

Chairman’s Chat

Looking back over the past year, the club can be proud of what it has achieved. From the successes of our league teams to the development of our coaching, the club is thriving in every way. Sometimes this success has led to conflict as demand for court time has exceeded availability especially during the winter. With this in mind, a small sub group chaired by Steve Wells has been asked to look at the implementation of a court booking system and to consider any adjustments that may be necessary to the coaching contract. They welcome your input so if you do have any views on these issues, please feed them back through Steve so that they can be addressed. The group will also report to the AGM when there will also be an opportunity for discussion.

Steve Wells has also been helping us out in other ways. The club has been looking at how best to develop the club court facilities and a separate Court Development Group chaired by Steve has been investigating options. With courts 5&6, we have a tremendous opportunity to develop the club and in particular, the Junior section. Our initial aim is to replace the surround fencing and include a rebound wall. In order to keep the subscription levels down, we have been seeking other ways of funding in order to do this. Through the efforts of Andy and Chris Taylor, we are hopeful of obtaining some financial support through sponsorship which will help. We have also been actively seeking grant aid from various bodies and are still hopeful that this will bear fruit. I would ask all of you who have an interest in the development of our club, to take the opportunity to complete the Gift Aid declaration on the membership form. Although membership subscriptions are exempt from Gift Aid tax relief, donations do qualify and it means that the club can claim back 28p for every £1 donated. Looking optimistically, a donation of just £10 per member could raise over £500 extra from The Treasury! Alternatively, the chancers among you may be tempted by the Club Lottery (see back page).

My particular thanks must go to James Morrell who has done an outstanding job over the last three years as club secretary. Also, many thanks to Steve Wells for his tremendous support. The club should be proud to have such a president.

I would ask all of you to support our great club, but most of all, especially now the evenings are getting lighter and spring is in the air, get down there and get playing!

Phil Jones, Feb, 2008

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on Wednesday March 26th 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
- ◆ Appeal by ex-member to rejoin club
- ◆ Treasurer’s report
- ◆ Membership report
- ◆ Coaching and Junior report
- ◆ Court Development Group report
- ◆ ‘British Tennis’ report
- ◆ Coaching Contract review report
- ◆ Committee nominations
- ◆ Proposals
- ◆ Any other business
- ◆ Date of next committee meeting
- ◆ Wimbledon draw

There are vacancies on the committee for Secretary, Mens Captain and Junior Co-ordinator. For further details and a nomination form please see Page 6.

 Would someone like to take over the newsletter production? There are generally 2 per year, in the autumn and the spring. This is my tenth, and I’ve had enough! (Ally)

Check out the website www.thornburytennisclub.net

for information on:

- Tournaments
- Events
- Membership
- Coaching
- Avon League fixtures and results



FLOODLIGHT TOKENS

(30 mins per token, £1.50)

If you need tokens for the floodlights, please call:
 Phil Jones, Allison Weir
 James Morrell, Matt Stringer

Thornbury LTC Committee (*standing down)			
Phil Jones	Chairman	pjones@homecall.co.uk	01454 415894
Chris Vincent	Vice-Chair, Lottery		
Chris Arnold	Treasurer		
James Morrell *	Secretary		
Matt Stringer	Membership Secretary	matthewstringer@hotmail.com	01454 853546
Pete Rosser *	Men's Captain	peterosser@blueyonder.co.uk	01454 880133
Allison Weir	Ladies Captain, Match Secretary, Newsletter Editor*, Website	aweir@homecall.co.uk	01454 415894
Beth Cocks	Club/Grounds	mail@gullyfarm.freeserve.co.uk	01454 260313
Tony Light	General	tonylight@wolfridge.co.uk	01454 412260
Jan Vareka	Co-opted		
Also:-			
Chris Taylor	Club Coach	ctaylor_tennis@yahoo.co.uk	07988687212

Match Practice for Senior Summer League

Match practice for all 7 teams (4 men's and 3 ladies') will start on Monday, 31st March (6:30pm), and will continue to the end of the league season. We run teams in the Avon League, and the matches are played on Friday evenings from May 9th until July 18th. If you are interested in playing league tennis then come along or call Allison Weir (415894).

WINTER LEAGUE REPORT

The Winter League is mixed and runs from October to March. This winter, we have entered five teams (1 veterans and 4 regular). It has been a very exciting season and the fates of three of the teams still hangs in the balance.

- After today's victory over Lansdown 2, the Vets have won Division 3.
- The first team (Div 4a) were unlucky to be faced with a very strong Bristol Redland team. Bristol have dropped only 4 points (to us) and with only one team in the division being promoted, it will not be us, though we should come second.
- The second team (Div 4b) are still in with a chance of promotion. Three teams; Thornbury 2, Henleaze 2 and Cleeve are lying equal with just a few matches to go, only one will be promoted to Division 3.
- The third team are currently top in Division 5aa with 2 out of 8 matches to play. Two teams are promoted.
- The (new) fourth team are lying in 2nd place in Division 5b after playing all their matches. With 2 teams being promoted, there is still a chance of promotion depending on the results of other teams' matches still to be played.

The change in fortunes of our winter league teams from a few years ago is huge. Until this year, we have never managed to keep our second team in Division 4. Now, not only are they looking at promotion, we have 2 lower teams with a chance to move into Division 4.

List of players:-

Men: Chris Taylor, Chris Every, Colin Horler, Gary Clare, Ye Huang, Chris Davies, Phil Jones, Ian Barnett, Mike Peatheyjohns*, Pete Rosser, Dave Attwood, Tony Light, Mike Boulton, Nick Frost*, Matthew Stringer, John Hutchinson, Chris Arnold, James Lewis, Rob McPherson, Richard Boak*, James Light, Jan Vareka and Steve Wells.

Ladies: Lucy Thomas, Sarah Hurley, Jo Hargreaves, Ali Millard, Pauline Barnett, Liz Attwood, Diana Dyson*, Carole Boulton, Gill Hardy*, Sharon MacDonald, Beth Cocks, Chris Vincent, Rosemary Millar, Rose Higgins, Clare Whitaker, Ruth Abrahams, Janet Davies and Allison Weir.

That's a total of 41 players. Those marked with a * currently have a 100% success rate!

A. Weir, Feb, 2008

British Tennis – What’s it all about?

British tennis is the LTA’s new membership scheme. It has been set up to enable the LTA to establish more direct contact with the tennis playing population. If you want to enter LTA rated tournaments, you must belong to British Tennis. For other benefits, plus details of how to join online, see the LTA website (www.lta.org.uk). (Alternatively, you can pick up a form at the tennis club.)

The LTA is keen to get as many players on board as possible and has come up with a couple of ideas to get us all to sign up. Firstly, membership is free for members of affiliated clubs until 28th Feb 2009. Next year, (2009/10) adult membership for affiliated club members will be £7.50 and free for juniors 17 yrs and under. (If you are not a member of an affiliated club, then the cost is £25).

The allocation of Wimbledon tickets next year will be based on the number of British Tennis members that we have. Our ballot will need to be open to any British tennis member aged 9 and over who is also a club member.

The committee’s view is that the current arrangement (whereby tickets are allocated in pairs in a draw at the AGM to ANY fully signed up club member) will stand for this year. This is because our allocation this year will be based upon the number of club members we have and not the number who have signed up for British Tennis (currently around 60). Also, people who have signed up to British Tennis this year have not had to pay.

The arrangements for next year will probably need to fall in line with the LTA’s instructions but the details have yet to be discussed by the committee. This may well be the last AGM Wimbledon draw though. I anticipate a system where the draw is done a short time after the AGM to include all members who have also signed up to British tennis.

COURT AVAILABILITY (Outside organised activities up to 2 courts may be in use for coaching.)		
Day	Available	In use for ...
MON	All day except March-July	mid March to mid July – match practice from 6:30pm
TUES	Noon-6:30pm	Senior club morning from 10:00am and evening from 6:30pm
WEDS	am-4:45pm	Juniors, early evening
THURS	am-6:30pm	Senior club evening
FRI	All day except May-July	May – July, Senior League matches, 6:15pm onwards Winter: Junior club evening
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. Most Sundays.

COURT ONE
Not only the show court, but the court of choice, Court One is showing more signs of wear than the other 3. After a downpour, it is court one which has puddles at the baselines. Therefore, to put off the expensive resurfacing as long as possible, it would be helpful if you avoid using court one when other courts are free. (Handy hint, court 4 is the most sheltered from the prevailing south-westerly wind.)

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

A copy of our Child Protection Policy is available for viewing in the clubhouse. If you have any concerns please contact our club Child Protection Officer, Christine Vincent.

2008 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:		
Mar	Friday, 7 th March	Club Thornbury Quiz at Leisure Centre, Quiz master: Matthew Stringer
	Wednesday 26 th March (7 for 7:30pm)	Annual General Meeting
	Mondays from 31 st March (6:30pm)	Men's & Ladies Match Practice – all 6 courts
May	Fridays, 9 th May to 18 th July (6:15pm)	Senior Summer League matches – 6 courts, sometimes 8!
	Sunday 11 th May (2-6pm)	Open Day
Jun	Sunday, 21 st June	Evening Social; tennis/quiz/barbeque? Check posters
Jul	Saturday, 12 th July – late afternoon	Club Tournament Finals – except Mixed Doubles
	Sunday, 13 th July (2pm)	American Tournament followed by Mixed Doubles Final
Aug	To be arranged	Junior Tournament
Sept	Tuesday, 2 nd September	Cancer Research Charity Tournament & Lunch
	Sunday, 28 th September	President's Plate Mixed Doubles Tournament

DOMESTIC CHORES!

I have got together a list of chores that need doing on a regular basis eg recycling, emptying bins, washing tea towels, shopping. (Just like at home!) It would be great if members could sign up (the list is on the notice board) for a chore to help spread the load and make the clubhouse a nicer place to be. Cheers,
Allison.

COURT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

As you will have read in Phil's Chairman's Chat in this newsletter I have been asked to chair a Court Development Group to consider the best ways in which we can maintain and develop our playing facilities.

This is really a sub-committee which has a mandate to make recommendations to the main committee and to the members in general. Our aim is to bring everyone up to date at the AGM.

I am ably assisted in this work by James Morrell, Tony Light, Gary Clare, Ruth Abrahams, Nick Frost, Andy Taylor, Phil Jones and Chris Arnold.

We obviously have to bear in mind the club's financial position in considering how best we should apply any money available to enhance and maintain the court surfaces, netting, flood lighting etc. Also, we will continue to seek outside funding and sponsorship where we can.

Courts 1 to 4 will need to be re-surfaced sometime in the next four years or so. This means that we will need to accumulate sufficient reserves but we hope that this will not stop us investing in other improvements in the meantime.

We are fortunate to have the use of courts 5 and 6 and we think it is worth spending some money on them even though they are actually owned by the Council. Initial thoughts include putting some additional line markings on these courts for junior play and possibly building a rebound wall. Some of you may remember when these two courts were the ones we played on before we purchased the field and built the four we have now.

We only started work as a committee in December but we are enthusiastic about helping the club to prosper. Certainly if you have any comments or ideas I, or any of my colleagues, will be pleased to hear from you.

Steve Wells

CLUBMARK

What is Clubmark?

Clubmark is a cross-sport quality accreditation for clubs. It is a national scheme that has been in place since 2002. As an accredited partner of Clubmark, the LTA has developed Tennis Clubmark which has been made tennis specific to ensure it is a relevant accreditation scheme for our sport.

By meeting the criteria set by the LTA in relation to the scheme, the club will become recognised as a safe, well managed and child-friendly club. One further benefit is that the club will be eligible to receive LTA funding.

What's involved?

The criteria cover things such as:

A club action plan, (how we develop the club)

Tennis programmes, (coaching activities and competitions)

Policies and procedures (Health & Safety, Child protection etc)

Club management (demonstrate how the club is managed).

We need to show that we have met specific criteria in all these areas.

So far we have sent people on various workshops, and we are now working through the necessary literature to develop the plans, and procedures which are required. Many thanks to all those who have been involved already especially Lucy, Chris Taylor, Ally Weir and Christine Vincent.

What difference will we see?

Everything will be included in the Clubmark folder which will be in the clubhouse. Some things (for example our Child Protection Policy) will also be on display in the clubhouse and the website.

What are the timescales?

We hope to achieve clubmark status in the next few months. Looking at the list of currently accredited clubs on the clubmark website (www.clubmark.org.uk) we should be among the first tennis clubs to achieve this accreditation!

CLUB TOURNAMENT 2008

(*it doesn't have to be us, if anyone else wants to organise the tournament, we will gladly hand it over.)

The club tournament is being co-ordinated by Phil Jones* and Allison Weir*. To enter, please sign up at the AGM or on the list on the notice board (or call us) by Sunday, April 13th. Weekday members, and juniors invited to play at senior club sessions are welcome to play in the tournament. The draw will be up by Sunday, April 20th.

The matches will be played during April - July at times convenient to those playing and there will be some system in place to book courts for matches. There will be the usual restrictions on booking courts (eg. outside coaching sessions, league matches etc). Please keep an eye on the noticeboard for Phil's timetable for matches not played by the deadline.

All players must be available for the finals, which will be played late afternoon on:

The Singles, Men's and Ladies' Doubles Finals - Saturday, July 12th

The Mixed Doubles Final - Sunday, July 13th

This year, again, the partners for the doubles competitions will be drawn randomly.

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

LOTTERY 2008/9

Recent winners of the lottery are:-

Nov 2007: Geoff Millar

Dec 2007: Jill Dearnaley

Jan 2008: Stephen Gill

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: Chris Vincent, or complete the form below.



THORNBURY LTC LOTTERY 2008/2009

NAME: NO. OF ENTRIES

(@ £12 each)

ADDRESS:

TEL:

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO
THORNBURY LTC

And send to:
Chris Vincent



We have had volunteers to take over the following vacant posts:- **Secretary** (Rosie Hutchinson), **Junior Co-ordinator** (Lucy Thomas). Also, Pete Rosser has said that he will stand again as **Mens Captain**. We also need general committee members.

If you have a proposal to put before the AGM please submit, in writing, to James Morrell by Wednesday, March 19th.

Nominations to be submitted to James Morrell by Wednesday, March 19th 2008.

I nominatefor the post of

Signed: (Proposer)

Signed: (Seconder)

Signed: (Nominee)