

Ightham Tennis Club

CLUB HAPPENINGS, NEWS AND MORE



AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Hello Members,

It's been an interesting summer of weather contrasts with the warmest June on record and then an exceptionally wet July. Still, loads of tennis has been enjoyed on the courts with more to come.

Be sure to support our finalists on **Finals Day, Sunday 10th September**. Below is an update from the Organising Summer Tournament committee:

After some very enjoyable (and some very close) matches through the group stages we're now at the knock-out stage of our Summer Championships. The line-up for the semis & finals are below so congratulations to everyone who has made it this far as well as all those who have taken part and made the competition so enjoyable—it's been great to see you all on court.

*Semi-final matches are to be played by Monday 4 September so we can confirm and announce the finalists ahead of **Finals Day on Sunday 10th September**. Put it in your diaries and come and support Ightham's finest on the biggest day in ITC's sporting calendar! Good luck to all and thanks again to everyone for making it such an enjoyable tournament to organise again this year.*

Best wishes from David & Dmitry (aka the Organising Committee)

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2023 ITC official events

Summer Tournament Finals Day: Sunday 10 September

Annual Dinner & 40th Anniversary Celebration: Saturday 30 September

***AGM: Monday 16 October**

40th Annual Dinner Celebration

By Jenny Cooper

You're invited to attend our 40th Annual Dinner celebrations being held on **Saturday 30th September 2023 at The Moat in Wrotham.**

We will be unveiling ITC's new look at the dinner as well as presenting our cups to the winners of the summer tournament and running our silent auction to raise funds for the club.

Our thanks to everyone who has donated lots for the silent auction—to get you in the mood here's just a taste of what will be available to bid for on the night:

- **Queens tickets** - 2 centre court tickets for any day - Monday to Saturday - of Queens 2024 kindly donated by David Lampitt
- **Framed Print of local landscape** kindly donated by Freddie Bennett
- **Quad Safari for two** kindly donated by Colin Mitchem
- **A case of 6 variety Wine Society's Exhibition range** of wines (all reds) kindly donated by Max Robinson
- **A bottle of Bowmore Twelve years old Single Malt Scotch Whisky** kindly donated by Gary Parker
- **6 bottles of vintage wine** ranging from 1998 to 2002 kindly donated by Julian Drawbridge
- **18 tubes of Australian Open tennis balls** kindly donated by Fi Storey
- **Children's photography shoot with Maryke du Toit Photography** kindly donated by Maryke du Toit



Places will be confirmed upon receipt of the completed booking form (attached as a separate attachment to this email) and payment and as in previous years please let Jenny know who you'd like to be seated with so that we can arrange for you to sit with your friends.

It's been suggested that we should car pool to and from the Moat so if you are interested in a lift to and from the venue please let Jenny know so we can book you in with one of our volunteer chauffeurs! (If you'd like to join our team of chauffeurs please let us know!)

We look forward to welcoming you on Saturday 30th September.

Wooden racquets tournament

Saturday October 14th

By Mike Lehan

Dust off your old Dunlop Maxply and join us for an American double's tournament with something old and something new: play will take place with wooden racquets in a modern doubles Tie Break Tens format. If you don't have a wooden racquet, a few will be available, but you have time to check the local charity shops or pick up an eBay bargain to join in the fun.

Please bring some food and drink to share afterwards.

Play will begin at **1pm** with a maximum of 16 players, whites are optional but classy. If you are interested in taking part please contact **Mike Lehan** at m_lehan@hotmail.com.



In the club's 40th anniversary year, the tournament will be held in memory of Keith Todd, one of our founding members, who sadly passed away last year.

Kent Inter Club League end of season update

By Maria Gostynska

Our men's team has been the shining star of the show this summer: despite going up two divisions since last year, our guys won ALL their matches and finished top of their division again! They will play a division final at Kemsing on **Saturday September 9th at 11am** — do come and support captain Lee and his team if you can.



Both the ladies and mixed teams finished mid division. The ladies team found themselves in a very fiercely contested group: they won one match 4-0 and lost another 1-3, but drew in all four others. Overall, 50% of matches in their division resulted in a draw!

We will be entering a new men's midweek over 60s team in the winter league, captained by Julian — do get in touch with him if you would be interested in playing: jdrawbridge@btinternet.com or [07711616718](tel:07711616718).



Coaching program

Junior coaching sessions

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

Adult coaching

Below are the coaching opportunities available to our adult members:

Improver Coaching Group on Monday from 6.30-7.30pm. 10-week program; paid upfront.	Improver Group on Friday from 2.00-3.00pm. 10-week program; paid upfront.	Intermediate/Advanced Group on Monday from 7.30-8.30pm. 10-week program; paid upfront.
Cardio Tennis Sessions will continue to take place on Tuesdays <u>2-3pm</u> on a pay per play basis.	Individual lessons 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 or mobile [07960 062385](tel:07960062385) if you are interested in the above adult coaching options and costs associated.

Facility updates

By Maria Gostynska

Professional cleaning of courts and sweeping volunteers

Many thanks to Daniel from Smart Sports Surfaces who did a great job of deep cleaning our courts on August 1st, removing a lot of contamination from deep in the carpet pile as well as decompacting and lifting the sand infill so they look and play like new!

His report on the condition of our courts was very favourable, so many thanks to everyone who helps with maintaining them. If you'd be willing to join the sweep team, do please get in touch. It takes about 40 minutes to sweep both courts with our machine. Our kind volunteers currently sweep around 3 times a year, but the more people join, the less frequent that will be! Contact **Mike Lehan** m_lehan@hotmail.com if you'd be willing to help.



Keybox to be decommissioned

There have been ongoing challenges with the keybox jamming or the keys going missing from the keybox. The committee has had to make the decision to decommission the keybox for member use. Once a new stock of keys are available we will be emailing all members with details of how to obtain their own key. We realise this may be inconvenient for some members and we apologise for having to make this change, but this is the best way to overcome the problems.

Report facility issues

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

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: [07902285861](tel:07902285861) (men's) or Julian Drawbridge: jdrawbridge@btinternet.com or [07711616718](tel:07711616718) (men's over 60s) or Maria Gostynska: marysiagostynska@gmail.com (ladies and mixed).

Ladder competition — we have a **singles ladder competition**. This is open for anyone to join, please contact Dmitry at 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 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](#).

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.

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.

Your ITC committee members

Max Robinson (Chair)

Jori Bennett (Secretary)

David Lampitt (Treasurer)

Louise Green (Membership Secretary)

Lee Bakewell

Jenny Cooper

Maria Gostynska

Andy Green

Justin Kelsey*

Mike Lehan

Dmitry Sambuk

*Justin Kelsey joined the committee as a co-opted member in April, he will become a full member when elected at the AGM in October.



Ightham Tennis Club
ighthamtennis@gmail.com