

# THE ROMPA RECORDER

## YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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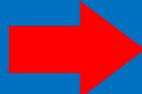
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Features in this month's issue include:



**\*NEW SEASON LINE UP**

**\*KEEPING UP WITH KILROY**



**\* TEAM UPDATES**

**\*CREATIVE CORNER**

Well, how good it has been to see everyone enjoying our lovely courts in the sunny weather that the Spring has afforded us. As we emerge from various Lockdowns into the 'new normal', I do hope that you, your families and friends have escaped the worst of Covid and you have a spring in your step as you consider running off the excess pounds that have magically appeared in the winter months.

There have been a number of recent developments pertaining to the running of the club since the November issue and I have endeavoured to sum these up - although some will have already digested the news in emails from the Chair, Linda Saunt. As ever, it is hoped that regular features such as the member's interview and Creative Corner keep you entertained and should you have any literary leanings yourself, do not hesitate to get in touch.

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## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU!**

## **Chris Kilroy reveals all....**

\*What drew you to become a Meads LTC member? - The beautiful location and the thought that even if not playing, one could sit with a hamper watching the pros play on magnificent grass courts showing how it should be done.

\*How long have you lived in the area and where were you based before? - We moved from Winchelsea Beach a few years ago where the beautiful nature reserve was quite a contrast to the edgy Roehampton council estate where I was brought up!

\*What career path did you follow? - An interesting one from telegram boy and postman to commodity broking and fund management.

\*How did you manage during the various Lockdowns? - We were able to make the most of our garden while walks and scooter trips into the countryside made us appreciate nature more. Bridge on line under the guidance of the Pellings was another lifeline.

\*Although an experienced player, known for your devilish angles, are there still areas of your game you would like to improve? - More accurate placement of my serve to compensate for the inevitable gradual loss of power.

\*Which players have inspired you over the years? - The Borg & McEnroe rivalry was hard to beat while Agassi proved that you can win from the baseline on grass with great passing shots.

\*What other interests do you have? - I enjoy Table Tennis and am a recent Pickleball recruit.

\*Do you have any particular favourites when it comes to music/TV/films? - Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, The Three Tenors, Breaking Bad, Ben Hur and The Shawshank Redemption - to name a few!

\*What dishes would make up your ideal menu? - Potatoes (to reflect my Irish roots!) would certainly feature but my wife has educated me and I now appreciate pasta dishes, stir fries and curries.

\*Who would be guests at your fantasy dinner party? - Dean Martin, John McEnroe, John Cleese and Paul McCartney.

\*Did you have any ambitions as a boy? - If not to play for Chelsea, then to be a bus driver.

\* In the event of a fire, what precious items would you grab first? - My London Bus Conductor's ticket in its original brown box - followed by my tennis bag.

\*Finally, is there anything about you that might surprise your fellow members? - I was one of the last people to play guitar and sing on open mike night on Hastings Pier before it shut for major renovation.

(Many thanks for your full and entertaining responses!)



## **NEW SEASON DEVELOPMENTS**

**In case you have missed Linda Saunt's email updates regarding changes in personnel and organisation at the club, here is the headline news:**

**Committee - While a number of the key roles remain unchanged, the Club welcomes the appointments of Peter Stretton as Tennis Secretary, Maria Louka as Membership Secretary and Marie Feltham as Welfare Officer.**

**Coaching - Six sessions a week are now being delivered by Luciano, Roberto and Clay and we are indeed fortunate that player development is in such capable and experienced hands. The Junior element of the Club is particularly vibrant at present and in the coming weeks there will be Junior**

**Club Sessions on Sunday 30th May (U12/14/16), Saturday 5th June (U10/12), Sunday 13th June (U14) and Saturday 26th June (U8/9).**

**There will also be a new Elite Camp initiative (by invitation only) as well as the Half-Term Junior Camp from 1-4 June.**

**U9/10 teams have been newly entered into the National League (previously 'Team Tennis').**

**The increase in Junior members in general is very encouraging and reflects well on the committed approach of our coaching team. A rekindled relationship with St Andrew's Prep has also proved productive and it is hoped that similar progress will be made with St John's.**



**AND IN OTHER HOUSEKEEPING NEWS....**

**\*Members will by now be aware that new fencing graces Courts 1/2, that a new storage shed is on the way and that plans for developing the pavilion are ongoing.**

**\*Although the position is obviously improving, players should exercise caution and follow Covid guidelines previously circulated. Thanks go to all those who have been wiping down surfaces and keeping the club environs as safe as possible.**

**\*Club sessions have been particularly busy at weekends and having trialled playing best of five games to reduce waiting times, Peter Stretton is now recommending playing best of seven games with sudden death deuces ( following members' input). The situation will obviously be eased once the grass courts become available from the end of June.**

**Thursday Club Sessions are now running from 8.30-11.30am in order to allow for extra demand.**

**\*YOGA ON THE LAWN sessions are offered by Sarah Lee on Tuesdays at 8.45am (£5 per session or £25 for six) To book in advance, email to [sarah@sarahaliceyoga.com](mailto:sarah@sarahaliceyoga.com)**

\*If new and renewing members have not already done so, filling in a Gift Aid Declaration Form would be greatly appreciated by your committee. Providing up to date email addresses would also help immensely.

\*With on site security in mind, locking the clubhouse ( after checking that nobody is trapped inside) continues to be important. This needs to be done if you are playing on Courts 1/2 as the clubhouse cannot be monitored from there.

\*If you have not yet collected your new season purple members' tag from Luciano, do ask when your paths next cross. He is now in charge of the Club Shop and equipment can be purchased on Tuesday afternoons between 3-5pm You can also arrange racket restringing at this time but should this not prove a convenient slot, Luciano can be contacted on 07538 656905.

\*Do remember to recycle any balls that may be past their best in the bin to the left of the clubhouse. The Club earns £25 for every 200 balls that are recycled.

\*Finally, how good it is to see the Cafe back in operation - with the appropriate social distancing in operation inside, of course! The Persian Evening on May 21st will hopefully be but the first of a series of successful enterprises...



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**#Monday 31st May - Parent & Child Tournament am**

**Adult American Tournament pm**

**#Sunday 5th September - FINALS DAY!!!** But do remember to check that you have this date free before entering championship events.



## **CLUB TEAMS (Details and captains)**

**In case members are unaware of the teams Meads LTC enters in various local leagues, here is the up to date information. Our captains are always keen to hear from players offering themselves for selection and you will often find accounts of team exploits in the local press thanks to Publicity Officer Mike Dixon's efforts.**

**#Men's 1st Team - Captain Mike Shallcross - Wilson Sandford League (Doubles) - Sundays - Div 8E**

**#2nd Team - Captain Noel Bennett -Wilson Sandford League (Doubles) - Sundays - Div 11E**

**#Ladies' 1st Team - Captains Jess Gisby/Lucy Parkin - Tennis Sussex National League Div 2 Sundays - (Singles&Doubles)**

**#1st Team - Captain Hazel Sneath - Wilson Sandford League - (Doubles) - Sundays - Div 5**

**#2nd Team - Captain Wendy Lambert - Wilson Sandford League - (Doubles) - Sundays - Div 8E**

**#3rd Team - Captain Maria Louka -Wilson Sandford League - (Doubles) - Sundays - Div 11E**

**#Mixed Vets - Mike Comber Cup - Captain Mike Dixon - Women over 40/Men over 45 - Weekday evenings**

**Les Dart Trophy - Captain Mike Dixon - Women over 50/Men over 55 -Weekday evenings**

**(All fixtures run until the end of September)**

## **MATCH REPORTS**

**Our Ladies'1st Team began their Sussex National League campaign with the narrowest of defeats at home to Cross in Hand. The eight**

**players involved produced some tremendous tennis to hold their opponents to a match score of three rubbers each but in the final analysis Cross in Hand prevailed due to the number of sets won.**

**The fixture against Angmering proved an altogether tougher affair with the talented hosts emerging with a clean sweep.**

**The Ladies' Second Team played some excellent and exciting tennis in a 3-1 defeat to Crowborough with Brigid Argyle and Carol Robson securing their win thanks to thrilling championship tie break.**

**In the Wilson Sandford League, however, the 1st team started with a 3-1 victory over Cooden Beach with Jess Gisby and Lucy Parkin emerging unbeaten.**

**Our Men's First Team, meanwhile, battled hard before going down 3-1 to The Green in Hastings with Anthony and Chris Rummins winning one of their matches.**

**The Second Team, however, prevailed against Cross in Hand by the same margin with Noel Bennett and Mike Dixon emerging unbeaten.**

**Well done to all who have represented the club so far!**



## CREATIVE CORNER



### **And, finally, a parody that might bring back memories of English lessons from the dim and distant past!**

MEADS FEVER (with apologies to John Masefield)

I must go down to the Meads again, to the lush green courts and sky

And all I ask are some new balls and the spin to serve them by;

And the ball's kick and the wind's song and the white lines snaking,

And some close games with close friends and the odd joint aching.

I must go down to the Meads again for the call of each running pair

Is a shrill call and a fair call that may not be denied;

And all I ask is a passing shot with the white clouds scudding,

And a fierce smash from a lobbed shot into the netting thudding.

I must go down to the Meads again, to the faithful members' life,

To the club's way (when my sub's paid) and give a break to my patient wife;

And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow player

And a shaken hand or racket's touch when the final tie break's over.

Happy playing! SI

