



## JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Hello Members,

It's been a beautiful (and steamy) summer with so much tennis to enjoy. Wimbledon certainly didn't disappoint with plenty of athleticism and no shortage of drama! I personally enjoyed my fair share of strawberries & cream over the course of the tournament (see photos below).

The ITC Summer Championships are now well underway, with many more matches to be played over the coming weeks. A big congratulations to Coach Sam Smith and his Kent under 10 boys team who became the **National Champions**, winning the final in Bath last month!

Many thanks to all members who have been helping to care for the flowers and a very special thank you to **Michael T** for making such a marvelous job of keeping the path to the club clear.

This month's newsletter is packed full of club happenings and updates. If you have any questions, feedback, or ideas to help us make the club even better, the committee is eager to hear from you. Please email us at [ighthamtennis@gmail.com](mailto:ighthamtennis@gmail.com).

You can stay up to date with the latest club news and events on our [Facebook page](#), [website](#), or check out the chalkboard outside the clubhouse.

*Yours truly, Jori Bennett (club secretary)*



Photo courtesy: Freddie Bennett

# Calendar of events

**Children's Summer Tennis Camps:** 1st-4th August or 22nd-25th August

([click here](#) for signup details, there are a few spaces left in the reds and more spaces available for the year 4+ groups in the late mornings and afternoons)

**Sunday 11th September:** ITC Summer Championships Finals Day

**Wednesday 19th October:** AGM

**Saturday 12th November:** Annual Dinner

**Friday 9th December:** Christmas Drinks

## Club coach update

After over 10 years as our Club Coach, Sam Smith will be leaving ITC at the end of August to pursue the next phase of his coaching career at the Sevenoaks Tennis Centre. Sam has provided our members of all ages and abilities with an outstanding coaching experience and program. His passion and commitment to the club has made a positive impact on so many of us. We have been incredibly fortunate to have him at ITC and wish Sam all the best.

The committee has been fielding and evaluating a number of candidates for Sam's replacement over the past month. Thanks to many of our members who have participated in coaching trial sessions and/or shared candidate ideas, feedback, and input. We plan to share the news of Sam's replacement once an agreement has been finalized. **It's planned for the new Club Coach to take over responsibilities effective 1 September.**



*Photo courtesy: Freddie Bennett*



# ITC Summer Championships underway

*By David Lampitt*

It's been great to see so many back on court taking part in the Summer Championships — this is just a gentle word of encouragement to get your matches arranged as we know this can get more difficult once the summer holidays start in earnest. Please also note that the courts should have greater availability now as all group coaching for both juniors and adults has finished for the summer and the courts have been released.

This means you have extra slots to play on Monday evenings, and Thursday and Friday afternoons. The Committee has also agreed that if you want to play a competition match during Wednesday or Friday club sessions you can contact: Wednesday (Mike Lehan 07963 153 630); or Friday (Jenny Lowe 07977 468 061) to try and accommodate this.

Have fun out there and thank you to everyone who has sent their scores in — the score sheets are now up on the noticeboard outside the clubhouse (with apologies for the delay)!

# Kent Inter-Club Summer League news

*By Maria Gostynska*



*Photo courtesy: Maria Gostynska*

The highlight this summer is our men's team — admirably captained by Lee, our guys have won all their matches, their division and promotion. They will play a division **final on September**

**10th** (the day before our ITC finals day if that weekend wasn't exciting enough already), in the hope of winning a new trophy shield to decorate our clubhouse wall. It will be an away match at [St John's Tennis Club](#) and supporters will be most appreciated — keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) for more details.

The mixed team has completed its matches, winning 4 out of 6. The ladies team is lagging behind with two matches left to play, but have timed things perfectly with away matches scheduled in Margate and Whitstable, so a post-match swim in the sea might be in order. Their highlight so far has been playing at the lovely Avenue club in Rochester on clay courts and then being allowed to use their fantastic spa facilities. The only downside was that it was the only match lost so far!

## 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. It's a great way to improve your tennis game and meet other members. [Click here](#) to find more information.



*Photo courtesy: Jill Docherty*

**Lessons** — The Club Coach and 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 in the winter league, please contact Lee Bakewell: 07902 285 861 (men's) or Maria Gostynska: [marysiagostynska@gmail.com](mailto:marysiagostynska@gmail.com) (ladies and mixed). Our ladies team would particularly welcome a few more players please.

# Volunteers welcome, facility updates

As a local village tennis club we try to be diligent in keeping our costs low and invite all members to help us with some of the easier maintenance tasks.

**Maintenance mornings** — If you'd be interested in joining a volunteer maintenance morning occasionally to help with the upkeep of the club, we'd love to hear from you. Tasks might include cutting back brambles from encroaching onto the court, pruning saplings, clipping bushes, weeding the patio and perhaps restraining the outside of the clubhouse at some point. We'd aim to do a couple of hours of work then sit down to a nice lunch provided by the club so hopefully turn it into a bit of a social event.

Anyone who would be kind enough to volunteer or if you have any other suggestions, please contact Maria: [marysiagostynska@gmail.com](mailto:marysiagostynska@gmail.com)

We will shortly be attaching some 1-metre high fine mesh netting to the fences to keep grass clippings from entering the courts. Thank you to **Mike T and Pete C** for their help in suggesting this. Please also continue to help us remove plant debris by ejecting it through the fencing, it is important for the longevity of the Tiger Turf surface to prevent any organic matter from rotting down into the courts.

Thank you massively to all of you who joined the court sweeping rota. We're aware that there are others among you who didn't feel able to commit, but please feel free to sweep occasionally if you are so moved, it's greatly appreciated. If anyone else would like to **volunteer for the rota**, please contact Mike on [m\\_lehan@hotmail.com](mailto:m_lehan@hotmail.com) or 07963 153 630.

Thank you for your patience in using the temporary chain on the **clubhouse door** (code 4022). A replacement lock barrel is currently being manufactured to fit all our existing keys and should be fitted shortly.

A friendly reminder to close the **sun parasols** and keep the screw under the table tight (one took flight the other day and didn't fare so well on landing).

Please do contact **Mike or Maria** (contact details above) if you have any ideas or suggestions about maintenance issues or merely wish to report something that needs attending to.

## 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 did you know you can help us by [signing up to this scheme](#) which means money is donated to the club every time you shop? Please consider signing up today.



**Ightham Tennis Club**  
[ighthamtennis@gmail.com](mailto:ighthamtennis@gmail.com)