



# AVONDALE LAWN TENNIS CLUB JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

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2017 has proven to be another successful year for Avondale with Jamie Cheetham being awarded with the AEGON British Tennis award for Hampshire & IoW Coach of the Year. Zana Fletcher, Coaching Administrator, Club Secretary and Tournament Secretary was voted Volunteer of the Year. Thank you to everyone who voted for them. Unfortunately there was not an Awards Ceremony this year but they will be attending a day at Wimbledon in recognition of their achievements.

Below is a brief report on what has taken place over the past year and what we hope to achieve in 2017/18.

## **Coaching Team News**

Welcome Sarah Rutherford (Level 5) who joined us prior to the Winter term last year. Lewis Rattigan has returned from his two years of coaching experience in Australia and is helping out on Saturdays. Samuel Conway, is now working as an apprentice towards his Level 3 coaching. Clive, Jamie and myself continue to coach at the club together with the help of Team Leaders who are actively working alongside the coaching team to ensure Avondale can continue to run a successful coaching programme throughout the year.

## **Junior Membership – Subscription Renewal**

As outlined in the Chairman's letter, the club have decided to use ClubSpark's subscription management module to simplify the on-line process for members renewing their subscriptions and for new members joining the Club. Upon renewal you will receive your 2017 membership tag, which MUST be worn on your shoes as proof of membership. Juniors who are approaching membership age will be contacted at the relevant time – clarification of junior membership can be found on the website. Renewing via ClubSpark will automatically give you access to the on-line booking system.

## **Team Leader Awards – 13-17 Year Olds**

Avondale will be running a Team Leader Awards course in April and June this year – details have been submitted, however, if you have not received this information please let Zana know so she can check your contact details. Further details can be found on the website.

## **Cancellation of Coaching**

Unfortunately due the poor weather at the start of the Spring term we had to cancel a number of coaching sessions. Cancellations are noted on Facebook in the first instance and then we endeavour to post on the website, email and will text should we have enough time. Please note it is not always possible to contact everyone and we suggest, if you are able, you sign up to Avondale's Closed Facebook page to keep up to date with cancellations as well as other important information.

## **British Tennis Membership and Ratings**

We encourage Juniors members to become British Tennis members and gain an LTA rating which is a way of measuring your tennis ability and ensures you enter the correct level of competition should you decide to do so. Joining is free and other benefits include entry into the Club Wimbledon ticket draw (age 9 or over), LTA online newsletter, entry to prize draws, discounts for tickets to events and more. You will help support Avondale by joining. Please remember to put Avondale as your place to play. Click [here](#) for a step by step guide on becoming a British Tennis member.

## **Monday Junior Social Evenings – 6.00pm-8.00pm – Ages 9+**

Junior Social Evenings will recommence after the Easter Holidays. A schedule of weekly events will be posted on the website and notice board prior to the start date. We require volunteers to help in the clubhouse on these nights, a sign up sheet will be posted in the club house for those parents wishing to help during the summer term. Cost: Members free – Non-Members £3.00.

### **Family Fun Drills and Games – Monday 7.00pm-8.00pm**

These sessions were once again well attended and will also re-start after the Easter Holidays. Cost: £4.00 for adults attending with their "junior" (as juniors are either already a member or would have paid their visitor's fee). Adult members are not required to pay as long as they are attending with a junior.

### **Junior Tournament**

Due to the lack of entrants we have decided to trial the introduction of a new tournament category for those players with a 10-2-10.1 rating. Further information will be circulated in the next couple of weeks and we hope to see a lot more players signing up. Entering tournaments is a great way to build up confidence and gain experience of match play and results go towards your ranking. The finals will be held on 9-10 September 2017.

### **Family Tournament – 3 June 2015, 10:00-1:00**

A decision has been made to hold the Family Tournament earlier this year (half term) to try and encourage more families to enter. The format will be the same as last year, a FAST4 Tournament, which provides a simple, exciting way of speeding up conventional tennis matches. More information will be posted on the website and noticeboard nearer the time.

### **The Quorn Family Tennis Cup – Saturday 29 April, 10.00-12.00**

We are pleased to be holding our third Quorn Family Cup this year. This is a family tournament for U10s held at venues throughout the country. The winners of each red ball competition will earn the opportunity of a day out at a Quorn Family Tennis Cup event held on the qualifying weekend of a LTA Staged Grass Court tournament in May or June and each pair will have the chance to play against other winners on the day as well as watch the professional players in action. We hope to see a lot of families signing up.

### **Aldershot League & Aegon National Leagues**

I would like to thank Karen Jones again in her role as Manager and Fixture Organiser of the junior league teams. Unfortunately Karen will be standing down from this role and if anyone would be interested in taking over please let me know or speak to Karen direct to find out what the position entails.

### **The Road to Wimbledon**

This is an U.14 boys/girls event, run at the Club, with winners going through to the County Finals, and a chance to play at Wimbledon! Dates will be circulated in due course.

### **Club House**

Avondale are pleased to be able to offer free Wi-Fi to their members as well as a comfortable waiting area for parents whilst their children attend coaching. We have recently had a television installed and there are tea/coffee making facilities. We ask that you use these facilities rather than sitting in your car with the engine running which can be disruptive to players especially in winter months when vehicle lights are also left on.

### **Great British Tennis Weekend (Open Day)**

Following another successful GBTW last year, Avondale will be holding their fifth GBTW on Saturday 13 May 2017. The format is yet to be finalised and further details will be published nearer the time.

Finally, I would like to thank the Coaching Team, Tennis Leaders and Competition Organisers for all their hard work throughout the past year and, most importantly, to the Juniors and parents for your continued support of the club.

We look forward to seeing you on the courts during the months ahead.

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