

# Ightham Tennis Club

CLUB HAPPENINGS, NEWS AND MORE



**MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER**

**Hello Members,**

The days are getting longer and the daffodils are now in bloom—this is always a glorious sign for us tennis addicts. Although warmer temps are always appreciated this time of year, I have also come to enjoy the opportunities to connect with members in the winter months, especially when it involves tea and delicious food!

2023 marks a significant milestone for the Club—read more in this newsletter for opportunities to help us celebrate this momentous **40th year** together.

The ITC committee is keen to fill an additional seat on the committee. We are specifically looking for a member that has interest in volunteering their time to do things and engage in events. Interested members should email

[ighthamtennis@gmail.com](mailto:ighthamtennis@gmail.com) with their interest by 31st of March. The committee will review interested volunteers and make a determination on or before the next June committee meeting.

*Yours truly, Jori Bennett*



A gorgeous clubhouse lunch prepared by the lovely and talented **Fi Storey** for a Kent Inter-Club League match in January.

## 2023 ITC official events

**Membership Renewal Period:** April

**Summer Tournament Entry Period:** April

**Junior Easter Camp:** 3-6 April

**McConnell Tournament:** Monday 1 May (Bank Holiday)

**The Coronation Weekend Party:** 7 May

**Junior Summer Camp:** dates to be announced

**Summer Tournament Finals Day:** Sunday 10 September

**Annual Dinner & 40th Anniversary Celebration:** Saturday 30 September

**AGM:** Wednesday 18 October

# April: renewals and our new on-line payment system

By Louise Green, Membership Secretary



We are very happy to announce that our payment system for renewals and new members has been streamlined to use ClubSpark's online direct debit system. It is easy to use and will vastly reduce our admin load. Bank transfers and cheque payments are no longer accepted. **Existing members will receive an email with instructions on how to renew and pay online prior to 1st April.**

**2023-24 Membership Rates** — We offer a choice of membership packages, each covers the year from 1st April to 31st March:

Family (children under age 18)	£175
Couple	£175
Adult	£95
Junior (under 18's)	£25
Student (age 18-24)	£40
Social	£10

## Coronation weekend party at ITC

By Maria Gostynska

Plans are afoot for a community event at the recreation ground on **Sunday 7th of May**, though details are not yet finalised. We would like to invite members to play some social tennis, probably between 11am - 2pm (TBC), as well as bringing food and drink to share afterwards. Non members (in suitable footwear!) will be welcome to join in. Later in the afternoon, Dmitry and Mike will run drills and feed balls to juniors and beginners.

**Anyone interested** in playing, or with any questions or suggestions, please contact Maria at [marysiagostynska@gmail.com](mailto:marysiagostynska@gmail.com). If you would be willing to help feed balls for juniors in the afternoon, please contact Dmitry at [dnsambuk@gmail.com](mailto:dnsambuk@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!



# ITC Annual Dinner and 40th celebration

By Jenny Cooper

This year is the 40th anniversary of our Club and we are planning on celebrating this milestone at our Annual Dinner on **Saturday 30th September 2023** where we will also present the trophies from the Summer Championships.

This event has sold out in previous years so in order to book a venue to include everyone who wishes to come, please RSVP to let us know if you are planning on attending. Your RSVP will help us plan and we look forward to celebrating with you.



We also plan to hold a **silent auction** on the night to raise funds for the Club. If you have any lots you would be willing to donate (lots don't have to be tennis related) or would like to volunteer to help with the event then please get in touch with Jenny.

Please RSVP to Jenny at email [jenny@lyddenevents.com](mailto:jenny@lyddenevents.com) or mobile [07977 468061](tel:07977468061).

## Coaching program updates

By Dmitry Sambuk

### Junior Easter Camp — sign up now

Club Coach Jem Jones is accepting signups for the Easter Camp, running **Monday-Thursday, 3-6th April**. Spaces are limited, please contact Club Coach Jem Jones at [jem.jones@ymail.com](mailto:jem.jones@ymail.com) or mobile [07960 062385](tel:07960062385) to book a place.



### Easter Camp Timetable — 3-6th April

Year Group	Session Time	Cost
Red — Years 1, 2, 3	9:00-10:30 am	£10 a session for members £12 a session for non-members
Orange — Years 4, 5	10:30-12:00 pm	£10 a session for members £12 a session for non-members
Green — Years 6	12:00-1:30 pm	£10 a session for members £12 a session for non-members
Hardball — Years 7+	2:00-3:30 pm	£10 a session for members £12 a session for non-members

## Junior coaching sessions

We hope that all our junior members have enjoyed their tennis lessons with Club Coach Jem Jones this term. The new tennis term starts on **Monday, 17th April** at Ightham Tennis Club and will run for 10 weeks.

<b>Mondays:</b> Years 1-2-3: 3:30-4:30 pm; £65 Years 7+: 5.30-6.30 pm; £65	<b>Thursdays:</b> Years 2-3: 3:30-4:30 pm; £65 Years 4-5: 4:30-5:30 pm; £65 Year 6+: 5:30-6:30 pm; £65	<b>Fridays:</b> Years 1-2: 3:30-4:30 pm; £65 Years 5-6: 4:30-5:30 pm; £65
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**Contact:** If you'd like to sign up your junior members (if you haven't already), please contact ITC Club Coach Jem Jones at [jem.jones@ymail.com](mailto:jem.jones@ymail.com) or mobile [07960 062385](tel:07960062385) to book a place. Those that have signed up for the winter term will have priority for spring/summer term.

## Adult coaching

Below are the coaching opportunities available to our adult members:

<b>Improver Coaching Group</b> on Monday from 6.30-7.30pm. 10-week program; paid upfront.	<b>Improver Group</b> on Friday from 2.00-3.00pm. 10-week program; paid upfront.	<b>Intermediate/Advanced Group</b> on Monday from 7.30-8.30pm. 10-week program; paid upfront.
<b>Cardio Tennis</b> Sessions will continue to take place on Tuesdays <u>2-3pm</u> on a pay per play basis.	<b>Individual lessons</b> with Jem are available on Tuesday morning and afternoon, Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon.	

**Contact:** Please contact ITC Club Coach Jem Jones at [jem.jones@ymail.com](mailto:jem.jones@ymail.com) or mobile [07960 062385](tel:07960062385) if you are interested in the above adult coaching options and costs associated.

## (New) School training program

We are glad to confirm that ITC and ITC's Club Coach will run a school training program for Ightham Primary School Year 6 pupils on **16th, 23rd, and 30th of March**. The program is supported by ITC, Ightham Primary School, and the Coxcombe Fair Fund and is aimed to introduce tennis to more kids in the local community and beyond.

## Kent Inter-Club Winter League news

By Maria Gostynska

The men's and mixed teams both finished second in their divisions in the Kent Inter-Club Winter League. Our new court surface proved a real boon, allowing home matches to be played in frosty and damp conditions, which would previously have been impossible. We also discovered that frosty TigerTurf came with the unexpected benefit of providing us with nature's Hawkeye (see picture to the right).

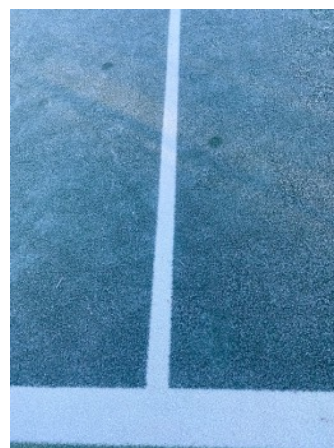


Photo courtesy: Max Robinson

# Facility updates

By Maria Gostynska

## Renewal of water main and path light switches

Good news, work will begin on Monday 13th.

## Clubhouse heater

**Please do not tamper with the heater controls—it is not a true heater, but merely a frost protection unit for the clubhouse.** Recently someone turned the heater off in freezing conditions causing the pipes to freeze and burst and the toilet pan to crack. On another occasion, the thermostat was set to full, meaning the clubhouse was heated to tropical temperatures for 24 hours before the situation was reported and rectified.

## Report facility issues

If you spot any problems on site (e.g. a water leak), please report right away to Maria [marysiagostynska@gmail.com](mailto:marysiagostynska@gmail.com) or Mike on [m\\_lehan@hotmail.com](mailto:m_lehan@hotmail.com) or [07963 153630](tel:07963153630).

## Court sweeper

A drive belt on the court sweeper broke in mid-December and we had to send it back for a very slow repair, only getting it back, after much nagging, in late February. In its absence we learnt how much of a difference its regular use makes to the playability of the TigerTurf surface. We're very grateful to those of you who help with sweeping the courts and would love to hear from anyone who would be kind enough to join The Sweep Team. If you are interested in volunteering to sweep please contact Mike Lehan at [07963 153630](tel:07963153630).

## Mud on the courts

Please remember to wipe your shoes on our boot scrapers and mats before walking onto the courts. It is important to keep them free from mud to maintain the quality of the playing surface.

## Recycle your old tennis balls for charity

There's a black bin on the exterior balcony section of the clubhouse where you can leave your used tennis balls. We send them to **Recycaball** <https://recycaball.com/> who recycle them for charity. It also makes a bit of money for the club.

# Want to play more tennis?

**Club sessions** — regular weekly club sessions are open to all members year round. We are currently running sessions on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. [Click here](#) to find more information.

**Lessons** — Club Coach Jem Jones can be contacted directly for lessons for both adults and children. Full details can be found by [clicking here](#).

**Kent Inter-Club League** — If you would like to represent your club and play for the teams please contact Lee Bakewell: 07902 285861 (men's) or Maria Gostynska: [marysiagostynska@gmail.com](mailto:marysiagostynska@gmail.com) (ladies and mixed).

Ladder results as of 2 March 2023

**Ladder competition** — we have started a **singles ladder competition**. To the right are the current standings. This is open for anyone to join, please contact Dmitry at [dnsambuk@gmail.com](mailto:dnsambuk@gmail.com) if you'd like to participate.

## Racquet restringing services

If you or your partner has a racquet that needs a fresh restringing, fine tuning, or a bit of TLC, please contact ITC Club Coach Jem Jones at [jem.jones@ymail.com](mailto:jem.jones@ymail.com) or mobile [07960 062385](tel:07960062385) and he will be able to help.

A reminder that ITC members get a **10% discount at the Racquet Academy** shop in Otford. Visit their website by [clicking here](#).

## Did you know you can support ITC when you shop?

We work hard to keep your membership costs low by doing as much as we can ourselves, but you can help us by [signing up to this scheme](#) which means money is donated to the club every time you shop.

ITC Ladder Tournament 2022-23	
Current #	Player Name
1	Justin Kelsey
2	James Willis
3	Maria Gostynska
4	Peter Bruce
5	Darren Lock
6	Lee Bakewell
7	Oli Hayward
8	Dmitry Sambuk
9	Rory Corstorphine
10	Robert Lowe
11	David Lampitt
12	David Leigh
13	Oliie Clevern
14	Christopher Brown
15	Max Robinson



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