

Welcome to the latest news and events for all our members.

Merry Christmas to you All!



Christmas arrived at the tennis club on 2 December with a day full of celebrations. Firstly, the Junior party took place in the afternoon, with games, awards, pizza and cake. Loads of our fantastic juniors attended and they took great relish in getting their own back at Gavin! In the evening, it was the adults turn, with an equally lively Christmas dinner at the Old Swan (although Gavin was able to eat his in peace). It was a fabulous day shared with fellow members and a great way to kick off the Christmas season.

Watch out for the Christmas tree which will be arriving at the Club next week. There will be a big box of decorations on the verandah, so please help to decorate the tree if you are at the Club!



Annual General Meeting

The Club AGM took place on 16 November. All the papers from the meeting, including reports from the Chair, the Coaching team and the Club Treasurer can be found on the Club website under the News tab. The Committee members for the coming year were approved (there are a few changes) and the full list of can be found under the Committee tab on the website.

The meeting approved the subscription rates for the year from April 2024 to March 2025 – these will be unchanged again for next year. We recognize that money is tight for many at the moment and we want to do everything we can to help people continue to play tennis.

Australian Open Tournament

To kick off the new year, we will be holding a friendly club tournament to celebrate the first Grand Slam event of the year, the Australian Open. Our tournament will be held on Sunday 28 January, 10am – 1pm, followed by light refreshments. Entry is £5, payable by credit card or cash on the day, to cover the cost of new balls and refreshments. Please book in beforehand by letting Cathie Carter know on 07970 640833. Start the year as you mean to go on and beat the January blues!



The NPTC Committee wishes you all a Very Happy Christmas and lots of great tennis in 2024!

Clean Courts

The courts have just had their annual clean and treatment to prevent moss and to keep them in tip-top condition. The risk of slipping should now be much less but please continue to take care when the courts are damp. The white lines especially can be a bit slippery.

Reducing Unused Floodlight Time

In the last Newsletter, we asked that members should cancel their bookings if they were not to be used, to free up time for others to use and to save on floodlighting for evening bookings. The 'Finish Booking' feature on the Clubspark Booker App is now live, which means that it is very easy for you to turn off the floodlights if you finish your game or session early. Simply:

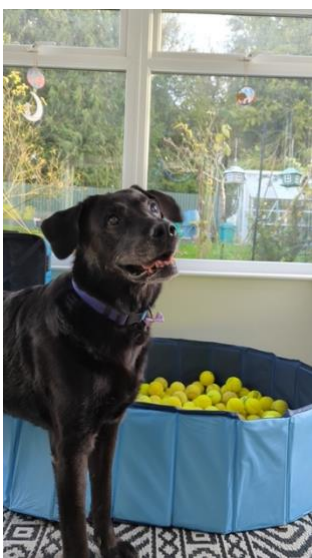
1. Open the Booker App (free to download to your phone)
2. Select your 'In Progress' booking
3. Select 'Finish Booking'

Any available booking slots will be freed up and the floodlights will switch off within 5 minutes. (This feature is also available via the web browser).

Booking Courts on behalf of Junior Members

Parents/guardians making bookings on behalf of their children should do so via the website, not using the Booker App. The parent/guardian first needs to sign in using their own LTA login (this is free and easy to obtain). Once logged in, they need to click on their own name in the top right-hand corner and select the junior that they are booking on behalf of. On the next screen, choose the 'book a court' option and follow the options for date, time and duration. Please note that if your child is a member of the Club there is no charge for them to play – if a charge appears then please contact support@clubspark.co.uk giving your child's name and referencing Newport Pagnell Tennis Club or contact the Club administration on info@newportpagnelltennis.net

Where do our used tennis balls go?



You will all have seen the big black dustbin on the verandah for used tennis balls; you may have added to the hoard. But have you wondered where they go to next? We try to ensure that they get another life before being finally discarded because ultimately they are destined for landfill. Many of them are taken to HULA for the rescue dogs to play with; some are sent to the Canals Trust for the boaters to protect their mooring pins; in the summer one of the local football coaches took a load to make a training aid for their junior goalkeepers (don't ask! – I have no idea how it works). But recently a lady approached us to see if we could help to make her dog very happy. Lara, the dog, had been trained as a police dog with the

help of tennis balls, which she loved. Lara was now retired from service and it was soon to be her 10th birthday. Unfortunately, her owner couldn't afford a regular supply of tennis balls but asked if we could provide some to make a ball pit. We were very happy to do so. And it looks like Lara was very happy too!

