



**Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis
Club**



Weekly Club Events

Wed 6.30pm	Club night for social tennis
Fri 6.30pm	Team tennis
Sun 10.30am	Social tennis
Fri 5pm	Junior club night (Apr-Oct)

Dates for your diary

Sat 23 rd March	Turbo Tennis and Curry
Sat 27 th April	Ball Machine Training
Sat 8 th June	Family Fun Day
Sun 23 rd June	Ryder Cup
Sat 6 th July	Village Day
Sun 11 th August	American Tournament
Sun 1 st September	Finals Day
Sun 22 nd September	Swingers Cup
Fri 29 th November	Quiz, Awards and AGM
Fri 27 th December	Winter Warmer

Contacts

Email addresses:

All inquiries wheatltc@gmail.com

Club Captains

Caroline Boon c.boon@ntlworld.com

Sam Murphy murphyst75@gmail.com

Chairman

David Hewson djhewson@gmail.com

Good to Know

Visit our website www.wltp.org.uk for everything you need to know about the club, including:

Booking a court – Use the LTA link below:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WheathampsteadLawnTennisClub/Booking>

Floodlight Tokens are available for £5 at Club Night
Clubhouse Keys are available for £6 at Club Night

Chairman's Message

Welcome to Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club. Last year saw us celebrate our 50th anniversary, we had an official ceremony at which guests included the past seven chairs, as well as an unforgettable party in November. Now that the tennis club is into its 51st year, it continues to go from strength to strength with record membership numbers. We are able to offer more coaching for both adults and children and adults under the expert guidance of our coaches, Neil, and Ben.

The committee now manages access to all three courts via our online booking system, which should enable our ever-growing membership to have plenty of opportunity to play. We also have another full season of competitive tennis to look forward to, with teams available for all levels.

As always, we have lots of social events planned (see the panel on the left), concluding with our Winter Warmer in December, where the chilli is guaranteed to warm up even the coldest winter! The club championships will once again be a highlight of the year, culminating in our Finals Day on the 1st of September. Will this year be the one that our rising superstar, Noah Sperry, claims his first title?

If you are new to the club, please join us at our Wednesday evening club night starting 6.30pm or come to the popular Sunday morning social play for all levels. New members should contact us at wheatltc@gmail.com for a welcome pack and further information.

I look forward to seeing you all on the courts in 2024.

David Hewson, Chairman



A rarely seen collection of upstanding Chairs at the 50th Anniversary celebrations

Inter-Club Team Competitions

Inter Club matches run all year, with lots of opportunities to play competitive tennis. Please contact our Men's Captain Sam Murphy and/or our Ladies' Captain Caroline Boon if you would like to play.

It is fun and there are teams for players of all standards including those who are new to match play. See which teams work for you.

Summer Datchworth

Each player plays two sets of 13 games, playing on Monday evenings at 6.30pm, from late April to July.

Autumn Datchworth

Each match is two matches of mixed doubles and a match of Men's/Ladies doubles, with matches on weekends from September to November.

Hot Rackets

We run one team for ladies and one for men, with four players who must be of aged over 14. Each match is two doubles matches (best of three sets), with a fast set played to decide the winner if the match finishes 2-2. The matches are played at weekends from April to September.

Vets

We run a happy to be playing old men's team of 4 players, aged over 45, playing two doubles matches. Matches are played on weekends between September and March.

The ladies' team of over 50's haven't played in recent seasons but can be resurrected if there is enough interest.

Winter Mixed

We run 2 teams from November to March, playing weekends around once a month for each team. Two pairs of mixed doubles teams play 2 sets against each pair of opponents.

Junior Teams

We run a variety of teams as determined by the coach (Neil). These have traditionally been U9 mixed, U13 girls, U14, U17 and U19 boys. Some junior teams are combined with Townsend Tennis Club.

Team Captains Required

After the club captains have selected the team squads, we then need a captain for each team to manage the availability of the team members and produce a team for each match of the season.

This is a vital volunteer role, that also includes confirming that the match will take place with the opposition captain, ensuring the scores are recorded, and for some teams, arranging for after-match refreshments. If you play regularly, please contact Sam/Caroline and volunteer to be a captain.

Your club needs you!

2023 Season

It was a season to remember for our Summer Datchworth 6th team, which will now play in Division 7 after their heroic promotion. The 3rd team were also promoted and will play in Division 3 this season. The 1sts and 5ths comfortably maintained their levels in Division 1 and 6, while the 4th Team will play in Division 5 after suffering relegation.

In Autumn Datchworth, our 1st and 3rds remain in Division 3 and 9, respectively, while our 2nd team secured a nail-biting promotion as champions after destroying Townsend 5-1 in the last game to win on countback after a very close season.

Our two teams in Winter mixed played in Divisions 4 and 5 this season, with the first team getting promoted and the 2nd team maintaining their place.

In Hot Rackets, our ladies team suffered relegation to Division 5, while our newly reformed men's team will play in Division 4 this season.

The Men's Over 45s vets team did not have their best season, and will have to regroup in Division 4 next season after suffering relegation.

Social Events



An official ceremony to commemorate our 50th anniversary was held in the clubhouse with Maggie and Andy Clapp cutting the cake. Andy's Dad was a Chairman in the 1970s. Let's hope the next 50 years go just as well for WLTC!



The club has a thriving social scene, with regular events held both on and off the courts. The highlight of the year was the Through the Decades Disco party held in November, with 'Bangers' from the last five Decades, who knew how many talented party people we had in this club! **Watch your email for our next event.**



If you have any ideas for a social event that you would like, please send any suggestions to wheatltc@gmail.com

Coaching Corner	Noah Sperry
<p>We have an exciting and extensive coaching programme for adults and children alike, which is available to members and non-members, with all experience levels catered for. We have two excellent LTA Level 3 coaches who run specific coaching sessions, but also also offer 1-2-1 and small group sessions on demand.</p> <p>For juniors, Mini Red is the first stage on the coaching ladder working on the fundamentals of the games and a lot of hand eye coordination.</p> <p>Mini Orange is next, with a bigger court and smaller balls with more bounce. We start to look at the tactical side of the game and how to win points.</p> <p>Mini Green moves to a full-size court with more tactical information and getting more power using yellow balls. Playing on the full court gets the players ready to transition to adult teams.</p> <p>The junior teams entered into the local leagues are managed by the coaching team.</p> <p>If you are interested in coaching, up-to-date details are on our website (www.wltc.org.uk), or you can contact our head coach Neil (makeeveryball@gmail.com) or our assistant coach Ben (ben.giddens1@btinternet.com).</p>	<p>Noah continues to go from strength to strength. He is ranked No1 in Hertfordshire in U14 and last August competed against 40 Counties at Wimbledon representing Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Noah is competing at National GB level where only the top 32 GB U14 boys get to compete.</p> <p>He continues to compete all over the country at both U16 and U18 high level tournaments. Such massive achievements and still only 13 years old. Well done Noah, WLTC is proud of you!</p> <p>If a Company would be interested in sponsoring Noah and being part of this incredible journey please contact WLTC and we will put you in touch.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Neil Maple, Head Coach</p>	 <p>Noah Sperry with our oldest member and former Junior Wimbledon player, Graham Downes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2024 Coaching Programme</p>	
<p>Monday</p>	
<p>Mini Orange 5-6 - 1 court (Ben)</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	
<p>Mini Orange 4-5 - 1/2 courts (Neil)</p>	
<p>1-2-1 coaching 5-7 - 1 court (Neil)</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	
<p>Mini Red 4-5 - 2 courts (Neil)</p>	
<p>Junior improvers 5-6 - 3 courts (Neil)</p>	
<p>1-2-1 coaching 6-6.30 - 1 court (Neil)</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	
<p>Mini Red 4-5 - 2 courts (Neil)</p>	
<p>Mini Green 5-6 - 2 courts (Neil)</p>	
<p>Junior Team Squad 6-7 - 3 courts (Neil)</p>	
<p>Adults 7-8 - 2 courts (Neil)</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	
<p>Mini Blue 9-9.45 - 2 courts (Ben)</p>	
<p>Mini Orange/Green 10-11 – 2 courts (Ben)</p>	
<p>Juniors 10+ 11-12 – 2 courts (Ben)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Coaching Tip: Return of serve</p>	 <p>Noah returning serve at Wimbledon</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neutralise the 1st serve but attack the 2nd serve 2. Return deep, either cross court or down the middle 3. Return to weaker shot (singles) 4. Split Step then move forward to return 5. Above all, put the ball in play! 	

Club Championships

We had an incredible 2023 Finals Day. It was standing room only on the packed terrace, with blue skies and high temperatures adding to the drama. Our finalists did not disappoint and provided us with an incredible afternoon of tennis that broke records for the length of games, finishing late in the evening.

Congratulations to all who took part and thank you for great tennis. Also, thanks to our resident chef Monsieur Hewson for providing a delicious BBQ.

2023 Winners

Men's Singles	Ben Giddens
Ladies' Singles	Lucy Kelly
Men's Doubles	David Hewson Bob Innes
Ladies' Doubles	Louisa Haszard Anna Mohammedbhai
Mixed Doubles	Catherine Sarjeant Andrew Innes
Swingers Cup	Ben Giddens Sue Blanshard
Men's Veteran Singles	Eric Rovick
Junior Singles	Noah Sperry
Most Improved Adult	Marco Pelizzoli
Most Improved Girl	Mia Crouch
Most Improved Boy	Huw Mauchline
Ryder Cup	Village



To enter the best club championships in Hertfordshire, email djhewson@gmail.com. This year it could be your turn!

Introducing our 2024 Committee



David Hewson
Chairman



Keith Andrews
Treasurer



Paul Dyson
Secretary



Lesley Gilfrin
Membership



Jason Baker



Sue Blanshard



Caroline Boon
Ladies Captain



Ben Giddens
Assistant coach



Mathilde
Murphy
Website



Sam Murphy
Men's Captain



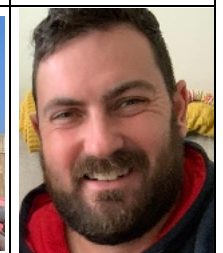
William
Berrington



Margaret White
Welfare Officer



Will Turnbull
Maintenance



Neil Maple
Coach