



Ightham Tennis Club

Newsletter,

August 2021



Dear members,

Time for another newsletter, as there is quite a lot currently going on...

Covid-19: The dreaded Covid is not yet a thing of the past, unfortunately, but our tennis life is easier now that, as of 19 July, the number of people who can play and meet, both indoors or outdoors, is no longer restricted. That said, it makes sense to continue being careful, so do please continue to sign in, stay outside the clubhouse as far as possible, and observe good hygiene and social distancing. Blah, blah... but important!

Club sessions: Our usual weekly club sessions continue as follows:

Sunday morning 08:00–10:30, contact Max, ighthamtennis@gmail.com;
Tuesday evening 1) 17:00–19:00, contact Jenny, jenny@lyddenevents.com
Tuesday evening 2) 19:00–21:00, contact Mike, m_lehan@hotmail.com);
Friday evening 18:00–20:00, contact Jenny, jenny@lyddenevents.com and **please note earlier start time.**

The Wednesday daytime session has been axed due to lack of support.

Adult coaching: Sam is close to finalizing his arrangements for autumn adult **coaching**. He will run two sessions for intermediates on Monday evenings from 18:30–19:30 and 19:30–20:30, starting 6 September. Sam also runs a regular Friday afternoon course for beginners/improvers, from 14:00–15:00, which he rolls over every five weeks.

Junior coaching: During school term-time on Thursdays, 15:30–18:30 and Fridays from 15:30–17:30.

For all information about group coaching and individual lessons please contact Sam direct on: sam.smith.tennis@gmail.com, or tel. 07580 140344.

Tennis ball machine update: After a few teething troubles, this is now reliably up and running. It is free to use for members and can be booked on the ClubSpark website in the same way as the courts. Remember that you must undergo a training session before using it for the first time. All details from Mike or Maria (m_lehan@hotmail.com or marysiagostynska@gmail.com).



Clubhouse refurbishment: The refurbishment of our loo and kitchen area is now complete. We owe a huge vote of thanks to Maria and Mike for overseeing this project virtually single-handedly – no mean feat since there were difficulties along the way: John, the main contractor, became very ill just after starting work, and it was left to his second-in-command, Dan, to do most of the work. Most people seem to agree that he's done a good job, and the loo in particular – which was previously distinctly seedy! – is now far



more salubrious. Almost makes you want to linger... As I write, the electrician is busy replacing the overhead fluorescent tube lights, installing an outdoor socket, and doing various bits of work for the electrical safety certification we need. Guy has also painted the inside walls white and repainted the door- and window-frames, so the whole clubhouse is looking cleaner and brighter.



Summer championships: These have been hit by some drop-outs, injuries and Covid, but are continuing towards their end-stage of Finals Day on 12 September. Instead of doing a barbecue this year, we hope to get the Red Pizza Van to attend (the one always there in the layby on a Friday evening).

Lions v. Springboks: On Saturday 24 July, the date of the first British & Irish Lions v. Springboks rugby test, we held a fun tennis equivalent involving our British and South African members. The two teams were captained for the Brits by Max Robinson and for the Springboks by Lee Bakewell. A brief downpour mid-way (this being the English summer and not Cape Town) did nothing to spoil the fun, and it was a great success. At 5 p.m. everyone settled down in the clubhouse to watch the actual match, courtesy of a big screen and someone's wizard technology! For the record, the Springboks won the tennis but the Brits won the rugby... Thank you to Max and Lee for some great organizing, after a number of injuries and other problems forced them to find some last-minute recruits!



Annual General Meeting: At the last committee meeting we set the date for this year's AGM, which will be on Monday, 4 October. You'll receive notice of it later, but please add it to your diaries now. This autumn will see a major changing of the guard, with many of the long-standing committee members standing down permanently, so if you want to keep abreast of developments, do your best to attend!

End of season supper: We hope to be able to arrange one this year, after missing out in 2020, and we've set Saturday 13 November as the date. To be confirmed, obviously, depending on the Covid situation by the time November comes around.

100 Club: As of April 2021 we have discontinued this, as not enough people were supporting it to keep it viable. Thanks to all of you who did support it, and enjoyed a flutter, over the years...

And lastly, our Monday morning game today was watched intently by this delightful and very friendly spectator, who came across the courts to meet us and settled down on the bench. Not wearing a collar or disc, but he seemed perfectly happy, so probably a local and just out for a stroll... But we'll keep an eye on him in case he's "absent without leave" from somewhere...

Alison,
for ITC committee



"Huh! That was a rubbish shot!"

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