

THE ROMPA RECORDER

YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Edition 7 February 2020

Features in this month's issue include:

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

THE PARKIN PROFILE!

This edition's interview features successful Ladies' Team member Lucy Parkin who has lived in the area for almost twenty years and been a Meads member for eight.

#What do you like about the area and the club? Eastbourne is a perfect place to raise a family with its beautiful beaches and stunning South Downs. Meads is a lovely inclusive club where I have always felt welcome and happy.

#Are there areas of your game you would still like to improve? I would love to be able to smash overheads consistently and accurately!

#Which professionals have you admired? I grew up watching and admiring Chris Evert who was definitely the reason for my own playing ambitions. She always looked so perfectly poised, calm and in control. As well as having exemplary manners and integrity, she executed her trademark ground strokes precisely and gracefully and she remains a wonderful ambassador for the game.

#Do you play or follow any other sports? I love cricket and used to play with my brother and his friends when I was younger. At school I loved Hockey. I am a Spurs supporter! (I share your present pain! Ed.)

#Do you have a favourite holiday destination? Mike and I have enjoyed some lovely breaks in the UK and when the weather is good I don't want to be anywhere else! I never tire of the rugged and varied coastline and my ideal holiday would involve lots of walking with picnics and cream teas.

#You are given £200 to spend immediately - how would you treat yourself? I would opt for a silent retreat featuring hours spent reading in a sunny meadow accompanied by birdsong.

#Which four guests would appear at your fantasy dinner party? Laura Ingalls Wilder - I devoured her Little House on the Prairie series in my youth. Charles Dickens - I grew up in the Medway Towns where we were acutely aware of his influence and Great Expectations remains one of my favourite novels. David Attenborough - Who would not want him there? He would bring something truly extraordinary to the evening. Dolly Parton - I love her wonderfully heartfelt music and always sing along to Jolene when it comes on the radio

#Do you have a favourite TV programme? I don't watch a lot but a couple of years ago I enjoyed 'Broken' and Sean Bean's portrayal of a troubled catholic priest trying to fix fractured lives.

#Quickfire - Bach or Beatles? Bach ...Cinema or Theatre? Theatre...Meat or Fish? Fish...Cats or Dogs? Dogs... Shoes or handbags? Shoes...Sand or Snow? Snow...Dickens or Dixon? Umm, I guess it has to be Dixon!

#Finally, can you share anything that might surprise your fellow members? I tap dance every two years at the Winter Gardens in aid of Matthew 25 Mission.

MANY THANKS, LUCY!

CHRISTMAS ROUND UP



Spring may be round the corner but we shouldn't forget the series of successful festive events that boosted club funds and helped to foster a sense of belonging among club members.

The Christmas Bazaar was a huge success and raised an amazing total of £770. Clare Greenwell would like to commend all involved for a titanic team effort whether they contributed sale and raffle items, ran stalls or simply came along to support by parting with their hard earned cash. Special thanks must go to Santa and his elf for adding a sprinkling of festive magic to the morning.

As ever, Christmas social tennis followed by mulled wine and mince pies was greatly enjoyed thanks to the efforts of James and Hazel Sneath while Mic and Lesley Pyle organised successful get togethers for male and female (Mon/Fri) players, respectively.





GERRY ARMSTRONG

Tuesday 28th January was a red letter day for Meads members as newly appointed Wimbledon referee arrived to give an evening talk. Despite having flown in from the Australian Open only that morning, Gerry was full of energy and good humour as he entertained those present with anecdotes from a distinguished career. It was revealed that Gerry's formative years were spent as a line judge assisting his umpire father, George, who went on to officiate at the Ashe v Connors Wimbledon final. Gerry himself was to umpire at no fewer than thirteen finals over the course of forty years and he has promised to return in the Autumn to give the inside track on this year's Wimbledon.

NEWS FLASHES....

Eagle eyed viewers may have spotted club members on the local BBC News programme on December 16th. A special feature on the growing popularity of Pickleball included action shots of none other than Sharon Head, Nick Price and John Haining.

Waterstones in Eastbourne welcomed Mike Dixon on January 18th as he signed copies of his novel, 'Falling', which, no doubt, fellow members have found a thought provoking read.

Look out for information about new ladder competitions which are being organised by Clare Greenwell and when leaving the premises do



please ensure that you lock up when appropriate.

THANK YOUs AND REMINDERS

Clare's tennis accessories are waiting to leap off the shelves of the club shop so if you are looking for balls, water bottles, vibration dampeners, socks and the like then do drop into the clubhouse to investigate further...All profits go towards club funds and purchases can be made from committee members and from Julie Boon.

Thank you to all those who are organising the 2020 events in our packed calendar. The variety on offer is impressive! Speaking of which...



THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT...

An important date for your diary is that of the Club's legendary Open Day which this year falls on Easter Monday, April 13th, and will run from 10am - 4pm. Members, friends and family of all ages are welcome to join in the fun which will include an American tournament run by Luciano and much, much more!

Other dates/events to look out for include a Walking Treasure Hunt on Sunday April 26th, a Quiz/Supper on May 8th and the Entries date for the Club Championship which falls on March 30th. Recent amendments include the addition of a Persian New Year Dinner on March 28th and a revised date for

the Wimbledon Draw which is now to be held on April 19th. For a full listing of the social calendar for 2020, do consult the relevant link on the excellent club website.

Let us hope that 2020 is a landmark year for the club as our teams thrive, membership steadily increases and expansion of our facilities continues apace under the committee's guidance.



TEAM FOCUS

Following on from their victory in the Summer League, the Ladies' First Team gained an invite to a prestigious Tennis Sussex awards ceremony at the AMEX stadium. This was a reflection of their success in winning Division Six by five points and thereby securing promotion to Division Five. During the season the core team of Hazel Sneath, Mary Sherlock, Jess Gisby and Lucy Parkin was augmented by Brigid Argyle, Julie Williams, Carol Robson, Mary Thorn, Clare Greenwell, Jane Thomas and Gill Collins. Gill captained the team to its triumph showing great powers of motivation and organisation but was unfortunately unable to attend the awards ceremony so Hazel collected the prize on her behalf, supported by Lucy, Brigid, Carol, Jess and Clare.

Our men, meanwhile, will be putting out two teams this summer which means that the club will be fielding a combined total of seven, a record in recent times. Noel Bennett will be aided by a Men's Second Team Captain, Mike Shallcross, while Mike Dixon will oversee the Mike Comber Cup programme for 45+ Mixed Doubles. With Hazel Sneath, Gill Collins and Glenys Taylor captaining the three Ladies' teams it promises to be an action packed competitive Summer!

Despite the inclement weather, our teams have been battling in their respective winter leagues. Both the Men's and Ladies' First teams have ground to make up but the Ladies' Second team lie mid-table while the

Third Team are presently sixth out of eight teams. Men's captain Noel Bennett reports that there was an excellent win over David Lloyd's Second Team where Daniel Wasp's booming serve helped to preserve his and Mike Dixon's excellent record to that point; a tougher encounter with Cross in Hand told a different story altogether, however, so it has been a case of learning to cope with Kipling's two impostors thus far!

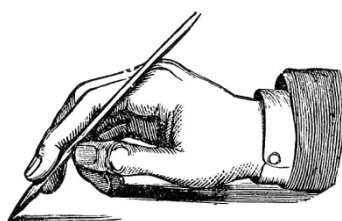
Thanks must go to all those leading our successful sides, all those who represent them and all those who coach aspiring and team players. (Team Training sessions run by Luciano will restart on February 28th.)



COACHING UPDATE/JUNIOR NEWS

Full details of Luciano Cestari's Junior Tennis Camps can be found in the 2020 Events Calendar and it is good to know that much hard work continues to be put into attracting, developing and hopefully retaining a younger player cohort.

Continued bad weather prevented 11 year old Gabriela Pacheco-Lagoda from making her debut for the Ladies' Second Team recently but this rising young star won the David Lloyd singles title last year and plays for the county. Something in the genes, perhaps....? Well done, Gabriela, we look forward to seeing you hot on Coco Gauff's heels in years to come.



CREATIVE CORNER

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Florida 2. T. Capote 3. Holly Johnson 4. The leg spinner who dismissed Don Bradman in his final Test innings thereby keeping his average below 100 5. The Piano

MEMBERS' ANAGRAMS!

Can you unscramble the following to identify some fellow players?

1. IN SEPARATION

2. TEN LONE BEN

3. PILL NAG LEGEND

4. SHOCK MILER LASS

Answers next time - and remember, all contributions are gratefully received so do make contact on meiard@sky.com should the muse take hold!

