

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone. I write this knowing that in a short time, weeks or possibly a matter of days, we could once more find ourselves in a national lockdown, and unable to continue playing. I hope this doesn't happen. I've found that being able to play regularly, both before and since we reintroduced social sessions, has been a release when unable to socialise in so many other ways.

However, being positive, clubs in our area are keen to play some friendly matches soon. We've arranged to play Wellington on November 11th (away) and December 9th (home), with two further matches planned for the New Year. We'll be playing Upton at home on October 27th, and probably again in each month during the winter. We have yet to arrange matches with Wiveliscombe or Willand but hope to sort out dates soon.

I'm always keen to see as many members as possible getting involved in these matches. Being 'friendlies', they are competitive, but without the edge that league matches might have, so they're a great way to meet new players and play on different courts. Please, if you haven't already been in touch and put your name down, then do so soon. You can reply to the club email address, my phone number, or via the HTC Whatsapp group, or to Tim Julier for the Willand matches.

It's great to see Dan with so many juniors of all ages at his Thursday sessions. I hope to see many develop and continue to play at Hemyock as adult members. The club had a number of plans for this season that due to the pandemic, have not come to fruition. We hoped to include juniors and their parents in our social events, possibly holding a bbq or other 'non tennis' based event, as well as our traditional Sunday afternoon socials. The club looks forward to the days when we can once more confidently plan our calendar.

Our doubles format challenge (DFC) proved very popular and a great success. I note that between them, Malcolm and Karen Steer won over 600 games! From the feedback received, the challenge provided a great deal of enjoyment, and thank you to Phill Cooper for setting it up and co ordinating the results. Looking at the web page, it is wonderful to see that so many took part.

Steve Harold is co ordinating a follow up competition. I note that now that winter approaches and there is social tennis, this is not being utilised as much as was the DFC, but please don't forget about it. If you play a 'set', whether at social tennis or otherwise, get the results to Steve (stvh Harold@gmail.com) or via Whatsapp. Visit the website to check out the details on how to get a match up and running, and hopefully we'll post a results table soon.

Thank you to all committee members for their efforts and co operation. If you've visited the club website recently, you'll have noticed a few changes. My thanks to Jerry Popham and particularly Paul Steed for their time and dedication. If you still find problems, do let us know. We are learning too, pretty much as we go along, but I think that some of the more common problems such as court booking difficulties, have now been sorted out. A number of other problems have been resolved by liaison with Clubspark.

Our AGM should have taken place in March, and for obvious reasons has been postponed. At the last committee 'Zoom' meeting, it was felt that there were no issues that needed urgently addressing, but at that time the pandemic was an improving situation. Now that we know this not to be so, if there are any issues club members feel that the committee should know about, please contact either myself or indeed any committee member.

Finally, the club recognises the part tennis can play in keeping club members fit and active, particularly during these difficult times, so thank you everyone for following the

guidelines when playing at the club, and for booking the courts or putting your name on the attendance log at social tennis. Let's hope that although we have 'track & trace' information, we never have cause to use it!

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(to get on the HTC Whatsapp group, email or send a text to my mobile)