

EA<S NEWSLETTER

14A Westbourne Road | Edgbaston | Birmingham | B15 3TR



WELCOME to your monthly E-newsletter - keeping you up to date with team results, club news and upcoming events.

The
PLOUGH HARBORNE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
Est. 2003



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Club news

Club re-opening!

The clocks have gone forward, British Summer Time has arrived, and we are looking forward to getting back on the tennis court on **29th March!** Court bookings are now open and we are back to a full timetable of coaching and social mix ins.

Key Dates:

- **Monday 29th March:** Club re-opens
- **Sunday 4th April:** Sunday mix ins resume
- **Tuesday 6th April:** Weekday mix ins resume



The LTA has published an updated [summary grid](#) of permitted activity, which includes singles, doubles, all coaching, and organised mix ins. For the time being, members are restricted to playing one hour-long slot per day outside of organised (i.e. bookable) activities, which offers a fair system to maximise playing opportunities. The full current club guidelines have been circulated to members and will be available on the website.

We are delighted to be able to get back to a semblance of normality on the tennis front and look forward to seeing you on court very soon.

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Membership

Thank you to all members who have rejoined the club in 2021. Now that the lockdown restrictions have eased for outdoor sports, we can anticipate a packed schedule of play throughout the spring and summer. If you have any friends or family who may be interested in joining, please encourage them to do so! Membership enquiries can be directed to Jane Wilton at: ealtsmembership@googlemail.com.

Tennis Court update

When you come back to the club after lockdown, probably the first thing you'll see is how well the grass court preparation has progressed. They are looking great, and if the weather is kind, we should be playing on them by the first week in May.



The bottom shale courts have received lots of effort from volunteers this month and are looking good as a result. Court 12, for so long the ugly duckling, is in the best condition that it's been for many years.

At the time of writing, we are expecting a clay court contractor to set up the middle clay courts professionally and also to install new rigid plastic white lines. We anticipate that the courts will be ready for play very soon. Here's hoping for a great result that we'll all love, especially now that we have some lighting on Court 9 to add more playing time while we still have the darker evenings.

The astros are of course ever ready for action after last year's refurbishment.

Out of respect to the club and to your fellow members, we do ask that you look after the courts appropriately, for instance by making sure you brush the clay and shale after you have played, and by removing any debris (leaves and twigs etc) from the astro before you play. Also, by wearing the right tennis shoes at all times please. And finally, by reporting anything that needs attention to a member of the House & Grounds or Coaching Team.

Here's wishing you all a great summer of tennis!

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Volunteering update



After 3 months of lockdown, the usual effects of winter weather, and a change in the grounds staff the club, courts and grounds needed a good effort to make them ready for re-opening. That was provided by a wide range of willing volunteers who wheelbarrowed, ripped up white lines, rolled, cleaned, swept, cleared cellars, engaged contractors, installed Court 9 lights, changed locks and keycodes, and more. A huge thank you is due to the members of the club who have given their time.

Many of you know that we do have a regular House and Grounds Volunteer session between 10 and 12 on the 1st Sunday every month. Everybody is most welcome (just bring yourself, scruffy clothes and gloves). You'll be shown what needs doing, or if you have an eye on something particular that you think

needs attention, then that's fine too.

NOTE – as an exception in April we'll be gathering on the 2nd Sunday i.e the 11th to avoid Easter Sunday. Hope to see a good number of you then, as there are some important tasks to tackle!

Development Update

Helen Owen has been working hard to implement the long term club Development Plan. Here is the latest on the three main priorities:

1) Develop the club's facilities and encourage more all-year-round play

There is now some lighting on Court 9 which, now we are finally open again, we will evaluate. The goal of resurfacing an additional two courts to an all-weather surface and install additional floodlights remains as a longer-term objective. We continue to speak to Calthorpe Estates regularly and they are still working with their in-house lawyers to come up with wording that would allow us to agree a long-term lease.

2) Be a force for good in our local community

We have submitted a grant application to be able to offer free coaching to a school based in Handsworth. The grant would cover one hour a week of coaching and rackets and balls for the children. The application was submitted a few weeks ago and we hope to hear very

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soon. If we are successful, this will take place during the summer term.

3) Run the club as well as possible for minimal effort

You will have picked up from the AGM documents that we have restructured the Committees that run the club, narrowing the Main Committee and more clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the Subcommittees. These changes have now come into effect and are running well so far. We have also established a Junior Focus Group, chaired by Holly Reid, which has met for the first time for a successful and fruitful discussion.

Constitution: Invitation to Working Group

We updated our Constitution at the EGM in January but noted there were some concerns raised around members' liability. Investigation work is ongoing into options to limit members' liability, including the possibility of converting the club to a Limited Company. We have spoken to a representative of Brabants, the LTA's partner solicitors and they have given us a quote to review our Constitution and make further recommendations. We are now in a position to establish a Working Group for members who wish to contribute to the discussion and evaluate the available options. This will take place via Zoom at **8pm** on **Thursday 8th April**. Please contact Helen at helenowen20@hotmail.com if you would like to attend.

Court sponsorship

Would you like a court named after you or the opportunity to name a court on someone else's behalf? You can sponsor a court at EALTS for just £500! Below is an example of the Number 1 Harry Gem court.

Net post sponsorship

An alternative option for sponsorship is mini name plaques on our net posts. If you would like to have your name on our new astro net posts then please get in touch. The sponsorship rate here is £25.

Tennis news

Tennis matches

League matches are now set up and team players are raring to go! A full report will follow next month on our first foray back into competitive play after a long break. In the absence of spectating, please join us in sending our players virtual good vibes for a successful season. Team training also resumes from **Saturday 3rd April**.

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And the winners are....

100 Club Results: February 2021

1st prize - £50 winner

Claudio Mauro - number 66

Runners up - tube of tennis balls

Ramesh Mistry - number 38

Charles Knill - number 44

Bill Brown - number 15



The Draw was conducted by our Treasurer Tom Knowles. Balls will be distributed to runners up once club reopens, in the not-too-distant future 🍀

If you would like to participate in the Draw, and have not yet purchased your number(s), it's very simple to join - contact Sue Chopra, who runs our EA<S 100 Club, via details below, to choose a number between 1-90 (at present) and she will advise if it's free/available. This will then be allocated to you, and entered into future Draws, usually conducted at the end of each month, more recently via Zoom, at events or social meetings. Many members have more than one number, but it's up to you how many you'd like to have.

The cost is only £3 per number per month.

You can set up either a monthly payment electronically via your bank, or a one-off payment (again electronically) to cover your number till the end of the year, whichever is more convenient to you.

All monies, after payout of prizes, go towards the Club's Development fund. We'd really like you to join us, and participate in this monthly Draw, and be in with a chance of winning £50. Please contact Sue Chopra via email (choprasc@aol.com) or mobile (07751334153), to choose your numbers, and who knows you may be our next winner!

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Upcoming events

Friday 9th April 2021, 8pm

Wine Group

We will be sampling any wine or country beginning with the letter E.



Monday 12th April 2021, 7.30pm

Book Group

We will be reading [The Humans](#) by Matt Haig.

(For the May book group, we will be reading [Without Prejudice](#) by Nicola Williams)

SAVE THE DATE!

Details to be provided once dates are finalised and the easing of restrictions for social gatherings has been confirmed.

Saturday 1st May 2021

Family Fun Quiz (possibly a mixture of live & online)

Saturday 3rd July 2021

BBQ and Party

Sunday 7th November 2021

Fireworks and Chilli Evening

Saturday 11th December 2021

Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Party!

For further information on any of these events, please contact Veronica on evhartmann@blueyonder.co.uk or 07881 747819

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Easyfundraising update

Easyfundraising: support our club while shopping online!

If you are a regular online shopper, please do consider signing up to Easyfundraising to help support our club and raise funds. Easyfundraising is a great website where you can help our club to raise funds, simply by doing your everyday online shopping with over 3,300 big name retailers– such as Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Adidas, Nike, Stringers world, eBay, and M&S and many more. All at no extra cost to you!

It's very easy to sign up and support our cause - here's how...

- Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org>
- Search for our good cause - Edgbaston Archery and Lawn Tennis Society.
- Click on Support this cause
- Create an account, either by using Facebook or Email
- Enter your personal details and then Create my account
- Proceed to shop via Easyfundraising website or App.
- Almost there.... why not add the donation reminder to ensure that you get a prompt every time you go onto a retailer's site who will donate money to the club.

As of Sunday 28 March 2021, we have raised **£227.83 and have **25** supporters!!**

Got something to share?

If you have any exciting news or updates to share with the club and members, please do not hesitate to contact us at ealtscommunications@gmail.com with your content and we will be more than happy to add to our next newsletter.

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