



## No more than 6 people indoors or outdoors

Much of this newsletter was written before the new 'Rule of 6' came into force. Members have been informed of the impact on informal tennis at the club. Organised tennis can go ahead but with the restrictions of the new ruling. Informal social club nights are suspended, and reserved courts have been returned to the members for

booking. Please keep to the guidelines in place at our club. Hopefully, these latest restrictions will be eased soon.

Guidelines for Dunstable Tennis Club are on the Latest News page of our website;

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/DunstableTennisClub/News>

## FROM THE CHAIR...

Firstly, A big welcome to all the new members that have joined during the past few months and existing members who have re-joined after the lockdown period. I hope that you are all enjoying playing tennis in the changeable weather.

Secondly, can I thank you all for abiding by the guidelines that needed to be put in to place for us to play tennis safely and following procedures for using the bar during opening times. Under constant review, the guidelines produced for the club are led by those from the LTA. Keep an eye open for these.

The club closed tournament took place on Sunday 13th September in glorious weather. Well done to all who have played, keeping the matches to the play by dates and congratulations to those who made their finals.

Unfortunately, several events at the club have had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and we continue to monitor government and LTA advice as to when and how we can return to social gatherings and league matches. It is unlikely that the Chairman's supper, Christmas, and New Year parties will take place this year. Hopefully, we will be able to hold our annual Christmas Pudding Tournament albeit with restrictions. See below for further info/updates.

I am pleased to say that the new bi-fold doors have been fitted to the front of the clubhouse and the decoration of the main room inside has been completed. A new grill has been fitted to the bar replacing the heavy flap. This will greatly improve ventilation to the bar and enable a view to the inside of the bar from the main room when the grill is closed. Plans are still evolving for improving the toilet facilities including the addition of facilities for persons with disabilities. This will require applying for funding from various sources to supplement limited club funds. *Stay Safe...*

## FROM THE COMMITTEE...

The committee last met on Monday 7th September.

From the meeting;

The Chairman thanked the committee for supporting the COVID-19 measures in place at the club and to those who helped with the veranda roof, installation of the bi-fold doors, associated shutter, and bar grill. He also wished to thank all club members for abiding with the guidelines, ensuring a safe environment for playing tennis.

For the accounts, Mike reported that although income is down based on several factors this has been offset by grants from

the LTA and Local Authority (via Government). Around £4,000 has been spent to date on clubhouse improvements.

Match Secretary, Anne, will be working on fixtures shortly and has already arranged Captains for the winter, with confirmation that South Beds winter league will go ahead with strict COVID-19 guidelines.

Social Secretary, Jenny Morgan, confirmed that events are unlikely to resume until 2021 so revenue will be reduced. There will be no Chairman's Supper or Christmas parties. Trophies will be on display finals day and will be presented at another time.

Membership Secretary, Jane, reported that we have data for 265 members on ClubSpark for which 190 are active. Many members have not re-joined since lockdown, but the junior numbers are beginning to pick up. 'Mostly ticking along nicely'. A review of the member data is underway.

Graham confirmed that he and Welfare Officer, AJ, had updated the Safeguarding and Whistleblowing policies.

The Committee discussed the Clubhouse Improvement Proposal (a sub-group have been working on outline plans) and approved the go-head. The proposal (in a nutshell) is to extend the clubhouse into the area currently occupied by the coaches' store shed. The extension will provide a new female changing room and disabled toilet plus coach store. The existing female changing area will become a male changing area. The kitchen will become part of the bar and the existing male changing area will become a kitchen.

Before any detailed plans (required for quotation/funding) can be made, the first step is to clear all the rubbish at the back of the Club and secure the boundary to our residential neighbours. We hope to get the support of member helpers to do this and are considering a 'Monday afternoon Club' where members will be asked to spare an hour or two to assist.

We are investigating funding sources to help with the cost of this project.

Kelvin Peach joined the meeting to discuss the Winter League. A Facebook poll revealed that many members are keen to take part. It was agreed for this popular tournament to continue with Kelvin as main organiser - with grateful thanks from the Committee.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 16th November.

Remember, if you have any suggestions to the committee, that Alan Gore (our Club President) is the member/committee coordinator. Plus, we still have a vacancy for the House Manger role. Anyone interested should speak to a member of the committee...

## FLOODLIGHTS...

For all new members and as a reminder, the floodlights need to be turned off at 9.30pm and are NOT to be used at weekends. This is due to planning restrictions.

Floodlights are available on courts 1&2, 4&5, and court 6 which has new LED lights. (No floodlights on court 3) There is a cost for the use of floodlights of £4/hour, with no charge during the club nights of Wednesday, and Friday. The payment method, at present, is based on honesty and it is the responsibility of the person who booked the court to make the payment. Although we have discouraged cash transactions at the club, cash payment may be made into the cash box on the wall adjacent to the floodlight switches which are now mounted on the wall at the entrance to the ladies cloakroom.

Other methods of payment are by card payment when the bar is open or direct bank transfer to the club.

Sort Code: 30-92-77 Account Number: 00368923

Once British Summer Time ends towards the end of October payment will be requested online using our booking system at the time of booking.

Please be aware that if for any reason lights are turned off they should not be turned on again for 10 minutes...

## **CLUB CLOSED TOURNAMENTS...**

The club finals took part on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you to all who attended and played and congratulations to the winners.

Results;

### **Men's Open Singles:**

Harley Gore bt. Jamie Clarke 7-5 4-6 6-3

### **Men's Open Doubles:**

Harley Gore & Joshua Sugarman bt. Craig Keeling & Connor Taylor 6-3 6-4

### **Ladies Open Singles:**

Jacqui Crossley bt. AJ Webley 6-0 6-0

### **Ladies Open Doubles:**

Jacqui Crossley & Jo Kettle bt. Jane Wigley & AJ Webley 6-1 6-1

### **Mixed Open Doubles:**

Jacqui Crossley & Brian Griffith bt. Jo Kettle & Louis Longshaw 6-3 6-4

### **Men's 40+ Singles:**

Mike Bartlett bt. Shanks Putwain 6-4 6-2

### **Men's 40+ Doubles:**

Jonathan Gosbell & Martin Peck bt. Brian Griffith & Nigel Magee 6-1 6-2

### **Ladies 40+ Singles:**

Jacqui Crossley bt. Jenny Morgan 6-2 1-6 6-1

### **Ladies 40+ Doubles:**

Jane Wigley & Jo Kettle bt. Jacqui Crossley & Frances McMahon 6-4 7-5

### **Mixed 40+ Doubles:**

Jane Wigley & Brian Griffith bt. Jenny Morgan & Jonathan Gosbell 3-6 6-3 6-2

### **Men's 55+ Singles:**

Tony McMenamin bt. Mick Greer 6-1 6-1

### **Men's 55+ Doubles:**

Alan Gore & Brian Griffith bt. Mike Bartlett & Roy Daniels 6-3 7-6

**Ladies 55+ Singles:** No Competition

**Ladies 55+ Doubles:** No Competition

### **Mixed 55+ Doubles:**

Anne & Mike Bartlett bt. Jenny & Graham Morgan 6-1 6-2

### **Girls 14 Singles:**

Maia Zaniewski bt. Abbie Jarvis 6-4 6-2

### **Boys 14 Singles:**

Ethan Chapman bt. Frank Quinn 6-2 7-5

### **Boys 16 Singles:**

Harley Gore bt. Harry McMenamin 6-1 6-1

### **Boys 16 Doubles:**

Harley Gore & Harry McMenamin bt. Elliot Davis & Ethan Chapman 6-0 6-3

Thanks to Club Captain, Alex Knight and especially Head Coach, Craig Keeling for organising the tournament and keeping everyone on time with their preliminary rounds...

## **WINTER LEAGUE 2020/21...**

Due to start on Sunday 4th October, the Winter League (WL) is open to all intermediate and adult members. It takes place every 2 weeks on a Sunday with 6 sessions being played before Christmas and a further 6 sessions in the New Year, starting on January 3rd.

Playing doubles format, starting at 9.15am there are 3 sessions of play, up to 6 courts in use each session. For scoring each court of 4 players is classed as a division. So, a division consists of four people who play nine games with each of the other three of the group making 27 games in all. On completion everybody enters the scores on the board and the top scorer is promoted for the next session. The bottom player is relegated so eventually everybody should finish up somewhere near their own level!

Points awarded each week as follows;

Each divisional winner; 5 points: 2nd; 3 points: 3rd; 2 points: 4th; 1 point. Where any positions are tied the points will be shared. In addition 5 points are also added to the total purely for attending a session making a maximum, when playing, of 10 points for winning a division and a minimum of 6 for 4th.

The *Nancy Tibbett Cup* will be awarded to the player with highest total of positional points accumulated during the WL season. There is also a trophy for the highest placed lady.

Everybody who plays is guaranteed a place two weeks later if they are available.

Being a winter league we play in all weathers – apart from snow or flooding. Please do not cry off on the day 'not coming to play because it's raining' as apart from the difficulty in finding a late replacement it also lets down the other three who were due to play with them.

I am sure that all of you will join me in thanking David Bradshaw for his hard work and dedication to the WL over many years along with his co-organisers.

Taking over from Dave, Kelvin Peach will now be the main organiser for this season. A sign-up sheet is available at the clubhouse...

## **SATURDAY TEA 'n' TENNIS...**

This is a social session usually held every other Saturday during the winter, alternating with the Winter League.

Unfortunately, we have decided that this winter "tea and tennis" will not take place. Obviously, we are unable to do the tea and biscuits bit and, at the present time, socialising is not encouraged so it seems pointless. Also, the WhatsApp group to arrange your own fours seems to be working extremely well, so I suggest that, as the courts are usually empty on a Saturday afternoon, there is no reason not to organise your own session if you so desire. Just remember, book a court, play, and then leave the club especially now that we seem to be approaching a second wave of Coronavirus. Will review at the end of the year as to whether to go ahead with the remaining six sessions in 2021...  
*Jane Wigley.*

## **COACHING WITH CRAIG...**

Our autumn term started on Monday 14th September and will run until Friday 18th December, 14 weeks in total minus half term(w/c 26th October). We have a range of different sessions for all ages and abilities and all our current courses can be found on our website.

Please look out for our new courses starting this term from weekend Tots tennis, midweek daytime beginners, and improvers sessions as well as a Tuesday night doubles drills. Check out the coaching board for the latest news on these new term courses.

### **Junior competitions**

We have a number of open junior tournaments over the winter period, a one-day event on Saturday 3rd October for players under 14 and a weeklong grade 4 junior event during October half term from 26th - 29th. These events can be found on the LTA website. More events will be added to the calendar in due course.

## One to One coaching

Sessions can be tailored to your needs and 30-, 45- or 60-minute sessions are available. However, if you do not want a lesson then why not arrange a hitting session.

Please message me (Craig Keeling) for more information, through the Facebook pages, or Mob: 07958 938275

Email: [craig@hitthecourt.co.uk](mailto:craig@hitthecourt.co.uk)

## THE MANOR HOUSE HOTEL 2021...

Fri 5th – Mon 8th March 2021 (3 nights).

This is an annual event organised by me (Graham Morgan) to the Manor House Hotel, Devon. This year a group of 31 made the trip and enjoyed all the facilities. The initial booking for 2021 has already been made. If you would like to join the group or know more, speak to me (Graham Morgan), or drop me a message to the club email address...

## RE-CYCLE YOUR BALLS...

Since lockdown many of our members have been buying their own tennis balls. The club have been re-cycling its used tennis balls through RECYBALL LTD for several years who pay £62.50 for each sack of 250 balls supplied. That's 25p each. If you have balls that are past their use and wish to have them re-cycled and contribute to club funds please place the balls in the basket on the ball box in the clubhouse. If you would like to know more of what happens to the re-cycled balls, then visit their website: <http://recycaball.blogspot.com>

## ETIQUETTE...

Things for us all to remember;

As well as the written Rules and Code there is something called Etiquette which exists to help everyone enjoy this game. Sportsmanship, consideration, and politeness have been part of the game since the beginning of time, and you could do a lot worse than to read the following points to bring you into the mindset of social tennis players:

Talk quietly if you are near tennis courts that are in use.

Do not walk behind a court during an active point and pass as quickly as possible after a point has finished.

To retrieve a ball from another court or to return a ball to another court, wait until the players have completed a point.

To determine who will serve first, spin your racket. The winner can choose whether to serve first, or to receive first, or can choose which end of the court they wish to start playing on.

Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead.

Line calls can be hard to see from the other side of the court so you must call your own lines, ensuring your opponent can hear you. A ball that touches any part of the line is good, so you do not have to say anything, but you could say "Yep!" as an acknowledgement.

Always respect the line calls of your opponent because he/she is nearer than you.

In doubles, when returning service, the partner of the receiver should generally call the service line for him/her. The receiver should generally call the centre and side service lines. The call needs to be loud enough to stop their opponents/partner playing.

If you are unsure as to whether your opponent's shot was in or out, call it in.

If you have a disagreement with your opponent, offer a let. This means you replay the point whether it is a 1st or 2nd serve.

The server is required to announce the score at the start of each game, and at the start of the second point and each point that follows in each game.

Tennis can be a frustrating game if you are not getting your serves in or not hitting your shots, try to remain upbeat and happy. Your opponent and/or doubles partner does not want to be playing tennis with someone who is miserable so cheer

up! You are more likely to play better tennis if you are calm, relaxed, focussed, and in a positive frame of mind.

Players are always expected to shake hands (racquet tap under Covid-19 conditions) with their opponent(s) at the completion of a match.

## ClubSpark...

ClubSpark, by Sportlabs, is the platform that manages our website and encompasses a membership management module which makes it easier for the club and for members to pay, renew and keep informed. Members can also book courts online or through the Booker app and ClubSpark lets Craig manage coaching lessons and courses online.

The website contains all our news, events, important documents, and policies.

To be able to book a court you will first need to register with ClubSpark. Sign-in to see members bookings, court availability and manage your upcoming bookings. Your registration details can be managed under 'Your Account'

It is important that you keep personal information in your membership profile up to date. Should you move to a new house, change your email address or phone number then it is important to update your profile. This can be managed under 'Your Profile'.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Sat Oct 3 Boys U14's Singles Tournament

Sun Oct 4 Start of Winter League (1-6, every 2 wks.)

Mon Dec 28 Christmas Pudding Tournament (TBC)

2021

Sun Jan 3 Continuation of Winter League (7-12)

Fri 5 – Mon 8 Mar DTC trip to the Manor House Hotel, Devon

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA...

Information and news for Dunstable Tennis Club can be found on most popular social media platforms.



Facebook - an open page and a closed group for members only. Twitter and Instagram. Plus, the club website:

[www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/DunstableTennisClub](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/DunstableTennisClub)

And there are always the notice boards in the clubhouse...

## AND FINALLY...

...Try positive thinking...



# **DUNSTABLE TENNIS CLUB**

## **Staying COVID-19 Secure**

- ✓ **We confirm we have complied with the government's and LTA's guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19**
- ✓ **We have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and shared the results with the people who volunteer here**
- ✓ **We have cleaning, handwashing, and hygiene procedures in line with guidance**
- ✓ **We have taken all reasonable steps to maintain 2m distancing on court and in the clubhouse**
- ✓ **Where people cannot be 2m apart, we have done everything practical to manage transmission risk**

*Graham Morgan – Chair DTC Committee*