

SEAFORD

& Blatchington LTC

CLUB NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Update

This last quarter seems to have gone very quickly despite the very poor weather. Membership is looking quite healthy with a good number of new members, particularly those taking up the £50 for 3 months trial.

Around the grounds you will have noticed the new astroturf laid down the side of court 7 which really tidies the whole area up and this should suppress the weeds growing whilst allowing for an additional viewing area and the planting of the 100 roses along the wall.

Over the next quarter we have the [Club Championships](#) and hopefully if the Covid restrictions continue to be relaxed we can start planning some social events.

We have our free Club Open Day planned for Sunday 4th July between 10am – 4pm so please spread the word. For an itinerary of the day's activities visit www.seafordtennis.com. You'll also find our advert in this month's Seaford Scene.

We are hoping to build a greater awareness of the club and its facilities and hopefully attract even more members throughout the coming year.

Best regards, *Robert*

CLUBHOUSE NEWS

We have recently purchased a new bar fridge to replace the broken one and shortly the bar will be restocked. We are looking forward to re-opening the bar in the next few weeks, once it is safe to do so. We hope that members will support the bar, as there is nothing better than enjoying a relaxing drink with friends after a hard fought game.

Team Talk - Tennis Update

from Matt Bellingham

Despite the lures of Sky Sports and weekend breaks in Milan and Barcelona, I can confirm Seaford will not be joining any European Super League this summer. Instead we'll be once more gracing the likes of Bognor, Crawley, and Amhurst attempting to seal our promotions. Keep your eyes peeled for a COVID-19 safe, open top bus tour, down Broad Street in late July.

For those not familiar with the Teams at Seaford, we compete in the Wilson Sussex Leagues with 5 Mens and 3 Ladies teams. In addition, we have a Mens Singles team in the Aegon league, and for this year have entered a Mixed Team too. More info on league positions and fixtures can be found on the [website](#).

Apart from crossing fingers for good weather to avoid logistical nightmares, we train Mondays and Wednesdays to ensure our prized assets are at their peak come match day. Check out the below motley crew steering our success for Summer 21.

Sure, we've been unable to play during lockdown, but much like a Daddy Penguin sat on his egg, it's now time for our squads to hatch and watch them glide through water in pursuit of that herring.

Regular team match reports can be found on Facebook.



Will Haycocks – Mens 1st Team Doubles Captain

I have lived in Seaford for 15 years and have played for the club since I moved here. I love Seaford and the surrounding countryside. I have been first team doubles captain for a while, and I am pleased that there are some talented players returning to the club. I teach Economics in Brighton and I am married to Margery and have two lovely boys. I have a solid forehand and a frustrating backhand. I play slow and steady and rely on other players to hit the ball out before me. I have a cat called Pippa and I collect phonographic needle tins.

Meet the Team Captains

CLUB NEWSLETTER



Andy Midgley - Mens 2nd Team Doubles Captain

Before we'd even heard of the internet I joined the club in 1989 and have been a playing captain for many years. I live in Seaford with my tennis widow, 3 dogs and a cat. Away from the club I can be found giving beer and coffee cake ratings at Sussex pubs and cafes.



Paul O'Donoghue - Mens 3rd Team Doubles Captain

Account director for a marketing agency. Family man, love to travel, good food and wine. On court, always having fun with a strong will to win.



Adrian Alexander - Mens 4th Team Doubles Captain

I have been a member at the club for over 20 years and one of the Men's captain for most of that time and have previously been on the Committee. As well as tennis I enjoy golf and cycling. I am an active member of St Michaels Church in Newhaven. I am married to Sara who many of you know also plays at the club. We have two children Ben and Lucy who are in their mid-twenties. Ben is also a member at the club. I work in Corporate Finance helping owners buy and sell their companies. When I am not seen at the club that much I will probably be working - well that is what I tell Sara!



Barry Gardhouse – Mens 5th Team Doubles Captain

I live in Newhaven, I've been in the club about 5 or 6 years now, I started in the 6th team. Been captain of the 5th team for about 2 years, may be three. In my spare time, I walk, read and watch movies.



Mandy Stanndard – Ladies 1st Team Doubles Captain

I live in Newhaven and joined the club about 7 years ago and have been the Ladies first team captain for about 5 years. Other than loving playing tennis I also enjoy watching pub bands, walking, cycling and spending time with my two lovely grandchildren.

I am also a big cat lover, I used to have 9 but am down to only 4 now!!

Norma Dube – Ladies 2nd Team Doubles Captain

I have been a member at the club for 3 years and 2nd team captain for 2 years. I enjoy playing and watching tennis.



Bev Simmonds – Ladies 3rd Team Doubles Captain

Married, 2 children who think they're grown up 😊

Work in the Community at present and have previously lived in France for 14 years.

CLUB NEWSLETTER

Coaches Corner

Hi everyone! Meet the Coaching Team

In the picture opposite from left to right:

Adam Hassan is the club performance hitter. He works hard with our top level performance players taking their game to the next level.

Our Head Coach *Matt Gollidge* started his coaching career as assistant coach at Seaford over a decade ago. Having spent some time gaining experience at some other clubs around Sussex he's now back at Seaford. He is also the under 11's County Captain.

Toby has been working as an assistant with Matt for the past year. He's helped build the junior programme to the size that it is today helping out on both junior and adult sessions.

Bette joined the coaching team towards the end of 2020. She will be taking a gap year from September so will be more involved with squads and lessons moving forward.

George Smith will be joining the coaching team in the near future.



He is currently coaching in Portsmouth and will become the 'Lead Development Coach'.

He is also a Level 3 Personal Trainer so if you're after PT sessions he is the man for you!

New Member Spotlight **Natasha Bierrum**

I'm a new member to the tennis club this year and I moved to Seaford at the end of 2019, when I began studying for my PhD in quantum physics at the University of Sussex. My doctorate studies are full-time which means I don't have the time in the week to play in the university team so I looked up the local tennis club to join! A large portion of my life has been involved in some aspect of tennis - either watching, coaching or playing since I was 5 years old. I was selected to play in the Buckinghamshire county girls under 14 and under 18 teams as a junior, and I played for the Buckinghamshire winter open team a couple of times during my degree. I won the under 18s Buckinghamshire singles title in 2014. One of the most memorable moments from my junior tennis career was being coached by Judy Murray at the Miss-hits tennis for girls training session in Buckinghamshire in 2015. Before moving to the coast at the end of 2015, I played in the district leagues for my local club (Chesham 1879 ltc) and had the opportunity to coach minis there for four years on the weekends and after school. I enjoyed coaching tennis a lot and I gained a level 2 coaching qualification in tennis. After I moved to Brighton from Amersham, I captained the university of Sussex tennis team for 2 years (2016-2018) and played the other 2 years during my degree. I am looking forward to getting more involved with Seaford and Blatchington club, I have been enjoying playing at ladies night, and social tennis on Saturdays!



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