



## Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club

**Leagues:****Summer Datchworth:**

17 April until 17 July.

**Autumn Datchworth:**

September to early November.

**Winter Mixed Doubles League:**

Runs November to March.

**Hot Rackets Summer Doubles league:**

Running April to September

**Vets league (mens >45, womens >50):**

These leagues run autumn to spring

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****Sat 25 March – Turbo Tennis & Curry****Sat 13 May – Family Fun Day****Sun 11 June – Ryder Cup****Village Day tbc****Sun 13 August – American tournament****Sun 3 September - Finals Day****Sun 17 September - Swingers Cup****Sat 11 November – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party****Fri 1 December – Quiz, Awards and AGM****Wed 28 December - Winter Warmer****Weekly Club open sessions****Wed 6.30pm social tennis****Fri 6.30pm team tennis****Sun 10.30am social tennis****Fri 5pm Junior clubnight (Apr-Oct)**

Contact us via [www.wltc.org.uk](http://www.wltc.org.uk) or  
wheatltc@gmail.com



(Chairman David presenting Caroline her ladies doubles trophy at last years AGM)

**NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

Welcome all to Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club, I hope you enjoy reading our annual newsletter, this year is a momentous one for the club as we celebrate our 50th anniversary!

The tennis club has gone from strength to strength over the past 50 years and plays a key role in village life. We have record membership numbers, with more coaching added to provide opportunities for extra village children to learn to play tennis under the expert guidance of our coaches, Neil, and Ben.

The 50th anniversary provides the year's focal point, with official opening of our new honours board on the 2nd July to celebrate this achievement. We will also build on the successful event last year with a special anniversary party on 11th November. Keep this date in your diary as tickets will sell fast!

The committee has exciting plans this year, including better access to all three courts, and proposals to deal with our ever-growing membership. We also have another full season of competitive tennis, with teams available for all.

We also have many other social events planned (see the panel on the left), starting with turbo tennis and curry on the 25th of March. The internal competitions will once again be a highlight of the year, culminating in our Finals Day on the 3rd of September.

If you are new to the club, please join us at our Wednesday eve club night starting 6.30pm. Also Sunday morning social play for all levels. New members should contact us at [wheatltc@gmail.com](mailto:wheatltc@gmail.com) for welcome and advice.

I look forward to seeing you all on the courts in 2023.

David Hewson, Chairman

**OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY AGAINST OTHER CLUBS**

Inter Club matches will resume in the spring - to sign up please contact our Men's captain Ben Giddens or Ladies Captain Caroline Boon via [wheatlrc@gmail.com](mailto:wheatlrc@gmail.com)

It is fun and there are teams for players of all standards including those fairly 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, Late April to July.

**Autumn Datchworth**

Each match is two matches of mixed doubles and a match of mens/ladies doubles, playing weekends from Sep to Mar.

**Hot Rackets**

We run a ladies teams of 4 players of age over 14. Each match is two doubles matches (best of three sets), playing at weekends from Apr to Sep. A mens team can be set up if there is interest.

**Vets**

We run a happy to be playing old men's team of 4 players, over 45, playing two doubles matches. 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 enough interest.

**Winter Mixed**

We run 2 teams from Nov 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 a combined team with Townsend Tennis Club.

**Team updates**

Our Summer Datchworth 4th team were promoted and will be in same division as 3rds next year. Other teams remain in same division.

Autumn Datchworth – we had a difficult season...

The men's vets team remain competitive in their division – a few more matches to play.

Winter mixed has dropped down from 4 teams to 2 teams due to reduced interest in team tennis over the winter, plus lack of new volunteers to run teams. We are mid table in divisions 4 and 5.

There will be no mens hot rackets matches this year due to lack of players.

There will be a ladies hot rackets team (4 ladies make up a team & all doubles based) so if you're interested in playing in that please let Caroline know

**Team Captains required**

Once club captains have selected team squads we then need a captain for each team, this is a vital volunteer role. The captains asks for their team's availability and then sorts out a team sheet for each match of the season. For each match the captain confirms the match with the opposition captain and ensures the scores are recorded. If you play regularly, please volunteer to Ben/ Caroline to be a captain.

**Tennis Club social event 2022 and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Club Social this November**

After three failed attempts we finally managed to have a Tennis Club party last November - it was worth the wait! All the party goers enjoyed themselves - great costumes, dancing, cocktails, what more do you need for a good time? It was a lot of fun.

We are planning a 50th Anniversary Party on the evening of Saturday 11th of November so save the date and be ready to party 🎉

During this year, further events will be organised to recognise this anniversary. Keep an eye on your email...

## Coaching News

Hi all, welcome to a new season of coaching at WLTC. The 2023 coaching programme is as follows:

### Monday

**Mini Red 4-5 - 1 court – Ben**

**Datchworth coaching 6.30-7.30 - 2 courts - Ben**

### Tuesday

**Coaching 12.30-1.30 - 1/2 courts – Ben**

**Mini Orange 4-5 - 1/2 courts – Neil**

**1-2-1 coaching 5-7 - 1 court – Neil**

**Adult Beginners 7-8 - 2 courts - Ben**

### Wednesday

**Mini Red 4-5 - 2 courts – Neil**

**Junior improvers 5-6 - 3 courts – Neil**

**1-2-1 coaching 6-6.30 - 1 court - Neil**

### Thursday

**Mini Red 4-5 - 2 courts – Neil**

**Mini Green 5-6 - 2 courts – Neil**

**Junior Team Squad 6-7 - 3 courts – Neil**

**Adults 7-8 - 2 courts - Neil**

### Friday

**Mini Green 4-5 - 2 courts - Ben**

We offer a wide range of coaching for all ages and experience tennis players.

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

Mini Orange is next. The court gets bigger and the balls smaller with more bounce. We start to look at the tactical side of the game and how to win points.

Mini Green - we move to a full-size court more tactical information and getting more power using yellow balls. It's the full court and we get the players ready to transition to the adults team.

Cardio tennis is our equivalent to the gym session high intensity workout on court.

We enter junior teams into the local leagues.

Enjoy.

**Neil Maple, Head Coach**

### Coaching tip

Serving - visualise aiming for the baseline. Aim the serve long. Take the net out of the serve to make more serves.

### Wheathampstead Lawn Tennis Club is 50 Years Old!

2023 marks the 50th anniversary of our tennis club. At a meeting on Monday 19th November 1973, chaired by Mr C Allen of the Parish Council, the first committee was elected, membership guidelines and subscriptions agreed and WLTC was formed. The three tennis courts had recently been constructed and the Parish council were keen to see that their use was well managed for the benefit of the village. The hand written 'minute book', which we still have in the archives, reveals that the annual membership fee was £2/person (75p for juniors), and a loan of £50 was secured from the Parish Council to provide initial funds. It also says that the PC intend to 'erect a small shelter by the tennis courts', which was to become the clubhouse we know today. At the following meeting in December 1973 a bank account had been opened, membership cards printed and court access keys cut.



Our well dressed party organisers led by Sue

### Our 2022 Club Champions

<b>Men's Singles</b>	<b>Ben Giddens</b>
<b>Ladies' Singles</b>	<b>Brenda Le Sueur</b>
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	<b>Ben Giddens &amp; Dean Harris</b>
<b>Ladies' Doubles</b>	<b>Caroline Boon &amp; Lily Jones</b>
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>Ben Giddens &amp; Sue Blanshard</b>
<b>Swingers Cup</b>	<b>Ben Giddens &amp; Phoebe Jones</b>
<b>Junior Singles</b>	<b>Noah Sperry</b>
<b>Most Improved Adult</b>	<b>Mathilde Murphy</b>
<b>Most Improved Girl</b>	<b>Livcia Moisey</b>
<b>Most Improved Boy</b>	<b>Louis Murphy</b>
<b>Ryder Cup</b>	<b>Village</b>



Mixed Doubles winners 2022 – Ben & Sue



The 2022 party in full swing



Village Day 2022 serving the Pimms and burgers



Ryder Cup players 2022 – Village (Blue) team won

## Introducing our 2023 committee



David Hewson  
*Chairman*



Keith Andrews  
*Treasurer*



Paul Dyson  
*Secretary*



Lesley Gilfrin  
*Membership*



Jason Baker



Sue Blanshard



Caroline Boon  
*Ladies Captain*



Ben Giddens  
*Mens Captain/  
assistant coach*



Mathilde  
Murphy  
*Website*



William  
Berrington



Margaret  
White  
*Welfare  
Officer*



Will Turnbull  
*Maintenance*



Neil Maple  
*Coach*