



AVONDALE LAWN TENNIS CLUB CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

February 2017

Welcome to another season of tennis at Avondale. I am delighted to start this letter by congratulating Zana Fletcher and Jamie Cheetham on their successes in the 2016 Hampshire & IoW AEGON British Tennis Awards with Zana winning Volunteer of the Year and Jamie awarded Coach of the Year. Well deserved!

ClubSpark

ClubSpark is a computer system set up by the LTA to help tennis clubs automate their processes. We have been successfully using the ClubSpark court booking module for over a year and have now decided to use their subscription management module to simplify the on-line process for members renewing their subscriptions and for new members joining the Club. Full details are provided in the covering email but if you have any difficulties please contact Joan Jones.

Subscriptions

I am pleased to say that for the fourth year in a row we have not increased basic subscriptions. As the ClubSpark system does not support any form of Family Discount it was decided at the AGM to end the small discount we have historically given to family members. We recognise that this will mean an increase in the overall cost of membership for some members and to mitigate the impact on families with children we have reduced the cost of Junior membership from £60 to £55. Please ensure your subscription is paid promptly by the due date of **1st April**. Full details about how to renew and pay are included in the covering email. Members who have not renewed their subscription by 30th April will not be able to book a court.

Tournaments

We have a full tournament programme planned and all details and entry forms for the Handicap and Club Tournaments can be downloaded from the Club's website www.avondaletennisclub.co.uk. Please note that the **deadline for Handicap Tournament entries is 17th March** and for the Club Tournaments (entry forms have not yet been published) the deadline is **14th April**. The season opens with the Smiths Cups weekend on 8th/9th April. These are afternoon tournaments for **Ladies' Doubles (Saturday 8th April)** and **Men's Doubles (Sunday 9th April)** and provide an opportunity for some competitive tennis before the summer league season begins. Please sign up for these events on the sheets which will be put on the notice board nearer the time. As usual we will be holding our popular **American Tournaments on Bank Holiday Mondays commencing on Easter Monday (17th April)**. No need to pre-register for the American Tournaments– just come to the Club at 1.15pm on the day. Once again we shall need volunteers to help organise the tournaments and to make teas – if you can help please sign up on the list on the notice board.

Wimbledon Tickets Draw

The Wimbledon tickets draw will be held on **Wednesday 3rd May** with registration from 6.30pm and the draw at 7pm. To be eligible for this draw you must have paid your subscription and be opted in via British Tennis.

The Great British Tennis Weekend (GBTW)

Once again we shall be participating in the LTA Great British Tennis Weekend by holding an Open Day on **Saturday 13th May**. Further details will be available on the Club website and notice board nearer the time but if you know of any non members who are interested in playing tennis please invite them to come along.

Courts 5 and 6

These courts are now 11 years old and past the end of their expected life and we have decided to resurface them with the same surface as courts 3 and 4. This work is expected to take place at the end of March or early April depending on weather conditions and will take around two weeks. Once the work is finished it will take a few weeks for the artificial grass to settle down so do not be surprised if they are a little slippery and please take care, making sure you are wearing good tennis shoes.

Grounds

We have recently undertaken tree work to lower the height of the trees around court 1 to reduce the amount of frost courts 1 and 2 suffer in the winter. We have also taken the opportunity to trim back the tree branches overhanging the rear of all courts.

Pavilion

During the last year we have made various improvements to the building with new curtains and carpeting adding a new fresh look to the room and the addition of a television for the convenience of members and parents. We have also replaced the old cooker after many years service and re-tiled the kitchen. A number of upvc doors have been replaced including the front door where the locking mechanism is now much improved. If you are the last to leave the Club, please remember to lock this door and ensure that the external door next to the kitchen is also secure.

League Tennis

In the Aldershot League Winter 2015-16 season our Ladies A and Mixed A teams were runners up in the Premier Divisions and the Ladies B and Ladies C won their respective divisions. Last summer the Men's A and Ladies A were both runners up in Division 1. Our Veterans Teams were successful in the East Hants League with the Vets A winning Division 1 and the B Team winning Division 2 in Winter 2015-16. The Veterans A team also won Division 1 in the summer. Well done also to the Junior teams in the Aldershot League last winter where both the 14U Boys and Girls won their leagues. In the summer the Boys 14U and the Boys 12U were both runners up in their leagues.

Social Tennis

Do come along to the social tennis mix in sessions on Sunday afternoons, Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. Wednesday evening is for Senior Members only but Off Peak Members may play in the Sunday and weekday daytime sessions. We do need more players on Sunday afternoons (from 2pm) and Friday mornings (from 11am) so please come along and you will be made very welcome.

Social Events

For the last 3 years we have enjoyed fantastic dinner dances at the Army Golf Club organised by the Social Committee. Sadly the members of Social Committee have decided to stand down this year and we are looking for a small group to take over. If you can help please contact me or another member of the Committee. In the meantime Vicky Judge and Katherine Rusbridge have agreed to continue to run the popular Quiz Evenings twice a year, commencing with a **Quiz Evening on Friday 24th March**. This event includes Fish 'n Chips and as it is Red Nose Day the proceeds will be donated to that charity. If you wish to come to the Quiz please sign up on the sheet on the notice board.

Website, Facebook, Twitter and WiFi

All events at the Club will be advertised on the website, Facebook, Twitter and the Club notice board so keep an eye on these for forthcoming attractions. On the website you will find our On-Line Clothing Store where you can find a wide range of clothing branded with Avondale Lawn Tennis Club. After hearing reports that the Free WiFi at the Club was running slow we have up-graded the system to fibre optic and we hope you will agree it is much faster. There is still no charge for using WiFi at the Club - login information is available on the notice board. For other passwords and Facebook access please contact Zana Fletcher by email on zana.fletcher@virginmedia.com.

Thank you

I would like to thank all the members who have volunteered their services, whether by captaining a team, making teas, helping with tournaments or social events, or in any other way. I am particularly grateful to all our Committee members for their hard work and enthusiasm and for all the support they have provided to me during the last year.

Best wishes for another enjoyable year of tennis at Avondale.

Paul Treacy
Hon. Chairman