

Editorial

Tennis is a game for all ages from cradle to grave and this Autumn Newsletter reflects both joy and sadness. Joy for Jamie Marks who has now won every county age group event from the age of 8 years upwards and is now the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Men's Senior Champion and sadness that the club has lost one of its older and respected members, Mike Benjamin.

Sports Clubs bring together all ages and abilities and our aim within the Tennis Section has always been to provide a happy, friendly environment both on and off the court whilst helping players to improve their skills and reach their best level whatever it may be.

Two successful Open Days were held in conjunction with the Great British Tennis Weekend and many of the youngsters and adults have joined the club and the coaching programme. However, retaining our members is as important as attracting them in the first place and it is only through providing opportunities for improvement and for making new friends in an open and sociable environment that players will stay in our sport and as members of our club.

Wednesday darts returns

With the onset of autumn looming thoughts have turned to how best to fill those bleak Wednesday evenings during October up to the beginning of March. The good news is that due to popular demand the Wednesday Winter Darts League starts again on Wednesday October 4th. Teams of experienced or merely enthusiastic players up to 6 players from across the various sections of the club will again compete for the coveted ' Bill Fleming ' Trophy (he found it in a skip!!) which last year was won by the 'Unsquashables' captained by Al Warren. If you wish to enter a team or just wish to put your name forward for selection by one of the other team captains please contact Chris Barr-Hamilton on unicornchris@hotmail.com or Rob Redman on 07515 634575. This is a fun social activity intended to bring members from the various sections of the club together and you do not need to be highly talented or available every Wednesday to take part with each team playing on average one week in three so why not give it a go!

Club Social Calendar

Mixed Doubles	Sunday 24 September
Quiz Night	Saturday 30 September
Indian Night	Friday 13 October
H&W LTA Dinner	Saturday 14 October
Halloween Party	Saturday 28 October
Tennis Section AGM	Wednesday 8 November
Ceilidh Night	Saturday 18 November
Club New Year Dinner	Saturday 3 February 2018
New Season Evening	Tuesday 3 April 2018
Wimbledon Ballot	April 2018
Tennis Clinic	May 2018
Tournament Finals	September 2018

The Ripple Cup



The second annual Ripple Cup took place on May 13th. It was hosted and sponsored by club member James McKenzie. As well as the Ripple Cup, James also sponsors the Junior Performance programme, much appreciated by the children, their parents, the coaching team and the tennis committee. The Ripple Cup for 2017 was a 32 player men's doubles tournament played in a round robin format followed by a knockout. The line-up for the final was Grant Hume and Pete Moore against Mike Marks and Steve Williams. Grant and Pete ran out as winners, as pictured above with James.

Winter and summer league tennis

A glance at the tennis fixtures card shows that many individual club members are involved in competitive match play. With six men's teams, four ladies' teams and four mixed teams in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire LTA county leagues, well over a hundred members are involved in fulfilling over ninety league matches. Men's and ladies' teams are comprised of three pairs in the summer, two pairs in the winter, and mixed teams of two pairs. In a match each pair plays two 'rubbers' (opposing pairs) and each match runs to three tie-break sets. This can make for quite a strenuous evening, with the added issue that away matches may be at the far extremes of the two counties and beyond. Any club member interested in league match play should contact a team captain as shown in the fixtures card and demonstrate appropriate prowess.

H&W LTA league results

In the 2016-17 winter season, the Men's A team were the league champions and the Men's B team were top of Division 3 East achieving promotion to Division 2. Most other men's, ladies' and mixed teams retained their league positions but it appears that Men's D team, Ladies' C team and Mixed C team will be relegated. In the summer 2017 season just finished, the Men's A team were unable to field their strongest team for the key match against Worcester A and have had to settle for second place in Division 1. The Men's B team won Division 2 and will join Men's A in Division 1 next summer. The Mixed D team won Division 4 and will replace Mixed C who were relegated from Division 2. All other teams stay in their respective divisions except for Men's F who were bottom of Division 7 East. How healthy is our club in competition terms? We seem to be holding our own but there is plenty of room for new competitive talent. League results are posted online as matches are played and can be seen by going to www.handwtennis.co.uk.

Charity Doubles

The 2017 Charity Doubles tournament on Thursday 29 June raised £605 for The Cure Parkinson's Trust. 26 couples competed, the sun shone and the tennis was followed by an excellent lunch provided by Jill Holmwood as Anna Paisley was unwell. But members will be pleased to know that Anna is now fully fit again. The Coaching Team again provided the prizes for the winners of each group.

Grand Slam Tournament – Saturday 17 June

Following the success of last year's Grand Slam (RobFest) Tournament, the event was staged again this year and attracted a capacity entry from players from Manor Park and South Wales. 24 pairs competed for the coveted 'Grand Slam' doubles titles on a glorious sunny day at the club with temperatures reaching 30C at their peak.

The winners were as follows:

Wimbledon: Ben Shaw/Gwen Andrieux

US Open: Rory Guilding/Geoff Smith

French Open: Ellie Fleming/Tobie Timmermans

Australian Open: Steve Lewis/ Dave Hallam

A fantastic day was rounded off with a Grand Slam party including a delicious curry and rice meal prepared by Jill Holmwood and great music by 'Gym' Lee & his band. Thanks are due to Rob Redman and Ruth Jones for all their hard work in organising this hugely popular event.

England v Rest of the World – Sat 19 August

This was a repeat of last year's hugely successful doubles tennis event with the addition of a ladies' section. 56 players in total took part and a wonderful day was had by all with the Rest of the World beating England yet again, this year by 352 games to 288. A fabulous Summer Sizzler Party involving a sumptuous Caribbean BBQ prepared by Jill and her team of helpers and great music by the Fidgets rounded off a super day. Thanks again are due to Rob Redman and Ruth Jones for all their hard work in organising another great event.

Tennis Coaching

Adult Coaching Groups – Indoor Acrylic

Tuesday 9.00 – 10.30 am

Wednesday 9.30 – 11.00 am

Junior Outdoor Groups

Older Tennis 14 – 18 years

Monday 7.30 – 8.30 p.m.

Green to Young Teens 11 – 14 years

Monday and Thursday 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Older Teens Monday 7.30 – 8.30 pm

Orange/Green 9 – 10 years

Monday and Thursday 5.30 – 6.30 pm

Saturday 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

Red Mini Tennis 3– 8 years indoors

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4.30 – 5.30 pm

. Saturday 9.00 – 10.00 a.m.

Cardio Tennis

Monday 4.30 – 5.30

Wednesday 7.00 – 8.00 p.m.

If you are interested in having individual or small group sessions for either adults or juniors ring 01684

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Mike Benjamin

Many tennis members have been saddened by the sudden death of Mike Benjamin after a relatively short but brave battle with cancer. Mike joined Manor Park five years ago when he moved into the area and quickly established himself as a popular figure, being both a fine player and an absolute gentleman. Mike had been looking forward for many years to retiring to his renovated farm house in the Welsh border and to continuing to play competitive senior tennis. These wishes have unfortunately been cut short. He leaves his wife and son, and will be missed by many both in the club and in the research community at Cardiff University, where he was Emeritus Professor of Musculoskeletal Biology and Sports Medicine Research. Club colleagues plan to install a bench on Court 3 with an appropriate plaque in his memory funded from donations and the proceeds of an informal Memorial Dinner Party which has been arranged for Saturday 9th December to which everyone is most welcome whether they knew Mike well or not. Any surplus will be donated to Cancer Research UK. For further information on how to make a donation or to book a place at the Memorial Dinner Party please contact Rob Redman on 07515 634575.

TENNIS SECTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 8 NOV 2017 7.30 p.m.

Agenda for Tennis Section AGM

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 09/11/2016
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Any other Business

The Social Scene at Manor Park

It has been a brilliant summer for social events at the club with more * scheduled for the autumn - our thanks to all the organisers. This is the Friday diary for evening meals in the café/bar:

- Posh Pies on 7th April
- Thai Night on 28th April
- South African Night on 19th May
- Greek Night on 16th June
- Lebanese Night on 7th July
- French Night on 4th August
- *Moroccan Night on 15th September
- *Indian Night on 13th October

This is the list of Saturday events:

- Ripple Cup on 13th May
- Poker Night on 20th May
- Rob Fest on 20th June
- New Zealand v British Lions on 24th June
- All Blacks v British Lions on 8th July
- Open Afternoon on 22nd July
- England v Rest of the World and Summer Sizzle BBQ on 19th August
- Club Tournament Finals Day on 9th September
- *Manor Park Quiz Night on 30th September
- *Halloween Party on 28th October
- *Celidh Night on 18th November

Tennis Committee 2016-2017

Chairman:	Jane Poynder
Hon. Treasurer:	Geoff Titmuss
Membership Secretary:	Cleland Newton
Hon. Secretary:	Elaine Fleming
Grounds Controller:	Steve Lewis
Club Coach:	Chris Skinner
Child Protection:	Ali Tuck
Committee Members:	Cathy Clements, Rob Davies Anna Laidler Sam Mackenzie Jo Marks Pia Michelsen Joe Riley

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Proposals for **action** by the Tennis Committee may be sent to the Hon Secretary, Elaine Fleming, 7 Carlton Road, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 1HH to arrive one week before the meeting. Please note that proposals made and carried under **Any Other Business** are automatically referred back to the Tennis Committee for further consideration.

Proposal for action by the Tennis Committee:

Proposed by Seconded by

Nomination(s) for the 2017-2018 Season Committee (with consent of nominee):

Proposed by Seconded by To be returned by not later than November 1st to the Tennis Secretary, 7 Carlton Road, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 1HH

Club Tournament

The day dawned bright and sunny and play started on time at 10.00 am with junior matches on the acrylic courts and doubles games on the synthetic grass courts. There was a sizable crowd in the café/bar to watch the two men's and ladies' singles go out on court as scheduled soon after 11.30 am. As play started the clouds began to form and before long the players on four courts had scurried back to the clubhouse to avoid a downpour. Play progressed between further downpours but with standing water visible momentarily on the synthetic grass, refuge was taken in the indoor courts. This was a pity because by this time spectators had evaporated leaving the café/bar and barbecue without custom.

The men's event was a hard-hitting contest characterised by long rallies and repeated deuces. The consistently attacking play of Simon Wikeley was penetrating enough to beat the more defensive response of Charlie Titmuss. In the ladies Exhibition Match Katie Lewin took the first set from Ellie Fleming with well-placed winning shots. Then Ellie Fleming changed her strategy and won the second set. The third set was a championship tie break, won by Ellie Fleming 11-9 with a thick net-cord.

Presentations were made at the end of each event, with adult trophies retained for engraving and subsequent collection. There was extra time for completion of each round because of the choice to have finals day this year in September instead of July. Comments from members on this change are welcome.

Club tournament results: Adults

Men's Singles: Simon Wikeley,
r/u Charlie Titmuss

Ladies' Singles: Katie Lewin,
r/u Alba Cusworth

Men's Doubles: Chris Skinner/Paul Burgess,
r/u Paddy Hyde & Tobie Timmermans

Ladies' Doubles: Ellie Fleming/Elaine Fleming, r/u
Katie and Sally Lewin

Mixed Doubles: Paul Burgess/Ellie Fleming,
r/u Charlie Titmuss & Katie Lewin

Mixed 45+ Doubles: Barry & Alison Tuck,
r/u Bob Mannion & Paula Daniel

Family Doubles: Jonathan & Sam Edmondson,
r/u Mark & Harry Cox

Men's Singles Plate: David Wilson,
r/u Pete Moore

Ladies' Singles Plate: Cattleya Petchsingh,
r/u Jann Robinson

Men's Doubles Plate: Jonathan & Sam Edmondson,
r/u Bob Mannion and Laszlo Radnai

Ladies' Doubles Plate: Penny McKechnie/Sarah
Titmuss, r/u Anna Laidler & Cat Petchsingh

Mixed Doubles Plate: Bob Mannion & Paula
Daniel, r/u Geoff Titmuss & Victoria Barber

Mixed 45+ Doubles Plate: Andy & Bev Bond

Family Doubles Plate: Sam & Anna Laidler

Club Tournament Results: Juniors

U9 Boys: Emil Meager, r/u Oliver Ruddick

U9 Girls: Daisy Williams, r/u Eva Mico

U10 Singles: Sam Clements, r/u Lilia Mico

U12 Boys: Sam Cassidy, r/u Sam Laidler

U15 Boys: Charlie Cassidy, r/u Sam Nicholls

U14 Girls: Lois Burgess, r/u Stephanie Combe

U15 Boys Doubles: Sam Cassidy & Sam Laidler, r/u
Alex Combe & Sam Nicholls

U17 Mixed Doubles Sam Laidler/Lois Burgess,
r/u Charlie Cassidy/Stephanie Combe

SEP GROUP

H/W County Closed Championships

Jamie Marks beat Men's Captain Charlie Crisp to win the Men's Singles and then partnered Charlie to be r/u to Felix Gill & Alex Maggs in the Men's Doubles. Sam Clements won the 10U Boys Singles defeating Caleb Ravenscroft from Redditch and Daisy Williams was r/u in the 8U Girls Singles

**The Grade 3 Malvern Junior Open Champs
attracted 419 entries with a high quality entry
from all over the country.**

Manor Park players scored success as follows:

10U Boys Singles Sam Clements r/u

8U Boys Singles Xac Burgess r/u

Ladies doubles Liz & Katy Lewin 3rd

10U Doubles Sam Clements/Caleb Ravenscroft r/u

New table tennis teams

A new table tennis table has been bought for use in the Vaughan Hall. Two teams have been entered in the local table tennis leagues to play there on Wednesday evenings. These teams are in addition to the ones who play in the old clubhouse, which cannot accommodate more than the five teams already based there. For more information please contact Chris Barr-Hamilton at the club office or unicornchris@hotmail.com.