

# TINSEL TENNIS TREAT

**Postponed from a miserable Boxing Day bank holiday, a bright, sunny afternoon saw 12 eager players introduced to the delights of Izzy Bramhall's New Year Tinsel Tennis.**

The event provided participants with an opportunity for their first taste of tennis in 2022, and a chance to work off the mince pie spare tyre, with proceeds to the Emmanuel House Homeless Charity.

After a gentle warm up, the group were split into "Wizards" and "Elves". The rules were explained and at first glance appeared to be part Mensa and part barn dance, with a touch of Wimbledon thrown in. However things soon became clearer when the tennis started, with each doubles game being played over 10 minutes. Losing players moved court but partners were changed giving everyone the chance to play against or partner most others. The emphasis was on communication and encouragement, both of which were in plentiful supply.

The standard of tennis was competitive, with those facing into the low setting winter sun being able to claim they would have performed so much better if only they could have seen the ball as it hurtled towards them. Judging by the laughter and warm words, a good time was had by all, helped on by a liberal supply of treats from Izzy during the intervals. A score chart was maintained by Carolyn Akers, and for those interested in the result, let's just say that like a Christmas trifle, the cream was at the top. When the final whistle went the leading Wizard was Men's Captain Tim Giberson, with Anne Lowe and Vicky Voce sharing the Elves' honours.

Special thanks to Izzy & Carolyn for giving up their bank holiday, and to Neil Jones and Ros Holden for writing this article. Watch this space for similar future events.



## RON'S RACKETS

Ron Williamson is a qualified racket stringer (UKRSA Professional Stringer/USRSA Master Racquet Technician) and a member of WVTC. Here he explains all about racket stringing.

### TYPES OF STRING

There are thousands of strings available on the market but broken down there are basically four categories of string.

**Synthetic Gut** - the cheapest type of string, typically made from nylon with good playability for the cost.

- Upside: Cheaply priced.
- Downside: Average performance and playability and not the greatest in any of the categories.

**Multi-filament** - made from hundreds of tiny fibre strands wound together, very good playability being most similar to natural gut.

- Upside: Softer on the arm, good playability, good tension maintenance and the closest to natural gut.
- Downside: Less control, less durable for hard hitters.

**Polyester** - a stiffer string that offers intermediate to advanced players with a faster swing strokes spin and control. I wouldn't recommend this type of string for beginners, children or elderly players especially those that suffer arm, wrist and shoulder issues.

- Upside: Lots of control and spin, durable.
- Downside: Low power, harsher on the arm and loses tension faster.

**Natural Gut** - made from cows' intestines, this string is the one that multi-filament strings try to emulate.

- Upside: Best playability, holds tension well, easy on the arm and playability at higher tensions.
- Downside: Expensive.

### HOW OFTEN TO STRING

Minimum of twice a year ideally with a slightly lower tension come wintertime. Polyester strings have a maximum of 25 hours of play, after that it will not be doing what it was designed for and will have dropped tension by about 50%.



Contact details (for racket restringing and more information):

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Our Ladies', Men's and Mixed 1<sup>st</sup> Teams will all be competing in their top Divisions in the Notts LTA League Competition this summer. Well done to all team players for contributing to the Wollaton Village Tennis Club's successes in 2021.

Congratulations to Club Captain **Izzy Bramhall** who won the England Squash Masters event in November, putting her at No.1 in England at squash for the over 50s. Well done, Izzy.

## MANY THANKS

A huge thanks to **Tamsin Mason** who has stepped down as Ladies' 1<sup>st</sup> Team Captain and the Club's Safeguarding/Welfare Officer after many years and having steered the Team back into Division 1 in the Notts LTA Summer League.

Thanks, too, to **Malcolm Saperia** for taking on the role of Welfare Officer at the Club. Malcolm has taught at Nottingham High School for over 25 years and has been the Club's LTA approved "DBS checker" and WVTC committee member for the past 3 years.



## WIMBLEDON BALLOT OPT-IN

As WVTC members you are entitled to opt-in to the ballot for Wimbledon 2022 tickets. If you are not already LTA Advantage Play+ members, click [here](#) (it's FREE) to join. The deadline to opt in is 4<sup>th</sup> February...so act quickly! If you volunteer at WVTC there is also a special ballot for venue volunteers; check with Nigel that you have been registered as a volunteer, so you can enter two ballots in 2022.

## LADIES' TENNIS

All abilities now welcome at Ladies' Social Tennis on Tuesday 6-8pm. If you would like to be kept up-to-date with what's happening and included in the Club's Ladies' Tennis WhatsApp group please let Ladies' Tennis Captain Susan Allan know on 07748042572 or email [susan@allanonline.co.uk](mailto:susan@allanonline.co.uk)

## February Half-Term Tennis Camp for 5 to 10-year-olds

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm

Watch out for the new leaflet being emailed out to all juniors soon.

Further details from Chris Warner  
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