

## 30 November Club Update

Life at GTC has been so busy 'doing' and planning that I have not had a chance to send out an update in October. I must also apologise to those who did not receive our September update. It was only sent to people in coaching groups or people who have children in coaching groups.

This update will be followed in a couple of weeks by our 'Annual Club Meeting' that will take the same format as last year. Rather than all coming to the club to deliver reports, we will send the report out. Our annual accounts will be made available for anyone who would like to see them.

I am sure you are all enjoying our new festoon lights; everything seems better when sparkly lights are around. We are all working hard to uphold our vision of GTC being 'more than just a tennis club.' We need you to cheer us on and nudge us when we do something that is not right.

### Covid Update

I was hoping not to have to start Covid updates again, but with Boris' announcement last week, we would like everyone to start wearing facemasks whilst walking around the club. This is for your own protection but also the staff. We are a small team, and if team members must take time off whilst waiting for PCR tests or, worse, catch Covid, the impact on the rest of the team is significant.

### Peter Murton

We are sad to say that Peter, our Vice-President passed away on his 96th birthday on the 25th of October. Peter played regularly at the club into his 90s and was always present at every club event supporting Jean (President) and Sue (Vice-president). Two of his happiest memories, in the recent past, were celebrating his 90th birthday at the club and him having his photograph taken with Boris Becker. Before playing at Grantham Tennis Club, he was a regular at Gonerby Recreation tennis courts.

Sadly, during Covid, Peter's health deteriorated to a point where he no longer took phone calls from me, Jean, and Sue. We were only able to pass on our love to him via his answerphone and his care worker. This, even more sadly, has meant that we were not informed of his passing. Due to GDPR, his care company has been unable to give any details as to a funeral date. We have posted a card through his letterbox, sending our condolences, and asking whoever opens the card to please get in touch. This is very upsetting for us all who knew Peter for a long time as we know he considered us family. At his 90th birthday tea party, held for him at the club, during his speech, he made us all cry by stating that 'If it hadn't been for the tennis club, he would have given up on life after the loss of his beloved wife many years earlier.'

### Tennis court and gym slot bookings

Gym members, please continue to book online before attending the gym. If taking a chance that a gym slot will be available, please ensure that you book in with the gym team on arrival.

Tennis members, please give all players' names when booking tennis courts, so we know who is on-site at all times.

### Footwear

We keep saying it, but it is essential to wear shoes specifically designed for tennis and not running shoes to avoid injury.

Tennis shoes are made to give you the support, cushioning, and traction you need on a tennis court. Tennis requires not just a lot of running around, but it requires that you make quick starts and stops.

Tennis also requires a lot of lateral movement. Tennis shoes are made to provide the exact support and cushioning needed. And the traction that you need on a tennis court is undoubtedly much different than you would need if you were running. Running shoes are designed to roll feet forward, which is not a good thing in tennis.

### A few little reminders

- 🕒 **Sweeping clay courts** - Please only brush the clay courts when dry enough to do so and only use the drag mats, not the brushes. If you do sweep, please use the line markers.
- 🕒 **Sand on shoes** - Please use the shoe brushes/cleaners after playing on the clay, especially before entering the clubhouse.
- 🕒 **Hot drinks** - Please do not take any hot drinks onto the court (outdoors or indoors) unless in a Chilly's bottle. Other lidded bottles are available, but GTC Chilly's ones are available to buy at reception - please ask. Not only is a coffee stain impossible to clean off any type of court, empty cups blow around and sometimes not picked up.
- 🕒 **Floodlights** - When floodlights are needed, players must use them on **ALL** courts. We are not insured for people using the next court's lights to illuminate their court.
- 🕒 **Recycling** - Please recycle using the recycling bins inside and outside. When putting bottles or cups in the bin, please make sure they are empty of any liquid.
- 🕒 **GTC hoodies and t-shirts** - The last order date for a fabulous Christmas present is Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> December. Pick up a form with all the colours when you are next at the club. If you are not sure of which size to go for, we have sample sizes in reception.
- 🕒 **Grantham Food Bank** – Just inside the entrance door is a green box from the food bank. They have especially asked for toiletries. E.g. shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving foam, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

### Christmas

We have lots of plans for Christmas. Please look out for posters, emails and social media posts.

**Christmas opening hours:** Please [click here](#) for Christmas opening hours.

### **Christmas Social Tennis**

Monday the 20th and 27th, Thursday the 23rd and 30th and Friday the 24th morning socials.

Tuesday the 21st and 28th afternoon socials.

All the above will be happening, but the club will not be organising them. Please could we have volunteers from our membership to sit off each round and organise the next round?

Due to dwindling numbers, Monday evening social is now postponed until Spring unless there is an expression of interest for this to carry on in the New Year.

**Inclusive Social Tennis** - Friday the 31st morning social 10am to 12noon will be a fully inclusive social session like the one we held in the Autumn. This will be held on indoor and outdoor courts. All are welcome. Please sign up at reception. The cost is £1 for members and £5 for non-members.