

Chairman's Report

I have nearly completed my first year as chairman. I must give a somewhat belated thank you to Rosemary for all her hard work as chairman over the previous years. Also thanks to John Clark who has now stepped down from the committee following his time as treasurer.

Two major changes have been implemented during the past year. The first was the re-negotiation of the coaching contract with Jet Coaching (Becky Jordon). The new arrangements provide a framework under which the club is free of any financial obligation for coaching provision, the principle being that coaching needs to be largely self financing. The club in turn encourages coaching by providing extensive court time availability, free floodlights for coaching plus other benefits. A copy of the coaching contract is in the clubhouse. Well done to James Bickerton who has successfully completed his Tennis Assistants course. This will allow him to get more involved in coaching on a formal level.

The second major change is in the ball provision for senior club sessions. The new system where players pay 50p for Saturday afternoon and Tuesday evening sessions appears to be working well. The money raised goes some way to covering ball costs. The conclusion of the committee is that the arrangement should continue. A benefit of the system is that used balls (in the white box) are available for general use by any club member. Please respect the system and make sure that if you do use any general play balls, that they are returned to the box. Balls that are hit out still need to be retrieved!



During the annual Junior L.T.A. tournament last year, the club played host to 11 Turkish teenagers. Many thanks to the families who provided accommodation and to all those who helped in the organisation and running of the event. This may be the last time we host the Junior L.T.A. tournament as we have decided not to submit an application for 2005. It was felt that the tournament did not cater for the needs of our membership; four of our juniors entered last years tournament. The tournament requires a lot of planning and organisation if it is to be successful. Additionally, a lot of time and effort is required during the tournament itself (thanks to Becky for refereeing the 2004 tournament). This is difficult without full commitment from the membership. The committee will support and encourage other ideas for hosting junior events.

As for the forthcoming 2005/6 season, it is business as usual. Specific plans include some maintenance work on the clubhouse, in particular new windows.

The most notable addition to last year's calendar, and one that is to be repeated this year, was the inaugural TLTC golf society day held at the Bristol Club. A great day out, and many thanks to Dave Bruton and Mark Taylor for their efforts in organising the event. I'm hopeful that we'll also re-introduce a cricket match (or two) and maybe even a table tennis tournament!. As tennis players, we can turn our ball skills to anything!.

Phil Jones, Chairman, Feb 2005

2:00-6:00pm
OPEN DAY
Saturday
May 7th

The aim of the Open Day is to promote tennis at Thornbury Tennis Club. It provides the opportunity for members and non-members, juniors and seniors to enjoy tennis together. Please come along, and bring your friends. Look out for posters and more information nearer the time.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on Tuesday March 22nd at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Please make every effort to attend. Bring your cheque book, your completed subscription form (enclosed) and possibly a chair!

Agenda:

- ▶ Apologies
- ▶ Minutes of Last Meeting
- ▶ Chairman's Report
- ▶ Treasurer's Report
- ▶ Subscriptions
- ▶ Balls on Club Sessions
- ▶ Committee Nominations
 - ▶ Coaching
 - ▶ Juniors
- ▶ Any other Business
- ▶ Wimbledon Draw

There are vacancies on the committee for Secretary and a general committee member.

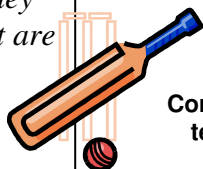
For further details and a nomination form please see Page 5.

CRICKET Ted's Boneshakers

have challenged TLTC to another match at Rockhampton CC on **Weds, June 8th**.

Come along to support your team at about 6:30pm.

Bar open.



GOLF DAY

Dave Bruton is organising another TLTC Golf Day at Bristol Golf Club. The date is yet to be confirmed, but it will be on a **Monday in June**. Please check the noticeboard for details and to sign up, or call Dave.



LADIES MATCH REPORT

Summer 2004 was a very enjoyable and successful season for the ladies. Both teams had brief glimpses of promotion possibilities, and both teams finished 3rd out of 6. This was a great achievement for the first team who, having been promoted 2 years in succession, found themselves in the giddy heights of **Division 2**. It was also a good season for the second team who played in a very close league and were only 4 points behind the division winners – the closest the second team have come to the difficult leap from Division 5 to Division 4 for years.

First team (with number of appearances in brackets):- Jane Clark (10), Nicky Clark (8), Sarah Hurley (7), Jennie Bickerton (6), Kim Morton (3), Barbara Bax (2), Allison Weir (2), and Becky Jordan (2).

Second team:- Carole Boulton (8), Allison Weir (7), Beth Cocks (6), Chris Vincent (6), Jill Dearnaley (5), Barbara Bax (5), Liz Atwood (2), Kim Morton (1).

Thank you to everyone for their time and commitment.

For the first time, we entered a Ladies team in the Avon LTA **Summer Vets** competition. This runs for 10 weeks throughout August and September, and is more flexible than the summer league in that the matches may be played at any time during the weekend. It provided an interesting mix of Friday night matches under floodlights, wet Saturday mornings, and sunny Sundays! It has also enabled people to play matches who might not normally do so. Thanks to Chris Vincent for organising the team.

Allison Weir, Ladies Captain

Check out the website

www.thornburytennisclub.co.uk

for information on:

Coaching

Membership

Tournaments & Events

Avon League news

..... and more



MENS MATCH REPORT

Due to Pete Rosser's unfortunate back injury, I took over his duties as Mens Match Captain only two weeks before the start of the league season. Sadly, a number of our top players were unavailable to represent the club this season for a variety of reasons. This had a knock-on effect which impacted on all three teams. 2004 was not a successful season for the mens teams, with the 'A' team relegated and the 'C' team finishing 5th. However, the 'B' team finished a very respectable 3rd. I should like to thank all those who played in the teams this season and in particular the 'B' and 'C' Team Captains Ted Gilbert and Mike Boulton. It is my sincere hope that 2005 will see a change in the teams fortunes and hopefully the availability of additional players.

Nick Frost, Mens Captain

Club Tournament 2004

Winners:

Mark Taylor

Carole Boulton

Phil Jones & Mark Taylor

Carole Boulton & Allison Weir

Nick Frost & Mair Vaughan

Runners Up:

Ian Barnett

Kim Morton

Mike Boulton

Gill Hardy & Mair Vaughan

Phil Jones & Barbara Bax



& James Bickerton

The **President's Plate** was won by Nick Goulas & Lisa Steele

Match Practice for Senior Summer League

Match practice for all 5 teams (3 mens and 2 ladies) will start on Monday, 4th April (6:30pm), and will continue into the league season. We run teams in the Avon League, and the matches are played on Friday evenings from May 6th until July 15th. If you are interested in playing league tennis then come along or call Allison Weir or Nick Frost.

SENIOR WINTER LEAGUE 2004/5

The Winter League runs from Oct-March. Each team comprises 2 men and 2 ladies and each match consists of a Mens Doubles, a Ladies Doubles, and 2 Mixed Doubles. We run 2 regular teams, and 1 veterans team.

The **Vets** are playing in Vets Division 2 and have a regular team of Nick Frost & Barbara Bax, Steve Wells & Allison Weir. With one match remaining, we are lying in third place. Second place and promotion back up to Division 1 are almost within our grasp! The **First Team** are playing their third season in Division 3. The team is made up of Jane and Nicky Clark and the best men available on the day!! They are lurking towards the bottom, so the aim this year is to avoid relegation.

The **Second Team** fluctuates between Division 4 and 5 – this is a Div 5 year and it looks like next year will also be a Div 5 year!

Allison, Feb 2005

NEVER TOO OLD TO PLAY COUNTY TENNIS

Unlike some sports, tennis is a game that can be played almost from cradle to grave. Today, particularly in Eastern Europe many parents start their children playing as early as 2 years old and at the other end of the spectrum there are many people still playing at over 90 years of age.

For the competitive players over 45 years of age the "Veterans" County circuit beckons, there are many age groups +45 +50 +55 +65 +70 and +75 and over. Those of you who are LTA members and receive "Ace" magazine will, I am sure, note the interesting articles on "Veterans" tennis in the accompanying News Letter on British Tennis.

There is also the 45 Club which organizes matches on a regular basis all over the UK ie; mens, ladies, mixed, plus Round Robin tournaments. The club does not confine itself solely to the UK, but arranges matches, tennis holidays and coaching in many other parts of the world, including Europe, Scandinavia, USA and the Caribbean.

With the huge opportunities for Junior Tennis players today, it is nice to think that those opportunities can continue to be available to all of us in different ways as we grow older.

Nick Frost, Jan 2005

TLTC recently attracted national media attention when a TV crew from the **BBC** visited the club to film John Hutchinson, consultant spinal surgeon extraordinaire, at play. The footage will form part of a "fly on the operating theatre wall" series, *Your Life in Their Hands* taking to the airwaves in May. On the day, John & Rosie clinched a thrilling victory against reigning ladies champ, Carole Boulton, partnered by Dave Bruton.



We are all familiar with John's enthusiastic play, the blistering serves and general good humour on court. Less well known are his other sporting activities; as well as being an attentive Dad and completing a punishing operating schedule at Frenchay, he finds time to ski, water ski, play golf and football and he recently defied death, riding with the Berkeley Hunt. **Ted Gilbert Feb 2005**

The net height is controlled by the centre strap, not by the cord tension. The strap tension should be sufficient to pull the cord down quite forcibly, preventing swaying and incidentally prolonging the net life by controlling ground wear. Leaning on the net to retrieve balls puts an excessive strain on the net posts. Don't do it!

James Morrell Feb 2005

Slippery Courts

The complaints about slippery courts in the wet have been investigated. The supplying contractor advises that the coatings recently applied comfortably exceed the LTA specification. The slipping incidence was not confined to one colour so exonerating a particular batch of coating. Even though members have slipped wearing new shoes, it is possible that the shoes contain particles of mud in the sipes or grooves, picked up in the car park or retrieving balls from the surrounds. Have a close look at the soles and give them a scrub. The problem is being kept under review.

James Morrell Feb 2005

Chairman's Challenge

At the tennis club there was an American tournament using seven courts, (assume in a line for this puzzle). Six were in use, Crafty Chris was waiting to go on to the free court.

Of the courts in use, Powerful Pete was on the court next to Mad Mike, and Gruesome Graham was next to Sly Steve who was two to the right of Desperate Dave. Mad Mike was three away from Nasty Nick. Desperate Dave was two away from Powerful Pete.

Who are on the courts either side of the free court that Crafty Chris goes on to?

Avon Junior League

The winter league matches are now coming to a close and there have been mixed fortunes for our two teams.

The **Under 12's** have lost only one of their matches, but have been frustrated as matches have been called-off at the last minute due to opponents not being able to raise teams.

The **Under 14 team** has struggled through lack of numbers, with younger players having to fill the gaps against some extremely capable opponents.

The **Summer League** matches will commence in May, and it looks like both teams will be promoted following last year's successful summer campaign. If you would like to represent Thornbury Tennis Club in the Avon Junior League, then please see either Becky or Tony Boak.

Tony Boak, Feb 2005

Thornbury LTC Committee (*standing down)		
Phil Jones	Chairman	
Chris Vincent	Vice-Chair	
Tony Light	Treasurer	
Matthew Stringer*	Secretary	
Qian Huang	Membership Secretary	
Nick Frost	Mens Captain	
Allison Weir	Ladies Captain, Match Secretary Newsletter Ed, Website	
Beth Cocks	Club/Grounds	
Anthony Warren	Publicity	
Mike Boulton	Lottery	
Tony Boak	Junior Co-ordinator	
Kathy McPherson	Junior Co-ordinator	
James Bickerton	Junior representative	
Nicky Clark	Junior representative	
Becky Jordon	Club Coach	

COURT AVAILABILITY		
Day	Available	In use for ...
MON	All day except March-July	mid March to mid July – match practice from 6:15pm
TUES	Noon-6:30pm	Senior club morning from 10:00am and evening from 6:30pm
WEDS	am-4:45pm	Junior club evening until 8:45pm
THURS	am-6:30pm	Senior club evening
FRI	All day except May-July	May – July, Senior League matches, 6:15pm onwards
SAT	Evening	Juniors from 9:30am, Senior club afternoon from 2:00pm
SUN	All day except Oct-March	Senior Winter League matches on 2 courts from 10:15am to approx 1:00pm. 15 Sundays out of 26.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:		
Apr	Monday 4th April (6:30pm)	Mens & Ladies Match Practice starts
May	Fridays, 6th May to 15th July	Senior Summer League matches
	Saturday 7th May (2-6pm)	Open Day
	Sunday 22nd May (2pm)	American Tournament
Jun	A Monday in June	TLTC Golf Day at Bristol Golf Club
	Wednesday, 8th June	Cricket Match v Ted's Boneshakers
	Sunday 12th June	Club Tournament, Mens Doubles
	Tuesday, 21st June	Longest Day BBQ
	Sunday, 26th June	Club Tournament, Mixed Doubles
Jul	Sunday, 17th July	Club Tournament Finals Day
Aug	Sunday, 14th August (2pm)	American Tournament
Sep	Tuesday, 6th September	Cancer Research Charity Tournament & Lunch
	Sunday, 11th September	Junior/Senior Tournament
	Sunday, 18th September	President's Plate Mixed Doubles Tournament



FLOODLIGHT TOKENS

(30 minutes per token, £1.50)

If you need tokens for the floodlights, please call Phil Jones, Allison Weir, Matthew Stringer, or Mike Boulton.

SWEATSHIRTS & PEAKS The Jones family want to smarten up on the tennis court with the new navy TLTC sweatshirts. However, there is a minimum order quantity of 12 so we need a few others to join us. Price details and an order list are up on the noticeboard, or else order one at the AGM, or call Rosemary Millar. If enough sweatshirts are ordered, then Rosemary will place an order in April. Don't delay, it may be another year before the next order!



LOTTERY 2005

Are you missing out on the Thornbury LTC Lottery?
Each month half of the proceeds goes in a prize draw and half to club funds.

It costs just £1 per month which can be paid by:

- Monthly standing order**
- Annual cheque or cash**

The more entries you have – the more chance you have of winning!

For more details please contact:

Mike Boulton or complete the form below.

2004 winners of the lottery are

Jan: Barbara Bax

Feb: Mike Boulton

Mar: TJ Cullimore

Apr: Allison Weir

May: Steve Wells

Jun: Beth Cocks

Jul: Sue Taylor

Aug: Jean Stevenson

Sep: Kim Morton

Oct: Barbara Bax

Nov: Tricia Moffatt



THORNBURY LTC LOTTERY 2005/2006

NAME: **NO. OF ENTRIES**

(@ £12 each)

ADDRESS:

TEL:

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THORNBURY LTC

SEND TO: Mike Boulton



There is a vacancy on the committee for Secretary and a general committee member.

For further details please contact Matthew Stringer. Nominations must be submitted to Matthew Stringer by Friday, March 18th 2005.

I nominatefor the post of

Signed: (Proposer)

Signed: (Seconder)

Signed: (Nominee)

CLUB TOURNAMENT 2005

The club tournament is being co-ordinated by Christine Vincent.

To enter, please sign up at the *AGM* or on the list on the notice board.

The **Singles** tournaments and the **Ladies Doubles** will be played during April - July at times convenient to those playing the matches. There will be booking sheets available to book courts for matches. There will be the usual restrictions on booking courts (eg. outside club sessions, league matches etc)



The **Mens Doubles** will be played on Sunday, June 12th.

The **Mixed Doubles** will be played on Sunday, June 26th.

You will be allocated a partner for the doubles competitions.

All the finals will be played on Sunday, July 17th.

Entry to the tournaments costs £2 each, or £5 for all three.