



NEWS

May 2024

Open Day

The sun may not have been shining for our Open Day, but the garden, the bowling green and tennis courts all looked amazing, thanks to the huge efforts of everyone involved in getting everything ready for the start of the season. The day was a real success with over 30 people expressing an interest in joining the club. The feedback from visitors was extremely positive and the welcoming, friendly atmosphere of the club was commented on. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this possible.

Safeguarding and Welfare Update

Welcome to the new season, I would like to introduce myself to all new, existing and junior members .

My name is Jane Irvine, I am the Safeguarding and Welfare Officer for the club.

As the Welfare Officer I am the main point of contact for reporting concerns.

My contact details are,

Email: welfare.officer.falcon@gmail.com

Telephone: 07858006574

This is my second year on the committee and hopefully I am a more familiar face around the club. I am often found hitting a tennis ball but occasionally I throw a bowl or four.

Please read through our club policies, available to view or download on the website.

Important to note, if you have children taking part in coaching/playing please download and complete the Photography and Filming consent form available on the website. This can then be passed to either myself or Marcin (Head Coach)

We strive to be a social and inclusive club for all members and it is useful to remind ourselves of our Code of Conduct and Club Rules (on our website or there is a copy posted in the clubhouse.

I am always happy to discuss welfare or safeguarding concerns. My contact details are above and also on the posters in the clubhouse and grounds, where you can also find a list of organisations available to contact directly for safeguarding issues.

I am looking forward to a long summer of outdoor tennis and bowling.

Please continue to follow the guidelines, play safely and have a great summer of sport.



GARDEN NEWS

The Falcon garden squad formed at the start of the year at the request of John Chalmers. The theory being for willing members to get involved and share the responsibility of maintaining and progressing the the beautiful garden which John has lovingly created, largely unaided, over many years. For which I am sure we are all very grateful.

The first tasks for the Falcon garden squad began back in January. With John leading a small group of volunteer members to prune all 258 of our rose bushes. A task that

would have taken John a number of days was completed in one afternoon!

Since then regular garden sessions have been established on Monday and Wednesday afternoons between 1-2pm. All members are welcome to attend and assist in gentle garden chores such as weeding and watering the flower beds.

There has also been a good deal of work completed pruning shrubs, tidying borders and bowling green fringes. As well as introducing perennial flowering

shrubs including hardy geraniums in some borders and anemones and buddleia along

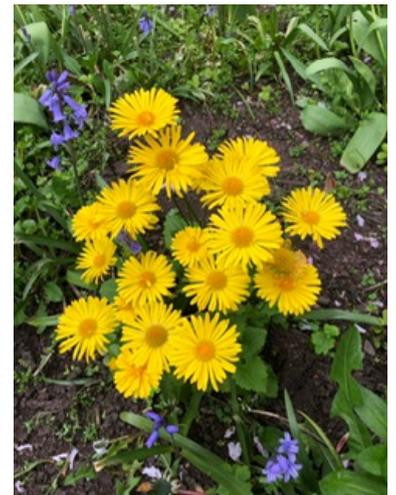
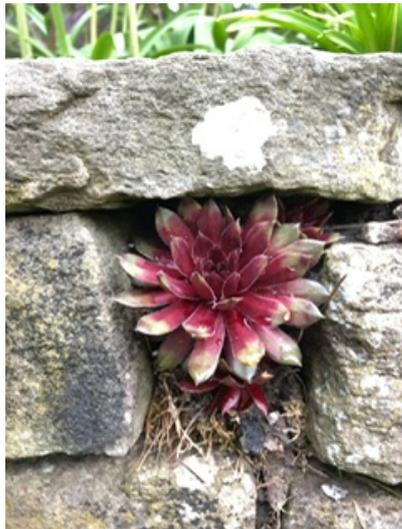
the bank to the south of the tennis courts. As well as the planting of series of small lavender plugs to hopefully create a short aromatic hedge leading down to the green and courts along the western path. Wild flower seeds have also been planted in various locations. Hopefully these will establish themselves over the coming months and years. Offering extra colour in the garden for all to enjoy as well as benefitting the local wildlife.

Finally a big thank you to all the kind folks who have volunteered their time and energy so far. Many hands make light work. Do help if you can.

BOWLING NEWS

Now that the season has started come and enjoy a game of bowls. We are very friendly and would welcome new players, both young and older.

As a Bowls Scotland 'Try Bowls' Club we offer potential new members the opportunity to try bowls before they make their decision whether to join our club or not. Sessions are every Saturday from 10am to 11am or by arrangement with our Bowls Convener, Mike Allen (falcon-bowling@outlook.com).



We have all the equipment that you will need and so there is no excuse not to give bowls a try. If you know anyone who may be interested then please get them to get in touch with us.

For existing members, even those who are primarily tennis members, we have a lot going on during the season. Namely:

- Weekly 'hat' games on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2pm, and Saturdays at 11am. All are welcome at these games – just turn up 10 minutes before the start time and put your name down.
- Social games and BBQ on a Friday at 6pm.
- Our 3 Singles competitions, which will start from the 29th May. If interested please put your name down on the entry forms in the clubhouse (£5 entry fee for each competition, or £10 total cost if you enter all three). The draw for the competitions will take place on Tuesday 28th May).
- Sunday 9th June we have our BBQ & Garden Party with a Pairs Bowling competition. Entry for this is free and is open to all. Please put your name down on the entry form in the clubhouse. The draw for this competition will take place on the day.
- Early September we have three friendly matches against other local clubs. These are always very enjoyable.
- Sunday 13th October we have our Final Fling and Jim Lavin Pairs competition.

Finally, anyone who is interested in trying bowls or improving their game we do offer free coaching. If interested please contact Mike Allen.

TENNIS NEWS

Hello fellow tennis players!

I hope many of you have had a chance to enjoy the start of the tennis season at our beautiful club - whether through participating in social tennis (Tuesdays 5-8pm; Fridays 9-11am), [taking a coaching lesson](#) with Marcin and his team, or [booking a court](#) to hit some balls with friends. If you haven't signed up to a lesson yet, please consider doing so, as we can only continue to offer coaching if there is sufficient demand. It's a great way to improve your play, meet other players, or simply get fitter: as a trial, Marcin is currently offering [cardio tennis](#) (from May 20th on Mondays at 7pm) which is great fun for players of all levels. For these cardio sessions there's no need to book an entire block, you can simply sign up every week

For those of you with a competitive edge, we started a tennis ladder last year, and it would be great to get this going again. If you already signed up, your name is still there and last year's link to the Google sheet is still active. (If you no longer wish to participate, [just let Achim know](#).) If you want to sign up, it is simple: just [send Achim an email](#). Also, if anyone is keen to get a competitive club team going, please get in touch. The FBTC committee will be happy to support this activity.

This upcoming Sunday (May 19th) we have an Adult Tennis Interclub friendly (mixed doubles) with Drummond from 1pm - 5pm. There might still be space for a few men to participate. If interested, please get in touch with Kirsty Harvey or Achim asap. If you missed out on this, don't fret: our famous PIMMS Tennis Doubles Tournament is coming up on Tuesday June 25th from 5pm onwards. Many thanks to Kirsty Harvey for organising these events

At the Junior competitive level, FBTC currently has four junior teams competing in the East of Scotland Tennis VMH Solicitors East of Scotland Leagues 2024. These include the U8 and U10 (both mixed) categories and the U12 and U14 (both boys) categories. Thanks to Marcin Tyner for organising this and parents for support/coordination. Good luck to all our players!

If you have any suggestions, questions, or just want to say hello, please send [Achim](#) (general tennis) or [Sumeet](#) (coaching) an email.

With best wishes,

Achim, Tennis Convenor (email aschnafer@gmail.com)

Sumeet, Coaching Convenor (email fbtc.coaching@outlook.com)

FACILITIES UPDATE

Behind the scenes

I'm sure you are all aware that the clubhouse has been redecorated, it now looks fresher, brighter and greatly improved.

We are still in the process of improving the notice boards and looking at what should be put on the walls, especially for display purposes, if anyone has any ideas please get in touch with Paul.

The tool shed was in need of some TLC, and this is ongoing. Some of the bowling equipment has been freshened up and the benches are also being worked on.

The tennis court enclosure still requires some maintenance as do the practice boards, also the pavilion needs to be painted. It would be great if some club members could volunteer to help with this. Paul is usually at the 'Hat Game' on Saturday morning, anyone with a few hours to spare can let Paul know.

A new more practical location for the tractor is being looked at.

New bike racks should be in place very soon.

Thank you to everyone who helps on a regular basis as this support is invaluable.

High Importance

In order to become a Community Amateur Sports Club, and so qualify for reduced Council rates, we have to have agreement from a majority of club members. Therefore an extraordinary meeting will be held in the upcoming weeks, date to be confirmed.

It is vitally important that we have a quorum of members at the meeting to agree to this proposal.