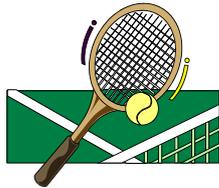


GRANSDENS' LAWN TENNIS CLUB

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2019



Dear Members,

As winter slowly, gently, fades it's time to dig out the tin of Dunlop "Bullet" balls gifted at Xmas, apply the numerous bandages now needed to play, check the racket to see if it's got one more year's wear in it and off we go once more. Another year in the life of Gransdens' Lawn Tennis Club is underway, the court surface has been cleaned, the clubhouse to be spruced up and the various, numerous, matches and competitions are underway. Firstly we have.....

Dates for Your Diary:

Sunday 24th March 10.00 am. Clean-up day at the club, volunteers more than welcome, please bring tools/brushes etc as we spruce up the clubhouse and the surrounds.

Sunday 7th April American Doubles Tournament and Wimbledon Draw, 2.00 pm

Saturday 27th April Charity Tournament in aid of Cancer Research UK, 11.00 am

Sunday 28th April Monthly Family Session (parents and children), 4.00 pm

Friday 24th May Club Dinner at the Chequers, a get-together with friends, old and new

Sunday 7th July Family Cup, 4 pm

2nd - 6th September Tournament Week, a week of competitions - all are welcome

Saturday 12th October Quiz Night, the club's only official fund raiser, vital for the coffers

Monday 18th November AGM, 7 30 pm

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Looking back over last season:

The American Doubles Competition and Wimbledon Draw proved to be a great day, the winner after a hefty battle Barry Burles, the tennis followed by the draw where we got a decent ticket allocation, including the Men's Finals again. This year's event will take place on Sunday 7th April, beginning at 2.00 pm with the American Tournament. Please contact Andy Wilson to enter (andyw586@gmail.com). This is a very sociable afternoon of mixed doubles tennis, a chance to be on court with an ever changing array of partners and opponents. Please come along! The draw for Wimbledon tickets will take place at the end of the afternoon around 4.30. To be eligible for tickets you have to be a signed up member of British Tennis and have opted in to the ballot. You also need to attend the draw in person, or send a proxy.

The Road to Wimbledon – Due to the dates for eligibility we were only able to hold a girls' competition in 2018, but the standard of tennis was excellent. Well done to Sarah Thomas who went through to the next round, and to runner-up Holly Dring.

Tournament Week – was well supported, the various events drawing a record attendance and a good time was had by all, the presentations made by our chairman David Prest (for once NOT a winner – he was away at the time of the tournaments!) at the Crown and Cushion. Those victorious were: Men's singles - Tim Beech, Ladies' – Val Dring, Ladies' Doubles - Nicola Thomas and Claire Walton, Men's Doubles - Andy Wilson and George Balfour, Mixed Doubles - Andy and Sarah Thomas. In 2019 we will be holding the various events from 2nd – 6th September, so please put the dates in your diary, and hone your skills over the summer months.

Family Cup. A lovely sunny evening saw all sorts of ages, shapes and sizes take part, the Younger age group was won by Ben and Henry Green, the Older end by Trevor and Matt Peer. Behaviour was exemplary from the children..... And in 2019 the competition will be held on Sunday 7th July at 4.00 pm.

Club Matches If you are of a more competitive nature then we enter teams in the LTA Men's, Ladies and Mixed sections for both the summer and Winter leagues. As well as these the wrinklies are cast out at the coldest time of the year for the LTA Vets Mixed league. In addition to the LTA fixtures we run teams in the Business Houses Men's, Women's and Mixed Leagues. If you are keen to play please indicate on the attached form - we'd love to have some new blood in our competitive ranks for the coming year. For the record:

The Men's 1sts came 8th in Division 3 of the LTA Summer league and were relegated, they came 6th in Div 4 of the Winter league with the same result.

The Men's 2nds came 4th in Div 10 of the LTA Summer league and came 7th in Div 6 of the Winter league and were relegated.

The Ladies 1sts came 2nd in Div 4 of the LTA Summer league and were promoted, came 2nd in Div 3 of the Winter League and went up.

The Ladies 2nds came 7th in Div 4 of the LTA Summer league and went down, came 5th in Div 6 of the Winter League.

The Mixed 1st team came 3rd in in Div 3 of the LTA Winter League and came 6th in Div 4 of the Summer league and were relegated

The Mixed 2nds 4th in Div 7 of the Summer League and 3rd in Div 6 of the Winter League.

In the **LTA Vets** league the 1st team came 5th in div 2, the 2nd team came top of Div 6 and were promoted as champions.

In the **Business House League** (summer time play, no food but a bit less stressful than the LTA) the **Men's** team were placed 4th in the Men's Div, the **Ladies** came 3rd out of 3 in the Ladies, The **Mixed** team R Up in their league.

Well done to all who took part come rain, hail or heatwaves!

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Away from the court we had a couple of **Social Events** – A glorious Fish and Chips supper lured 21 of us to the Chequers in April – thanks to Jon for organizing and to Bobby and Wendy for looking after us so well.

The **Annual Quiz Night** was the usual great fun and raised in excess of £1500 for the club - thanks to all who participated, provided main courses and/or puddings, manned the bar, washed the dishes, asked the questions or helped in any way to make the event such a success. You know who you are!

The AGM was rather less popular (where were you all?), but our thanks go to Louisa and Adam at the Crown and Cushion who allowed us to host the meeting there. Huge thanks also go to David Prest, who, after many years of begging to be released from the chairmanship, was finally allowed

to have a break. Over the last few years David has kept the club on the straight and narrow and we are very grateful for all his work on our behalf. No candidate stepped forward to replace David (hard shoes to fill) so if you think you might be able to help us out(!) please contact any committee member (details at the end of this letter).

The **Christmas Tennis**, always prone to weather intervention, was tricky on the Sunday before Christmas, but some great competitive tennis took place on Boxing Day (helped by mulled wine of course). We saw a great mixture of generations, Santa hats and impossible shots!

To update you on where we are going as a club the main financial outlay for the club if not the main focus of attention is the courts and they will be totally resurfaced within the next 18 months, if not sooner. This is a hefty sum for a small club and fund raising is a priority. Various bodies have been approached for financial support and we will update you re this vital work.

The **Doubles Ladder** is still popular and provides a monthly competitive dose of tennis. Please tick the box on the membership form if you'd like to take part.

Coaching Throughout the year our coach, Nick Peck, runs both adults' and children's sessions.

Mini Reds 4-7 yrs - Wednesdays 3.45pm-4.45pm
Mini Orange / Green - Wednesdays 4.45pm-5.45pm
Junior Yellow Ball - Wednesdays 4.45pm-5.45pm
Adults Thurs evening 8pm-9:15pm

Nick also is a Qualified Professional Racket Stringer, please contact him on the details below if you require a restring. He strings Tennis, Squash and Badminton Rackets.

For private individual or group coaching please contact nick@nickpecktennis.co.uk or phone him on 07593 798327

Juniors – As well as Nick's coaching sessions (see above) we are planning monthly family sessions on the last Sunday in the month at 4 pm, starting on **Sunday 28th April**. Parents and children are warmly invited to come along and bash a ball around with others. Age appropriate balls, nets and markers will be available.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter the **Family Cup** will be held on Sunday 7th July at 4.00 pm. To enter you need to be a junior playing with a family member (could be a parent, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandparent, sibling) – as long as one member of the team is a club member then you're eligible. After those Sunday afternoon family sessions confidence will be overflowing.....

The **Junior Tournament** will be held at the beginning of Tournament Week on Monday 2nd September, 2.00 pm

Club Sessions – A great way to have a sociable run around, get consistent, meet some lovely people. The club offers numerous weekly sessions all year round for the good, the bad and the indifferent. Please do come along; you will be made very welcome.

Wednesday evening - 7.30 pm

Friday morning - 9.00 am (ladies only)

Saturday morning - 9.00 am

Sunday afternoon - 2.00 pm

2019/20 Membership

To join the club for this season please complete the attached membership form and return it to Claire Walton as soon as possible. Membership subscriptions have been held at £85 for seniors, £130 for families, £35 for juniors (secondary), £25 for juniors (primary), £105 for a parent and child. Entry to the doubles ladder is £10 to cover the cost of all balls for the ladder matches through the season. Match fees for last season are also due; Claire's attached spreadsheet will show how much you need to add to your membership.

Club Committee: Jon Beech (Secretary and Court Bookings), Chris Butterworth (Treasurer), Claire Walton (Membership Secretary and Welfare Officer), Sally Adelman, Jan Foster, Hazel Pettit, Andy Wilson