

Chairman's Chat

Since the last newsletter and the AGM in March all of the Club's courts, as well as the Clubhouse, have received a good 'spring-clean'. Our main courts 1-4 have been resurfaced – more on which in a minute! – and courts 5 and 6 have been re-fenced. The re-fencing was certainly overdue and I think you will all agree that they look much better for it. We have repositioned the gate to be close to the new practice wall, placed a root barrier at the back next to the field to try and prevent further tree damage and lowered the style access from our land to prevent vaulting injuries before you even get to the courts! Finally, the clubhouse received a new coat of paint in September thanks to those loyal members who participated in a Sunday morning working party.

Unfortunately our new surface on courts 1-4 is not as free-draining as we would like following a heavy shower. Although this was apparent just after the asphalt had been layed and then again when it was painted, the contractor advised that we should wait 3-4 months for the surface to 'cure' and oils in the bitumen to work their way through. Well, no real improvement is apparent, so we are now seeking the advice of the LTA's court expert who is coming to the Club next week. The next stage will depend on his opinion and how we decide to proceed in a planned meeting with the contractor.

As some of you will know, the Tennis Club was asked to help with stewarding duties for the Thornbury Carnival in July. We managed to get a full team of members together to police the Kington Lane entrance for the best part of 12 hours – a daunting job, I thought, but was pleasantly surprised (and relieved!) by the willingness and cooperation of so many of you. Anyhow, we have been much praised by the Carnival organiser, David Goldring, for our efforts and rewarded financially by a contribution of £250 to Club funds from Carnival profits. Thank you all again to those who volunteered.

One observation of mine since I took over as Chairman is how diverse a club we are in terms of playing times. We clearly have a very active 'retired' section of members who play during the week days – Tuesday and Friday mornings sound as if they are very well attended. Monday evenings are popular with league players (and a few others!), leaving the traditional club evenings of Tuesday and Thursday somewhat poorly attended now by previous standards. This is ironical given the heated debate about the Tuesday club-night format at the last AGM! Fortunately, Saturday afternoons still remain popular for general club play.

John Harbottle, November 2009

MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE

At the club session on Saturday, December 19th

EMPTY BALL CANS

A reminder to all members.

After play on Saturday and Tuesday club sessions, please will you **flatten** the ball cans before putting them in the recycling bin.

FLOODLIGHTS PAYMENT SYSTEM

Operating keys are on the wall to the right of the boxes. Before playing please write your name and playing time after in the book provided. The monies owing will be collected regularly by Steve Lewis.



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, Lucy Thomas.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Charity Number: CASC 03787

Thornbury LTC Committee			
John Harbottle	Chairman	JandSHarbottle@talktalk.net	01454 415385
Rosie Hutchinson	Secretary	hutchjohn@btinternet.com	01454 411908
Keith Spalding	Treasurer	keith.x.spalding@airbus.com	01454 850857
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Lucy Thomas	Child Protection Officer, Junior representative,	lucy.thomas@blueyonder.co.uk	01454 853167
Chris Arnold	Clubmark Rep	chris@carnold.fsnet.co.uk	01454 419398

Club Head Coach:- Chris Taylor email. ctaylor_tennis@yahoo.co.uk Mob: 07590024186
Club Coach:- Andy Taylor Mob: 07766402503

Adult Coaching Sessions Autumn 2009

Cardio Tennis - Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Tennis Drill Session - Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:30 pm

There is a notice on the coaching board regarding these two special sessions for those of you who want to improve your game & fitness levels with an element of fun involved. These will run over a number of weeks, starting as soon as numbers are sufficient. Please sign up or contact Chris or Andy on the numbers above for further information.

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-4:30pm	Juniors, early evening
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. Occasional Sundays. Check court booking system.

Note: Court booking system is available for all other times, except coaches allocated courts, see booking notice board opposite entrance.

JUNIOR TENNIS NEWS

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS

One of our young junior girls Hannah Thomas, 8, (daughter of Lucy and grand daughter of our Chairman John Harbottle) has enjoyed a successful summer holiday playing in mini-red tournaments in the area.

Competing in her age group (8 and under), Hannah started by winning the Cirencester Mixed Open and followed this with success in the finals of the Lansdown Bath Mixed Open and the Avon County Closed tournament for girls at Coombe Dingle, Bristol.

She was invited by Gloucestershire, Hereford and Worcester LTA to participate the Club Tour Finals at Oxtalls in Gloucester, where she was the winner.

Let's hope that this individual success will inspire our juniors and other young girls to join our club, who are badly needed.

Mike Boulton, Newsletter Editor

Check out the website www.thornburytennisclub.co.uk

for information on:

Tournaments

Events

Membership

Coaching

Avon League fixtures and results

Summer League 2009 – Ladies

Having lost several key players over the last 12 months, the Summer League was tough for the ladies this year. However we were pleased to welcome 5 new players into the summer league ranks:- Jenny Henderson, Dee Sullivan, Terry Young, Jane Hutchinson and Rae Bezuidenhout. The first team won only 3 matches in division 3B and finished 5th so they will join the second team in division 4 next season. The second team won 6 of their matches and finished a comfortable 3rd. The third team won only one match and finished bottom of division 6B, so are scheduled to play in the bottom division next summer.

Thanks again to all the ladies for their enthusiasm and support, and thanks in particular to Ruth Abrahams for running the first team.

The "Player Of The Season" trophy was awarded jointly to Liz Attwood and Rae Bezuidenhout for their loyalty (10 matches each) and their impressive success rate.

The 24 players were:- (no of matches in brackets)

1st team: Jane Clark (8), Carole Boulton (7), Jo Hargreaves (6), Lucy Thomas (5), Nicky Clark (4), Gill Hardy (4), Ali Millard (2), Liz Attwood (1), Rae Bezuidenhout (1), Elaine Arnold (1), Ruth Abrahams (1).

2nd team: Liz Attwood (9), Rae Bezuidenhout (9), Elaine Arnold (6), Ally Weir (4), Lucy Thomas (2), Jo Hargreaves (2), Chris Vincent (2), Ruth Abrahams (1), Rose Higgins (1), Ali Millard (1), Rosie Hutchinson (1), Carole Boulton (1), Sharon MacDonald (1).

3rd team: Jill Dearnaley (6), Chris Vincent (6), Clare Whitaker (6), Terry Young (5), Rosemary Millar (4), Allison Weir (2), Rose Higgins (2), Rosie Hutchinson (2), Elaine Arnold (1), Barbara Bax (1), Ali Millard (1), Sharon MacDonald (1), Jenny Henderson (1), Jane Hutchinson (1), Dee Sullivan (1).

Allison Weir, Ladies Captain, Oct 2009.

MENS MATCH REPORT, SUMMER 2009

In 2007 all three men's team were promoted. In 2008 the first, second and third teams came second in their respective divisions and our fourth team won theirs. Only our third team narrowly missed out on promotion due to there being only one team going up in division 8B. Following on from such heady success we entered the Summer 2009 season with thoughts of consolidation. In fact the first, third and fourth teams remained in their respective divisions by coming 4th, 4th and 3rd with only the 2nd team dropping out of division 5A. I was delighted we managed to keep three out of four teams up, well done and thanks to all players, in all the teams.

Again this year I was particularly pleased with the good team spirit throughout all four teams. Most players made a big effort with availability and I was frequently approached by team members I know wanted to play but were willing to stand down to give another player a chance. Quite apart from the overall level of enthusiasm, most weeks we were able to field four teams quite easily as we now have a larger pool of players to draw from, particularly important in covering those weeks when we get a few injuries or holidays. It is also encouraging to see some excellent juniors now coming into the mens teams and I look to them to make a growing contribution next season.

It is also worth noting that ever since a fair number of team players have kept going through the winter our performances in the summer leagues have improved.

Our target for 2010 is to keep all four men's team up in their divisions with one, maybe two promotions. We shall see. What does help is good preparation and consistency, so I call on all team players for 2010 to make a big effort to attend team practices as soon as they begin in March and keep all your Fridays available by not getting injured or taking any holidays until the middle of July. I know your families will understand!

A big thanks to Colin H. and Mike B. for helping organize the teams, a job requiring organisation, vision, tact, and several hundred phone calls! (Especially frantic phone call on a Friday afternoon. Ed.)

So lets look forward to an enjoyable season on our nice new tennis courts. See you all for match practices in March - bring your diaries!

Pete Rosser, Men's Captain Nov 2009.

WINTER TENNIS

With our floodlit, all weather courts, there is plenty of tennis played during the winter. All the club sessions run as in the summer and we have 3 (mixed) teams (1 Vets and 2 regular) in the Avon Winter League which runs from October to March. If you are not currently a member and are thinking about joining, the winter is a good time as you pay just 10% per month until renewals are due on April 1st. (So, if you join in January you pay 30% of the annual subscription.)

VETERANS TOURNAMENT, OCTOBER 2009

The Club played host to an open mixed doubles Veterans' tournament on Sunday, October 11th which attracted 16 top quality pairs from across the county and beyond.

It was played as a series of 'round robin' groups of four. The placings after the morning series of matches determined the positions for the afternoon session.

There were some hard fought matches played in great spirit. Some pairs were regular partners for their respective clubs, other pairings met for the first time on the day. The tournament referee (Matthew Stringer) collated the results and announced who had eventually won through to the grand final.

The final surpassed expectations. Close fought rallies, exquisite ball placement and sheer good tennis thrilled the watching crowd as the sun sank slowly over the distant treetops. The eventual winners were Adrian Somerfield and Mary Walkerdine (Knowle) who recovered from a match point down to beat John Anderson and Heather Forrest (Henleaze) in a closely fought tie break.

While Thornbury players failed to make an impact in the main final, they were represented in the 'also rans' final. Another closely fought set saw Mike Peatheyjohns (Thornbury) and Sarah Soames (Clifton) run out eventual winners against Tony Light (Thornbury) and Jenny Collins (Clifton) by six games to four.

A great day was had by all, the buffet lunch was enjoyed in the clubhouse with the table tennis table doubling as an impromptu dining table. Prizes were awarded by Chairman John Harbottle.

Special thanks are due to my colleagues on the organising committee- Ally Weir, Phil Jones, Ruth Abrahams and Matt Stringer and to all those volunteers who helped on the day and provided the excellent refreshments.

An overall profit of £130 was achieved for the club and we hope to make this an annual event.

For more photos of the event and other information please visit our website at www.thornburytennisclub.co.uk.

Steve Wells (tournament organiser)

Club Tournament 2009

Winners:

Mark Taylor

Ruth Abrahams

Colin Horler & Ian Barnett

Allison Weir & Elaine Arnold

Lucy Thomas & Chris Beddoes

Nick Frost & Liz Attwood won the President's Plate

Runners Up:

Colin Horler

Elaine Arnold

Gary Clare & Phil Jones

Carole Boulton & Gill Hardy

Carole Boulton & Gary Clare

THE SINGLES LADDER IS BACK!

It's all very well playing doubles, but the real test of a tennis player is whether (s)he can hack it when the chips are down, one to one, with no one else but you and your opponent!

So, no blaming your lousy partner, no excuses, just raw sweat and 'bottle'!

We are looking for a minimum of 12 players to get it started - no maximum limit.

During the winter, we'll use a LADDER system. You can challenge someone up to three places above you. If you win, you move to their spot and the others in between move down. The match will be one set with a tiebreak at six all. This is the 'default'. If both of you agree in advance to play a longer match, then that is fine, but you can always insist on the default. All that is required is a winner and a loser. Full rules will be displayed by the ladder.

From March 1st, we'll use the finishing positions on the ladder to put players into league 'boxes'. There will be between four and six players per box with plenty of time allowed to get the matches played. During the 'box period', you will need to arrange to play everyone else within your box. The format for the box matches will be two sets. (Details for the boxes will be displayed when we 'cut over'). Once next Autumn comes around again, we'll probably swap back to using the ladder perhaps after a short break over the summer.

If you want to be included then all you have to do is get your name down on the sheet at the clubhouse, or let Phil or James know by phone or email. Please indicate your preferred starting position ('TOP' 'MIDDLE' or 'BOTTOM') and we shall try to oblige.

All senior club members are welcome together with those juniors eligible to play at club sessions.

The LADDER will begin once we have 12 people.

For further details, or if you have any comments or suggestions, please contact either:

**James Lewis or
Phil Jones (pjones@homecall.co.uk tel: 415894)**

Septuagenarians' Success

Maybe our ladies' teams did not do so well this summer, but Thornbury Ladies do have something to be particularly proud of. Half of this year's Avon Over 70's Ladies County squad are Thornbury players; Pauline Barnett, Christine Vincent, Jill Dearnaley and Mollie Hampson. Avon have won their first two matches (against Somerset and South Wales) with Christine playing both matches and the other three one each. So, not only are our septuagenarians competing, they are winning too!

Allison Weir, October 2009.

Stan Duckworth

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death this week of Stan Duckworth, one of the founder members of Thornbury Tennis Club. Some of our present members will remember Stan as a stalwart league and club player who used his height and reach to good advantage from both the baseline and at the net. Unfortunately Stan had to retire from active play many years ago due to ill health. The Club's sympathy goes out to Stan's wife Nancy and to his family at this time.

John Harbottle, Chairman

LOTTERY 2009/10

Are you missing out on the Thornbury LTC Lottery?
Each month half of the proceeds go 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:

Carole Boulton (Tel: 01454 416416) or complete the form below.



THORNBURY LTC LOTTERY 2009/2010

NAME: _____ NO. OF ENTRIES (@ £12 each) ____

ADDRESS: _____ TEL: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THORNBURY LTC

SEND TO: *Carole Boulton*

67 Swallow Park, Thornbury, BS35 1LT