a let ✗

2. Player A is unsure of a call at her end of the court and asks Player B for her opinion. Player B says the ball was good. What must Player A do now?
 - a) suggest they replay the point ✗
 - b) accept Player B's call ✓
 - c) do whatever she likes - it's still her call ✗



Teams

The Boys 18U team became Division 1 champions after beating Windsor in their final fixture. Well done, Tom and Ben!

The Mixed 3 team earned promotion from Division 6 West with a 3-1 win over Bracknell 5.

James Springett has now joined the Team Selection Committee. Cathy Taylor will captain the Ladies O50 team. Martin Hedges will take charge of the Men's O40s and John Paradine will captain the Men's O50 team.

Here are the results & fixtures for March/April:

Date	Team	Division	H/A	Opponents	Result
Sun Mar 3	Mixed 1	2	Away	Wokingham 1	Lost 0-4
	Mixed 2	3	Away	Royal Ascot 1	Lost 0-4
	Mixed 3	6 West	Home	Bracknell 5	Won 3-1
	Boys 18U	1	Away	Windsor	Won 6-0
Sat Mar 23	Ladies 2	5	Home	Riseley 2	Winning draw
Wed Apr 10	Men's O40 A		Home	Bracknell A	
	Ladies O50		Away	Crowthorne	
Sat Apr 13	Men's 1	1	Away	Windsor 1	
	Men's 2	3B	Home	Maidenhead 4	
	Men's 3	4B	Home	DL Royal Berks 2	
	Men's 4	7A	Away	Peppard 2	
Wed Apr 17	Men's O50 A		Away	Shinfield A	
Sat Apr 20	Ladies 1	3B	Away	Portcullis	
	Ladies 2	6B	Home	Caversham 5	
Sun Apr 21	Ladies NL	1	Away	Wokingham 1	
	Men's 1 NL	1	Home	Maidenhead 2	
	Men's 2 NL	2	Away	Wokingham 1	
	Men's 3 NL	2	Away	Shinfield	
	Boys 14U	2	Away	Windsor	
Wed Apr 24	Men's O40 A		Away	Wargrave	
	Ladies O50		Away	Portcullis	
Sun Apr 28	Ladies NL	1	Home	Maidenhead 1	
	Men's 1 NL	1	Away	Bradfield	
	Men's 2 NL	2	Home	Home Park	
	Men's 3 NL	2	Home	Crowthorne 2	



Play Your Way To Wimbledon 2023 – Lottie & Laura at Wimbledon

CPTC doubles pair, Lottie Botterill and Laura Salinas, featured in the national finals of the 2023 Play Your Way To Wimbledon event. Here are their personal accounts of that memorable experience:



I have unforgettable memories of playing at Wimbledon with Lottie last summer. It all came as a bit of a surprise to go straight to the finals after playing the club's tournament and the cancellation of the regional finals. Only a few weeks prior I was at the Championships watching the professionals training on the same courts we would be playing on.

The LTA did a good job with the organisation although it was a bit of a last minute to know the exact days we were expected to play... but once we found out, things went smoothly and we were so lucky with the weather also! Two beautiful sunny days after quite a wet summer.

I felt like a proper tennis player walking through the doors of the AELTC wearing my all-white kit and collecting the accreditations. We even had pre-match interviews and official pictures taken after our warm up. It was all so exciting! We had to wait for our names to be called and then off we went to our assigned court. The feeling of stepping on that gorgeous grass court is one I will never forget. The umpire tossed the coin to pick ends and then we were left with our opposition for the match warm up and off we went... We ended up losing that match on the tie break (we also lost the second match the following day) but we did

put up a fight! We had great support from Nikki, Esther and the rest of the Botterill family! We were enjoying it so much we continued playing tennis at another AELTC facility in the evening :-) Another nice thing was the free guided tour of the grounds which took us to centre court, court number 1 and the media centre which was also quite special with no crowds.

Overall it was one of those 'pinch me' moments and a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am so grateful we did it. I hope we get another representation this year, and I wish the best of luck to our players. I will be cheering for you!

Laura



Playing on the prestigious grass of Wimbledon is an unparalleled experience. Every shot you hit on the grass echoes with legends that have graced the court.

The experience was surreal. As soon as we stepped on the grounds we were treated like a pro. We arrived in our Wimbledon whites and were given a strict briefing regarding etiquette and the behaviour expected. From being interviewed by the media team, to booking warm up courts and having access to player facilities, the perks were endless! Oh and of course the most important part, having free, fresh made to order food.

We were at Wimbledon for two days and we had some closely fought matches, narrowly losing the third set to the runners up and top seeds in our group. An up there moment was being put on the show court, where players such as Alcaraz and Sabalenka had played only a few weeks before! The buzz and the quality of tennis was incredible! We also strategically managed to book some courts at the national tennis centre in Roehampton, where we could practise in the evening to get familiar with the surface.

It will always be one of the best experiences I have had and I will feel forever grateful for having the opportunity to play with Laura at this iconic ground.

Lottie

