



# Caversham Park Tennis Club

## Newsletter Issue No. 90



Dear Member



*For auld lang syne, my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We'll hit a tennis ball or two  
For the sake of auld lang syne*



New Year's Day has been celebrated in myriad ways in myriad societies since ancient times. It continues to be associated with all manner of traditions, beliefs and superstitions. The Twelve Grapes of Luck is a Spanish tradition which involves eating a grape for each of the twelve chimes of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve. Apparently, this theme is evoked in a brand new ritual for tennis players everywhere. It involves throwing and catching a tennis ball at each chime, signifying good fortune in respect of each month of the upcoming year. If you drop the ball during the ritual, I guess the corresponding month will not be a good one.

But, of course, as the lyrics of Auld Lang Syne suggest, New Year's Eve celebrations are not just about looking to the future. The question "Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?" serves as a poignant reminder to cherish the friendships we've made and the memories we've created.



It may or may not qualify as a cherishable memory, but the final Monday Night 'Rusty Rackets' session of 2024 was a bit of a Christmas cracker! It featured a tinselly tournament, Santa suits, turkey hats, mulled punch, mince pies and a backdrop of Xmas music on and off court! The winners were Fiona and Mahmood, but I think everyone came away smiling, especially if they'd


managed to grab one of the surplus mince pies! Anyway, I'll stop there – I need to practise my throwing and catching before those iconic chimes ring out at midnight. I wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

Dave Winship (Editor)



**MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO STAY IN SHAPE. ROUND IS A SHAPE, RIGHT?**

**Mike and Miriam**



*Mike and Miriam take to the court at the start of the New Year's Day club session...*

**Miriam:** Have you made any New Year's resolutions, Mike? You really should.

**Mike:** Like what?

**Miriam:** Well, you told me your doctor's been advising you to stop smoking and drinking. I think it's time for you to make a significant change in your life.

**Mike:** I don't know. I've been with that doctor for twenty years. It would be tough to give him up now.



## New members who joined during December:

Welcome!

Theo Maude.



## Shorts

- The LTA has updated its policy on transgender and non-binary participation. The new policy, associated guidance and a detailed set of FAQs can be found [here](#).
- Organised Monday night 'Rusty Rackets' sessions will resume on January 6th (6 - 7.30pm).



## This month's riddle

How can you take 2 from 5 and leave 4?

Send your solution to: [cavparktennisclub@aol.co.uk](mailto: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: "Two friends arrived at the club to play five sets of singles. Each won and lost the same number of sets. How is that possible?... they didn't play against each other but against third parties. There were 3 correct answers. Jack Gordon's name was drawn from the hat, and he wins the prize this month.



## This month's quiz

- 1) 10cc had a number one hit with "Dreadlock Holiday" in 1978. According to the song, which of these sports do they not just like, but love?... *Cricket|Tennis|Soccer|Padel*
- 2) What was the 1982 novelty song, credited to 'The Brat', which satirises John McEnroe?
- 3) Which 2021 film featured Will Smith as Richard Williams, father and coach of Venus and Serena?

And here are the answers to last month's quiz questions:





## Teams

Here are the results for December and the remaining fixtures of the winter season:

Date	Team	Division	H/A	Opponents	Result
Sun Dec 1	Mixed 3	5 West	Away	Wokingham 3	Won (walkover)
Sun Dec 8	Men's 1 Men's 3 Boys 16U	1 5 East 2	Away Home Away	DL Royal Berks 1 Bracknell 4 Wargrave	Postponed Postponed Postponed
Sat Dec 14	Ladies 1 Ladies 2	2 7	Home Away	Basildon Wokingham 3	Lost 0-4 Lost 1-3
Sun Jan 5	Men's 1 Men's 2	1 3	Home Home	Wokingham 1 Maidenhead 3	
Sat Jan 11	Ladies 1 Ladies 2	2 7	Away Home	Riseley 1 Marlow 2	
Sun Jan 19	Mixed 1 Mixed 2 Mixed 3	2 4 5 West	Away Home Home	Peppard 1 Caversham 3 Maidenhead 3	
Sat Jan 25	Ladies 2	7	Home	Bracknell 4	
Sun Jan 26	Men's 1 Men's 2 Men's 3	1 3 5 East	Away Away Home	Caversham 1 Caversham 3 Purley	
Sat Feb 1	Ladies 1 Ladies 2	2 7	Home Away	Windsor 2 Bradfield 2	
Sat Feb 8	Mixed 1	2	Away	Caversham 2	
Sun Feb 9	Men's 1 Men's 2 Men's 3 Boys 16U	1 3 5 East 2	Home Home Away Home	Wargrave 1 Wokingham 2 Windsor 4 Latika	
Sat Feb 15	Ladies 2	7	Home	Sonning 1	
Sat Feb 22	Ladies 1 Ladies 2	2 7	Away Home	Bradfield 1 Wellington 3	
Sun Feb 23	Boys 16U	2	Away	Caversham	
Sum Mar 9	Men's 2	3	Away	Cholsey	

Full information relating to the various league competitions referred to here can be viewed by following the relevant links on the club website's ['PLAY'](#) page (scroll down to the 'Teams' section).



## Update from GDTennis ahead of 2025

Thank you to all those involved in the GDTennis coaching programme during 2024. Last term we were delighted to work with over 200 players on a weekly basis that we both find super rewarding.

We launched our schools outreach programme where we invited children from St Martins Primary School to come across to the club during their school day. This was a huge success which allowed us to put rackets into the hands of all the children, some of whom had never played tennis before. Also Stephen established a LTA Prime Youth Girls Initiative which attracted nearly 30 new girls to the sport.

Going forward we have New Year Caversham Park Adult Drills & Teenage Tennis Camps on Friday 3rd January:

- Adult Drills 10.00 - 12.00 Midday £20.00
- Teenage Tennis Camps 12yrs+ 1.00 - 5.00pm £40.00

The new bookings for the GDT Coaching programme are filling up fast so please book sooner rather than later. Please log onto your GDTonline.co.uk account for all Programme and Camp bookings.

Many thanks and a Happy New Year

Ben and Stephen







# 2024

# C.P.T.C.



## Tennis Talking Point

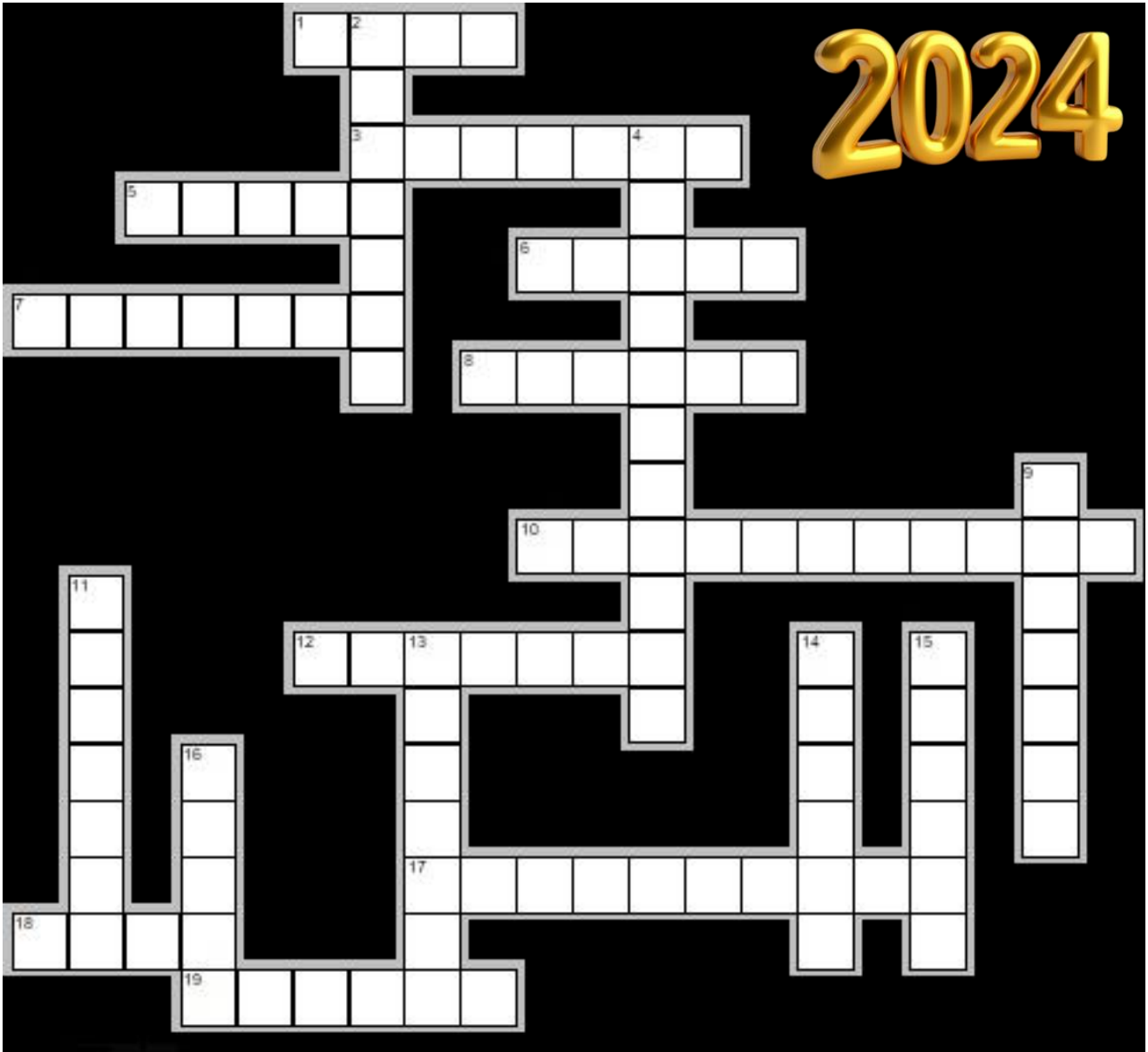
Do you think it's time to make some adjustments to the structure of Grand Slam tennis? For example, would it be an idea to change the men's matches from best-of-five sets to best-of-three, at least until maybe the quarter-finals? Three-set matches can be just as compelling as best-of-five and it would reduce the load on the players.

It's an idea that has been embraced by quite a few top pros including Nick Kyrgios, who says: "It would also alleviate many scheduling issues that are out of control during the first week. With both the men's and women's draws played in best-of-three sets in the first round, matches wouldn't stretch until 2 or 3 am." [Let us know what you think.](#)





## 2024 Crossword



### ACROSS

1. Starsky & Hutch actor, David \_\_\_\_\_, passed away in 2024
3. Celebrity who launched the beauty brand Cécred in Feb
5. First name of Zendaya's character in the film Challengers
6. Ref David \_\_\_\_\_ sacked for comments about Jurgen Klopp
7. Enzo Maresca joined this Premier League club
8. Became the 32nd country to join NATO
10. US town accused by Donald Trump of eating pets
12. J-Lo and Ben \_\_\_\_\_ filed for divorce
17. Bryony Page won Olympic gold in the \_\_\_\_\_ event
18. Received 7 nominations at Brit Awards 2024
19. Stage name of Australian break dancer at 2024 Olympics

### DOWN

2. Samantha Harvey book that won the Booker prize
4. Cybersecurity company that caused global IT chaos
9. Won the men's singles at Wimbledon
11. UK's tallest and fastest rollercoaster opened at Thorpe Park
13. IT company responsible for the Horizon IT scandal
14. Country that banned X (formerly Twitter) in August
15. Occurred directly before Bert, Conall & Darragh
16. Performed at the Super Bowl Half Time show