

Hi all

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. The seriousness of the crisis was cruelly demonstrated to us today when we heard the very sad news that one of the Kenton sports club members has succumbed to the virus. Kanti Vaghjiani had played cricket for Kenton for over 15 years, was 42 years old and leaves behind his wife and two young daughters. We've expressed our condolences on behalf of the tennis section.

Tennis wise, here's a short update on where things are at:

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has been one of the most proactive sporting organisations in cancelling events in advance – not just Wimbledon but also the Summer Season at a Middlesex club level (Team Tennis, Middlesex Cup, Middlesex League, Vets). The Winter Leagues were curtailed a little at the end but points for unplayed matches were allocated based on performance to date so the leagues are concluded: congratulations to our Vets 1 team and Mixed Under-10 team for winning their leagues, and the Mens 1 team for gaining promotion in their first season in the Middlesex Winter league. Well done also to Thomas and Lionel for winning our Quorn tournament. Our club tournaments obviously won't go ahead as planned, but we do hope we can run them later in the year when it is safe to do so as well as resume the Singles Box Leagues we recently started.

We are keen to ensure the club (including all other sections such as Cricket and Table Tennis too) rides out the crisis so that it is in a healthy state when everybody wants to play again. Income streams through the nursery, bar and lettings have stopped but whilst we can minimise outgoings there are some costs that are unavoidable (e.g. insurance, council tax, loan repayments). Over the last few days there are various funds that have been announced (Government support for small businesses, plus LTA and Sports England have both set up multi-million pound schemes) so the financial picture is unclear until we see if we are eligible for such support. James our coach is hardest hit but hopefully the scheme to support the self employed will provide him some income.

Per my e-mail on March 18<sup>th</sup> we opened up subscriptions for the next tennis year (i.e. April to March). At the time we anticipated there would probably be a lock-down, but it wasn't clear that this will wipe out all tennis for (possibly) a few months. Thank you to those that have paid their subscriptions and if others are willing and able to do so you can do through the club website. We will ensure that anyone who has paid or does pay will not be disadvantaged financially by doing so (e.g. if we can reduce fees once we know the length of the lockdown and the net financial picture).

We have rung round our more elderly members and they all seem to be fine but if you are struggling – or have any questions on the above - please feel free to contact us on the kentontennis@gmail.com e-mail and we'll see what we can do to help. We're also investigating if we could run our planned quiz night on a virtual basis - watch this space.

Regards

Dave Clague

Kenton Tennis Club chairman