



Spring Newsletter 2016



Chairman's Introduction

Dear Members,

Whilst writing this I am being struck by rays of late winter sunshine and very soon spring will be upon us and minds will once again turn to getting out in the open and playing tennis in conditions which will hopefully be warmer than of late. During the winter your committee has not been in hibernation but has been working to ensure that club facilities are maintained and improved and that the overall nature of the club is preserved. The prime example of this is the installation of 3 new artificial clay courts on 7, 8 & 9 which has meant that members have been able to play throughout the winter. The squash court air circulation system now means that one no longer has to wear gloves and two jumpers whilst playing when temperatures are below zero. Your social committee have continued to offer a range of events for members and are constantly on the lookout for new ideas. All of the above takes an inordinate amount of time, effort and financial resource. For the club to continue to prosper it is vital that we also evolve and that will mean changing certain ways we do things. This is my last few months as Chairman and I am looking forward to handing over to somebody who feels able to meet those challenges in a way that can take the club through the next few years in a positive but exciting way. In the meantime, I thank all who have helped me so ably over the last 5 years and wish you all well for the coming months

Tim Crowley

From the Secretary

Attached to this newsletter, members will find the form for the renewal of their subscriptions for the 2016/17 year. I draw your attention to the following.

- Tennis subscriptions have been increased by £20 since the majority of members polled during the summer voted for artificial clay as the preferred surface and also expressed a willingness to pay an extra £20 p.a. as a contribution towards the cost of those courts.
- Membership of the under-8s has hitherto been free. We are the only club in the area not to have made a charge for under 8s and it has been decided that the time had come to institute one, at the rate of £20 p.a. Apart from other considerations, the receipt of subscriptions for under 8s will compel us to keep proper track of our under 8 membership rather than just assuming that individuals remain members from year to year.
- There is no increase in subscriptions for other categories of membership
- Members who pay a full subscription by 31 March will again be credited with £20 on their bar accounts, effective 1 April.
- None of the foregoing applies to new members who have paid a full year's subscription during the 2015/16 year.

When completing the renewal form, members are asked to ensure that any changes in their contact details, notably email addresses, are notified to us.

It may be of interest to members that the lease for the phone mast was renewed at the new rent of £12,500 p.a., due February and August. Your Trustees were unhappy at the terms of the new lease which bore little resemblance to the one we negotiated 11 years ago and it took 11 months to agree terms – and to receive our new rent. The process of obtaining an interest free loan from the LTA towards the cost of the new courts was a cakewalk in comparison.

Steph Bailey



STSC has enjoyed a vibrant winter with new courts, outstanding tennis results, new members, an active social scene and all enjoyed in the course of one of the mildest winters in recent times.

ARTIFICIAL CLAY COURTS

Our thanks go to Adam Freeman who undertook the role of Project Manager for the courts. He conducted all of the initial meetings, obtained prices and kept the tennis committee fully informed on progress. The courts were laid in November and have so far proved a great success and at times members are queueing to get on the bottom terrace. The courts are still at the 'bedding in' stage and more clay will be laid in the near future. My thanks also to Jason Smythe and Steph Bailey who attended meetings with the LTA in order to obtain an interest free loan towards the cost of the courts and to George Carruth who was able to keep an eye on the work during the installation period. It will be fascinating to see how they play during the summer months.



Laying the carpet in a gale



The Tim Henman tennis clinic

TEAM RESULTS

Once again our teams and players have enjoyed an outstanding winter. I will be brief. John Richards captained our Men's 1st team to the Premier League title (again). A magnificent effort. Alastair Tiddy captained the 2nd team to promotion to the Premier League (again). Truly outstanding. Paul Goldhawk captained the 3rd team to 3rd place in Division 4. This was our 1st appearance for the 3rds in Division 4 and it was huge effort to reach and then maintain that status. Adam Freeman captains our 4th team which currently sits in 3rd place with one match to play. David Lunn captained the 5th team which finished 2nd in their division and once again secured promotion. David is also one of the best contributors to our Club website. Please use David as an example of how get your team and results on the website. Steve Bentley captains our 6th team whose season is still in progress. With 2 matches to play, it sits in 5th place with a great chance of staying in the Division.

Our Ladies teams are also in good fettle.

Helen McGregor captained our Ladies' 1st team which has now reached division 4 in both summer and winter leagues ensuring a good standard of play for our ladies. It is also the highest our Ladies' team has been for decades. Jeanette Calina assumed the captaincy of the 2nd team from Sue Lewis. After reshaping because of injury and retirement, they have secured promotion again which is an excellent start for Jeanette. Last, but certainly not least, Tasmin Woodruffe captained our Ladies' 3rd team which currently leads their Division with 2 matches yet to play. Keep it up Tamsin - great work.

A special mention also for Wayne Darroch who makes light work of captaining our Men's Vets teams. As you can imagine not an easy task. Our thanks go to Elastoplast for their support of our Vets team.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Within the next week nominations will be submitted for our Aegon teams competitions this summer. We welcome a new Captain in Cliff Norman who has taken over our Regional side from Alastair Tiddy. With twins pending, Alastair took the wise decision to give himself some breathing space! Cliff is passionate about his tennis and will do a great job. Sarah Lawrence-Taylor will Captain our Ladies' team, Jason Smythe our Surrey Division 1 side, Cliff Norman our Regional side and Steve Tiddy our National team. Garth Furmidge, Adam Freeman and Karl will Captain our junior teams. The first matches are on April 3rd v Raynes Park & Paddington respectively. The first matches for our County Division 1 sides are on 10th April. A meeting has been scheduled to ensure no more than 4 courts are in match use during what is always a very busy period. Please watch the website for regular updates.

SITA TRUST

We have submitted an application to SITA for a grant to re-surface courts 1-3. My personal thanks to our Club members, Naz, Karl & Callum Furmidge along with the Royal Marsden, Devonshire Primary & Sutton Grammar School who contributed letters of support for this project. My thanks also to Jason & Steph who prepared the financial information. The application was submitted in late January and as soon as further information becomes available we will update you.

CLUB TOURNAMENT DATES

We propose to have received all entries and finalised the draws for matches to begin on Monday 30th May with Finals' Day scheduled for Sat 10th September 2016

COURT CLEANING

The Tennis Committee has gone ahead and arranged a deep clean of the top two terraces in the hope that it will prevent any further flooding which will no doubt otherwise recur during periods of heavy rain.

Steve Tiddy



The air conditioning which was installed at the end of April is working very well, following a slight downward adjustment of the temperature in September. It is keeping the courts at a great temperature for playing squash – a significant improvement. Although we have had mostly warm weather the air conditioning has coped well with the few days on which it has been cold.

A significant refurbishment of the courts took place in October with the back walls being re-plastered and general maintenance on the rest of the courts – a welcome further development to keep our courts playing well; we now have recently re-plastered both the front and rear walls which should hopefully last for many years.

We have two Men's team in the Surrey winter leagues. Our first team, ably lead by Phil Coleman is top of their division (5B) and with only two games to play they lead the division by over 40 points; we are looking forward to their playing in the division 5 play-off finals which are at Colets Squash Club in Thames Ditton on Saturday 19th March; please come along and support them. The second team under Nick Search's captaincy is mid table in division 8B but the lowest five clubs are within only eight points of one another. With a game in hand and with only two games to play they should avoid relegation. Their final game is on Wednesday 2nd March against Virgin Active on Hannibal Way in Croydon.

The annual tournament is under way with the finals on Saturday 23rd April from 3-6pm. There are Open, Handicap, Veterans (over 45), Ladies, Plate and Doubles events. This year the entry and administration of the tournaments is completely on-line using our internet/ 'mycourts' booking system.

With Brenton Gage now recovering rapidly from his ankle injury, the mid-week coaching sessions and the club nights are back in full swing so please come along to either to improve your squash and/or enjoy some good social squash.

Andrew Jennings



The social committee has been busy for the past six months planning and delivering social events. In July and August, normally quiet months, Chris and his team put on a couple of highly successful Britzilian BBQ' - all profits to charity.

In September, much effort was put into decorating the bar in anticipation of England's triumphal progress in the Rugby World Cup..... That was then –this is now!

The popular Rocky and Mac band played at the club again in November, another successful evening. The social committee along with some volunteers decorated the club with Xmas decorations at the beginning of December to general acclaim. I would like to thank those who helped.

The much anticipated Christmas raffle was held on December 19th. More money was spent on better prizes and they went down well. These raffles aim to make a small surplus so that the social committee has a little bit to invest in future events. Karl played and brought along friends who sang and entertained until late, a brilliant night.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve were the same tried and tested format and both were very successful.

In January we held a fun Mexican themed evening for which Julia and her team cooked. We were taught the correct way to do tequila shots!

Chris held another Britzilian at the beginning of February which was probably the wettest/windiest evening ever! Poor Chris and Colin were soaked but nonetheless provided excellent food which Lee complemented with lovely roasted vegetables and other accompaniments.

Last week the social committee meeting held an open evening and invited anyone who would like to be part of our team to come along. We thank those who came, either to join the committee, give their thoughts or offer to help on an ad hoc basis.

All members are welcome to suggest new ideas for the sort of social events they would like. Input from squash and tennis members in particular would be much appreciated.

Saturday 27 February saw an enjoyable and successful Race Night at the club. To follow that up various social events are in the planning stage –

An open mic night.

A Spanish evening.

A wine tasting

The Social Committee would welcome ideas (and volunteers) for a special event to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. It's actually on 21st April but we aim to party around 11th June.

I would like to thank the social committee for all the hard work they put in for the benefit of the club. Sally has done a good ten years on the social committee and is standing down. We are grateful for all she has done. Wendy has taken a backseat but will still support us when she can. Thank you both. We could do with a couple of new members!

Best wishes

Lynn Tripp and the committee.