

203 Moor Green Lane  
Moseley, Birmingham  
B13 8NT

13 March 2024

## **CHANTRY TENNIS CLUB 2024 SEASON NEWSLETTER**

Dear Chantry Member,

Thank you all very much for your support last season.

Hopefully it will stop raining soon and we can start looking forward to playing tennis again on our courts. I have set out in this letter information for the 2024 season.

### **2024 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

At the 104th AGM on 11 March 2024 subscriptions for this season were agreed and Lillian will be in touch with the membership form for the 2024 season.

It is important that all members, including established ones, complete a membership form this year to agree to the arrangements regarding access to Moseley Park referred to later in this letter and to agree to be bound by the Club's policies posted on the website. This will also ensure we have your correct details.

Arrangements for new members to join the Club are on the Club's website including a membership application form and details of where this needs to be sent. Please direct any potential new members to our website <https://Clubspark.lta.org.uk/ChantryTennisClub>

The committee recently held a strategy day to consider future plans following which a membership survey was undertaken by Lillian, to which 38 responses were received. Thanks to all who participated. As a result of the comments made the committee are looking at a number of initiatives, one of which is to increase our membership so we are less reliant on the income generated from the use of the courts for the jazz and folk festivals. This year we are offering to people new to the Club membership at a discount of 50% for a limited period.

### **THE COMMITTEE**

Following the AGM the members of the committee are now as follows:

President:	Alan Holland
Chair of Committee:	Nick East
Secretary:	Di (Daisy) Fairbank
Treasurer:	Ian Hardy
Membership Secretary:	Lillian Elekan
Clubhouse:	Alan Holland and John Eddy
Match Captain (Women):	Sarah Whigham
Match Captains (Men):	Dave Eddy
Sec Social:	Di (Daisy) Fairbank and Ana Poveda
Grounds Committee:	Dave Eddy
Welfare & Safeguarding Officer:	Alice Rees
Fundraising/Partnerships:	Chris Harris
Liaison with Moseley Park & Pool Trust:	Mark Eftichiou

I would like to thank all the committee members for their tremendous amount of work and support during the last year. A huge amount of time and effort goes into running the Club, a lot of which goes unseen.

## **LTA REGISTRATION**

The Club successfully completed an application for registration with the LTA for the 2024 Season. This registration is necessary for the Club to be able to play in league matches and to obtain public liability insurance. This year we had to complete a risk assessment which entailed Alice updating a significant number of LTA safeguarding policies which are now on the Club's website.

## **THE CLUBHOUSE AND CLUB'S LEASE**

Last season limited repairs and decoration to both the interior and exterior of the Clubhouse took place and further works are being considered.

Notice has been served on the Club's landlord exercising the Club's option to take a renewal lease of the Club's premises for 7 years from 31 March 2025. On the expiry of this renewal lease in March 2032 the Club will have statutory protection pursuant the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

## **THE COURTS**

Last season substantial capital expenditure was incurred on the courts involving pollarding the trees surrounding the match courts and replacing the fencing on the match courts. This fencing work was long overdue as the old fencing actually collapsed during a Club match last year. The committee took the view that it was economically more viable to replace rather than repair the fencing. Although this was an expensive exercise, I am pleased to say Chris arranged for the organisers of the festivals to pay for the new double gates and the new single gate without any commitment from the Club for the use of the courts for festivals in future years. The new fencing should last for very many years and I hope you all agree that it looks very good. There are no current plans for the replacement of the fencing on the 3 main courts which the committee believe will remain fit for purpose for the foreseeable future with only minimal costs for repairs.

Anyone who has been to the courts recently will see Dave, in conjunction with our groundsman Nathan, has made a good start on arranging for the moss to be removed from the 5 courts and preparing the courts for the new season. Dave is aiming to have the courts ready for play at the beginning of April but this is very much weather dependant and this process is unfortunately taking longer than usual in view of the exceptionally wet conditions this year. It may be the case that the 2 match courts are ready before the 3 main courts. Daisy will message the membership once the courts are ready for play.

As part of the LTA risk assessment referred to above we were required to prepare an LTA approved policy for the use and maintenance of the courts and the Clubhouse. We will be complying with the policy as far as maintenance is concerned and we need to ensure our members observe the policy when using the courts and Clubhouse so please do read this policy. Points to note include:

- The courts are to be dragged after use. Please use the drag nets or a broom to smooth off the court, being careful not to snag and pull out the lines.
- During dry conditions the courts should be watered before use. On each set of courts is a hosepipe. Turn on the tap at the fixed end and twist the brass nozzle towards the court. Please be sure to stow the hose out of the way and turn off the tap after use.
- For health and safety reasons the courts must not be used if excessively wet and soft or covered in surface water. Please think very carefully about starting or continuing play in wet conditions.
- Please ensure both the courts and the Clubhouse are locked after use.
- There is no booking system for the courts, but priority is to be given as follows:
  - (i) For matches. This season's matches will again be played on the two match courts.

- (ii) Men's match practice which takes place on Monday night from 18:00 and Saturday morning between 11:00 and 13:00.
- (iii) Women's match practice which takes place on Tuesday night from 18:00.
- (iv) Adult coaching which takes place on Thursday night from 18:00.
- (v) Social tennis. This year we will be trialling having social tennis at 10:00am on Sundays with Ana taking primary responsibility for these sessions.

Courts should be available for social play on the dates/times of the events referred to above. However the use of the match courts and court 3 will be restricted during the Jazz & Folk Festivals again this year. These festivals provide a vital source of revenue for the Club. The Jazz Festival is from Friday 12 July to Sunday 14 July and the Folk Festival is from Friday 30 August to Sunday 1 September. Nearer the time Daisy will message the membership with the dates and times the match courts and court 3 will be unavailable for use by members in the week before and after each festival. No Club matches have been arranged during this time meaning courts 1 and 2 will be available for social play or coaching at all times other than from 4.00pm on Sunday 14 July until 3:00 PM on Monday 15 July.

## TEAMS

This season we will have 2 men's teams, 2 women's teams and a mixed team in the Metropolitan League as well as 2 men's teams and 2 women's teams in the Birmingham League. This is the first season we have had the same number of men's and woman's teams.

A list of all this season's matches will be posted on the website and on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse. We have 68 matches which is an enormous number for a Club of our size and this is in large part down to the efforts of our men's and women's captains. Anyone wishing to join in with team play should contact the respective team captains, Dave and Whig.

## TOURNAMENTS

I do hope that this season as many of you as possible come to play on our competition days, they are fun, short, and well organised. The format is designed to give everyone a chance through the handicap system (which applies to all competitions other than the singles) and to enjoy themselves with lots of changes of partner and short matches.

These are the dates for your diary:

- Rose Bowl tournament 2 June – a short 'round robin' mixed doubles tournament with a corkscrew handicap and a 'bring and share' tea.
- President's Plate tournament 30 June – short 'round robin' separate women's and men's doubles tournaments with a corkscrew handicap and a 'bring and share' tea.
- Kathryn's Cup 21 July - a new mixed doubles tournament in memory of Kathryn to be followed by a barbecue at Alan's house.
- Mens doubles 14 September - handicapped tournament.
- Women's doubles - this will be played during the season with details to be provided by Whig.
- Mixed doubles 15 September- handicapped tournament.
- Women's and men's singles tournaments 7 September.

Congratulations to all who took part last year and to our worthy winners:

Men's Singles	Rob
Women's Singles	Whig
Men's Doubles	John Eddy and Simon
Women's Doubles	Georgia and Charlotte
Mixed Doubles	Mark and Amelia
Presidents Plate Men	Mark and John Eddy

Presidents Plate Women	Andrada and Ana
Rosebowl Men	Mark
Rosebowl Women	Charlotte
Men's Singles Plate	Dejan
Women's Singles Plate	Amelia

Our presentation evening will take place on 23rd March, from 7pm in the Clubhouse. There will be some refreshments available but please bring your own alcohol. We will be holding a raffle to raise funds for the Club and of course Dave will be formally presenting the trophies to last season's winners. Your friends and families are also welcome to come along.

### **ADULT GROUP COACHING**

We are very pleased that our excellent LTA coach, Rollie Wilson, will continue as Club Coach although after being the Club coach for over 20 years, Rollie is thinking about retirement and this season may be his last at Chantry so do make sure you take the opportunity of having coaching with him this year.

Rollie's group coaching sessions will start as soon as the courts are ready for play and will take place on Thursdays at 18:00. These sessions are a great way of improving your skills, keeping fit and meeting members of the Club.

Private lessons are also available with Rollie.

Rollie can be contacted on 07768840501.

### **SOCIAL TENNIS**

At the beginning of the season we will be trialling having social tennis at 10:00am on Sunday mornings rather than 4:00pm on Sunday afternoons. Players of all standards are encouraged to turn up and play.

We remain keen for members to make full use of the courts and bring friends and relatives to play as visitors. It is only £5 to bring a guest to play and hopefully they subsequently feel tempted to join.

Last season we had a number of very enjoyable and well attended social functions. Details of social events for this season will be circulated by Daisy or Lillian.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

This season we will have two Chantry Tennis Club WhatsApp groups. The first being a one way communication which will be primarily used by Daisy and Lillian to communicate information and the other for members to use as a general means of communication and chat. Please remember this a public forum and the content should comply with LTA guidelines. Please see the Club's LTA approved Online Safety and Communications policy posted on the Club's website.

Lillian has done a great job redesigning the Club's website which can be found at <https://Clubspark.lta.org.uk/ChantryTennisClub> and I would encourage you to look at this. The new website will help attract new members and also means that information regarding Club activities, such as the dates of matches, tournaments and social events can be easily located.

### **PARK ACCESS**

By way of reminder, the Club's lease contains an obligation on the Club to require all members to agree to access Moseley Park in compliance with the regulations made by our landlord in respect of the use of Moseley Park by the general public, including payment for a key fob, and for our members to consent to the Club providing their details to our landlord. The lease contains an obligation on our landlord only to use the details of the members supplied by the Club for the purpose of ascertaining and enforcing compliance with the regulations made by our landlord in respect of the use of Moseley Park.

Please note these requirements are set out in the membership application form.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, this year looks to be an exciting year with events planned for everybody. I look forward to seeing you on court soon weather permitting.

Nick  
Chair