



HLTC Newsletter – December 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of our Club newsletter. Here's some items of note from the past month.

The 'clay' on our new courts has been topped up and the courts are starting to bed down. Despite some initial reservations they seem to be the most popular courts for both night-time and daylight play. With courts 1/2/3 looking tired, clay may be the preferred option toward the end of next year, funds permitting.

During resurfacing, our paving area really suffered; it's now rectified and perhaps better than before. Unfortunately the old wooden gates and posts are not at their best so we are looking to replace them as one part of our improved security. It is perhaps an opportunity to reconfigure the club entrance and car park to incorporate 2 or 3 more parking spaces and widen access as you enter. Some ideas are on the table and we will keep you updated.

The other big ticket item is floodlighting. As it is largely functional we will continue to fix it on a piecemeal basis until courts 1/2/3 and security are fully funded.

With many improvements and maintenance needs coming up in the New Year and beyond, we will be seeking accurate costings toward a robust financial plan. The last four years show it costs around 25% more to buy the same goods and services, so it's more important than ever to seek ways to adequately fund change, for now and the future.

Over to social things. The Christmas party was a great success. Some good prizes were had in the raffle; thanks to Chrissie for organizing and those who donated. The buffet food was spectacular (always is) thanks to Steph and Marie who spent all day preparing the main event aided by Sue and Liz who supplied some gorgeous deserts. Chrissie also provided a tasty cheeseboard.

Our In-house music made a great backdrop for the evening's dance moves. The bar did good business and bolstered our funds for future projects. Don't forget that by supporting our events you are not only supporting the club but getting to know other members a bit better too. Next big event is the Quiz Night towards the end of Feb 2025, book in early as it's always a full house.

Our other Christmas event took place courtesy of the Wednesday Lunch Club on December 11th. Around 30 members enjoyed a hearty seasonal turkey lunch with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding and mince pies too.

You may not have known this...these lunches started over 30 years ago as an opportunity for members, both playing and social, to get together. Two course lunches are prepared by our lovely club members, with tea or coffee on a Wednesday, approximately once a month. The bar is open too and quite popular. Once again any profits from the lunch go back into the Club for the benefit of all.

If decent food and good company appeal to you, sign up on the clipboard by the back door or message Christine on 07752 370882 . The next lunch is January 15th at 12:30. Give it a go.

At the last lunch club we also celebrated Pat Emens 90th birthday. She was our membership secretary for over 30 years, a glutton for punishment. She still has a very healthy appetite though, and a knack for winning the best raffle prizes. Happy Birthday Pat from everyone !

Membership numbers: As of the end of November we had a total of 298 members. Of which 223 are adults and 75 juniors.

As the year draws to a close it's a good time for us to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

HLTC Committee