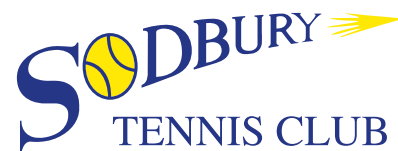


MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



MAY 2021

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this our first Newsletter for some time. It's great to be back playing tennis and socializing with my tennis friends, I hope you are all enjoying it too. Thanks to Liz for this initiative, Dale for providing the great photos and Jamie Bradford for putting it all together.

The committee members are ensuring as smooth a progression out of "Covid world" as we can, thank you to the team for all their *many* efforts. We had a very productive working party on Saturday 29 May to complete some essential maintenance of the clubhouse and grounds.

Kathy Ryan as lead for Tennis Development, she is commencing a timely review of the club coaching vision and a task force is now in place.

League Tennis has commenced, Anna Webster our Ladies captain and Gary Wilsher returned to the Men's captain role, many thanks to both.

Caroline Marshall is now the Club Treasurer and Barbara Finch is club welfare officer, Thank you both for stepping forward into these important roles.

Paul Frampton leading the Bar and Social Group has opened our social calendar and I hope you enjoy the new furniture outside.

I look forward to a lockdown free future at Sodbury Tennis Club and hope you enjoy the tennis.

Mark Belcher
STC Chairman



MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your membership renewals which offered a credit as compensation for closure of playing facilities. The credit/refund policy has been updated and offers compensation if lockdowns during 2021-22. Membership is healthy with 257 members including 15 new members so far this year which is really positive for the club.

TENNIS DEVELOPMENT

Social sessions

Resumption of organised club tennis sessions on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday has restarted. Both sessions are well attended, the evening session in particular is regularly getting more than 20 people attending. Everyone is welcome, so please come along. It's a great way for new members to meet people. The Friday afternoon club session at a slightly different time 13:30-15:30 will resume in June. All sessions are subject to Test and Trace and members should register for the sessions on Clubspark. Failing that please sign in using the QR code on the club house door.

Social play

Members can book courts for social play for a maximum of 1.5 hours on 3 occasions per week. Please contact Nic Webber if you would like to be put in touch with players to arrange games.

Mens summer league

Resumption of Men's practice nights on Mondays since 12 April.

Due to Covid restrictions we have split into 2 sessions – both sessions have been well attended with 28 players showing up every Monday.

We have entered 7 teams into the summer league which starts on Friday 7th May and are all enjoying the return to league action.

The Men's over 55's doubles team (Dale, Martin, Gordon & Mark) have their first match in this year's national knockout competition on Sunday 9 May, so good luck to them!

Ladies summer league

There has been a lot of enthusiasm to play since our enforced lockdown so we have entered six ladies teams in the Avon league. We started practice on 13 April with up to 26 players on a Tuesday evening. We also welcomed some new members to our teams and I am optimistic about our summer ahead. All our teams won on the first week, long may it continue!



Competitions

Entries have been invited for the Annual Club Tournament, (adults/invited juniors) and matches will start from 5 June. Entries for the mini/Junior Competitions will be invited soon. Finals day will be on 18 September, and the junior finals will be planned the week before. The box leagues continue until May and a new league will start in the autumn.

National League - Juniors

Congratulations to the 12U boys (2) (Jude and Harry) and 14U boys (Ben W. Dan and Flynn) for winning their Division of National league (Winter) 2020/21.

Tennis balls

Caroline Marshall ordering for club sessions/matches.

Coaching

Coaching has started and our courses are mostly full with 160 people enrolled on programmes. Easter holiday programme went very well with lots of positive feedback from parents and guardians. A variety of courses running to meet different membership categories which includes LTA Youth start, Rusty rackets, Cardio tennis and Improvers, with further course planned during the year. 6 girls and 9 boys participated in the Road to Wimbledon competition during May. Thanks to Gary, Dale, Josh, Anna and Abi for supporting the event and the presentations. A tournament is being organized for the rusty rackets to enjoy on 10 June.

CLICK FOR
COACHING
OPTIONS



'TENNIS AFTER LOCKDOWN' VIDEO

Dale Curtis will be making a video at the club to celebrate the easing of lockdown from 8am-10am on 10 July (or 17 July if bad weather). Check out the previous lockdown videos which Dale is using for inspiration: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoQMpNjih4g and www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnYT8aQeGJs

All adult players and spectators are invited to join in with this fun event which will also be good publicity for the club. Let Steph Gold know if you would like to be involved and she will provide more information.

SOCIAL AND BAR

Bar Opening

The 12 April saw the reopening of the bar facilities in accordance with covid guidelines and it was great to be able to once again have a drink and a chat with fellow members after a game.

On the 17 May as the rules are relaxed we can begin to use the indoor space for socialising but please only eat and drink whilst seated and not crowd around the bar area. There are a number of bar stewards at the club who will be more than happy to serve you drinks and snacks if you ask them.

Names and pictures of the above will be on show at the club asap in case you fancy buying something but don't know who to ask.

Socials

Back in March we held a zoom quiz which was well supported and a bit of fun. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs O'Shea who were victorious on the evening and came away with a voucher to spend at the bar. We hope to organise another one at the club in the old format later in the year.

An American tournament and BBQ has been organised for Sunday 30 May where we hope to 'christen' the new furniture and celebrate being able to do something we've been unable to do for the last year or so! More events to follow...

Outdoor furniture

You hopefully will have noticed the club has invested in some high end wooden furniture. There are more tables, seats, cushions and umbrellas on the way and we would encourage everyone to make use of and enjoy them whilst spectating and enjoying the surroundings. They are a major investment for the club, look fantastic, provide a safer environment for socialising and hopefully we call all get many years of use out of them.

Friday night food

A few weeks ago we asked for volunteers to organise food for Friday night league matches. We're pleased to say a number of volunteers have come forward and hot tasty food will be available for the duration of summer league and on select evenings thereafter.

Even if you're not involved in playing league tennis, why not come up for a bite to eat and a beverage or two and watch the best players from Sodbury thrash it out against other clubs and remember, all profit from food sales goes to our chosen charity which happens to be Dementia UK this year.



Housekeeper

Last but not least, Emily Kingscote, mum to two of our juniors and a member herself has taken on the housekeeper role so please tidy up after yourselves and make Emily's life a bit easier. There are 3 bins located outside to put your empty cans and bottle in and if you can take as much of your rubbish back home with you as possible it would be much appreciated.



ESTATES AND FACILITIES

Working party

Steve Scott is the lead for this group with Mark Belcher, Gordon Runcie and Andrew Jones working together. They can furnish you with any information you need to contribute to upkeep of the club and grounds. Please let us know if you are interested in helping at the working party on 29 May or at other times.

Court maintenance

Gordon Runcie is overseeing Court Surface maintenance we have a 1 year professional contract with Sports and Courts Maintenance to prolong the longevity of the courts. Members are encouraged to sweep the courts at other times which is a really important part of maintaining the court surface.

FINANCES

STC remains in a financially stable position. Membership income will be reduced in 2020/21 as we have implemented the policy of giving members a refund for the months that they could not play during lockdown. Lockdown also reduced the amount of profit we got from the bar. Fortunately a grant from South Gloucestershire Council has made up the financial deficit. Looking towards year end the Committee are still anticipating being able to put £12000 into the sinking fund from the current account. Our financial reserves, the sinking fund, is on course to enable us to resurface the courts and take on other projects to improve club facilities as required.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Check out the website for updated Complaints, Credit/Refund and Safeguarding policies, and new changing room and health and safety policies on the website. Risk assessments are also in place for everyone's safety. Please see the notice boards for key information.

KEY DATES

7 May – 16 July

Avon summer league on Friday nights
(excluding 28 May)

10 June

Rusty rackets/beginner coaching

12 June (and September)

Tennis for Kids coaching

7 July

Courts closed during daytime
for maintenance

10 July (or 17 July if bad weather)

Tennis after lockdown video

CLUB TOURNAMENT

5 June

Club tournament starts

18 September

Club tournament finals day

Autumn

Annual ball TBC

