



East Dorset Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

Net-News

Edition No. 3 April 2009

DATES for the DIARY

⊙ = centenary events

31st March

Mens Match practice starts – by invitation

2nd April

Ladies Match practice starts – by invitation

4th April

Waitrose Cheese and Wine - ⊙

10th May

Club Open Day

16th May

Barn Dance - ⊙

20th June

Pimms and Play – Tennis/Croquet - ⊙

5th July

Mens Finals at Wimbledon – Lunch Special

18th July

Trip to LTA HQ at Roehampton - ⊙

31st July

Annual Golf Day @ Parkstone Golf course

8th August

Exhibition and Clinic – Peter Fleming and Chris Wilkinson - ⊙

27th August

Boat Trip and Fireworks - ⊙

Café 8

Fab home cooked food available

Tuesdays 10am – 4pm

Friday 9am – 8pm

Saturday 9am – 5pm

Also keep an eye on the notice board for special events.

Welcome

Here we go again! Hard to believe but we are well into the spring and the new tennis season is just round the corner. Whatever happened to all those plans we had after Xmas to get fit ready for the summer? Well, now is the time – and all you need is a little focus and motivation.

If you haven't been to the club recently it looks great, with several new changes and additions. Adam has done a fantastic job as usual getting the lawns ready (for both croquet and tennis) and our horticulturists have ordered the daffodils to flower.

Let's hope the summer is better than last years as the club is facing its busiest year ever. 2009 is centenary year and we have loads of social events planned for the coming months. It would be great to see you all at the club - come and join us.

Enjoy your tennis!

NEW CLUB WEBSITE

We're delighted to announce that the brand new club website is now 'live'

www.edtcc.com

Check it out for lots more information on what's happening at the club.

A big thanks to the website team: Debbie & Howard Ricketts, Barrie Turner and Ian Sampson for all their efforts.

Club Grounds

Clive and his green fingered team are planning another season of planting around the grounds. There is a small budget for it but donations would be gratefully received. To begin with they are focussing on the bank and boundary between the club and school, and the area is to be cleaned and cleared to allow for planting of shrubs and bushes to create a wildlife haven and improve the area to make it more attractive. Also once the weather is OK the hanging baskets, which looked a picture last year, will be returned. If anyone has any unwanted shrubs, Clive can find a home!

Shed news !

The shed by court 1 has definitely seen better days and is looking very tatty with bits falling off it on an almost daily basis - so it has to go. The good news is it is to be replaced with a new one, which along with the new path down the front of the Astro Courts should really improve this area of the club. The Committee is also considering some new bike racks for the super fit members amongst us.

Lawn-Mania !

Adam has been working hard on the Croquet lawns ready for the start of the Croquet season and they look great. He informs us the mild although damp winter has done wonders for the tennis lawns. They are in good condition and have grown well, with no bare patches. As long as we have a reasonably mild spring the grass courts should be ready for some early use as they have not been affected by the frost. Adam has also carried out verti draining approx 12ins which should help with moisture control, turf texture and feeding.

Token Charging

From April 1st there will be a charge of £1 per token for all the floodlights. Tokens will last for 35 minutes on all courts, and a warning light will illuminate at the end of the court when there are 5 minutes left. **Please note the lamps take 15-20 minutes to come back on if they switch off.** Tokens will be available from a token-dispensing machine to be installed shortly in the foyer of the clubhouse.

For official club sessions (club days, match practice nights etc) participants will be expected to contribute towards the cost. For example, a signing-in procedure will be implemented from Oct 1st for club day sessions, with members paying £1 on arrival.

As with all new procedures, we will monitor its effectiveness and make changes to improve the procedure as necessary.



Centenary Draw Tickets

Draw tickets are now available. The Draw will take place at the Dinner Dance in October. Please ask behind the Bar for tickets and help to sell as many as you can.

**Advanced
warning of
polling day
at the club**

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4TH JUNE

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to a bumper edition of Net-News. As I write this the sun is shining and the temperature a balmy 12 degrees - it looks as though summer is on its way! And what a summer it promises to be. As I hope you all know, this year is the club's centenary and there is a whole host of exciting events planned to help celebrate this momentous occasion. Some of these have happened already, with the Tea Party in February to mark the actual date the club was formed, but there are many more to come in the next few months. Please see details of various events featured in this newsletter and in the centenary calendar at the club.

Over the winter new floodlights have been installed on courts 5, 6 and 7, which now offer members even more opportunity to play all-year-round tennis. In addition, the path alongside the Astro courts and the Hard courts has been re-done. The tennis committee has made the decision to implement a charge for floodlight tokens from April 1st, which will help to offset some of the increasing electricity charges and will begin to pay into the sinking fund required to replace the lights. It is acknowledged that the introduction of a charge is not to everyone's liking, but the economic reality of the world today and conditions imposed on us by the LTA make it a necessity. Members will have the opportunity to contribute towards a full discussion on the issue at our AGM in November.

A survey was conducted over the winter with a questionnaire asking for member's feedback on the club - thank you to those that replied. There were many interesting comments made, particularly with regard to the grass courts, and I believe the time has come to re-open the debate about replacing some or all of our grass courts. This debate has to involve every member so please give the matter some thought and there will be plenty of opportunity to have your say over the coming months.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the courts.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Christine Clode Bridge Drive

Many congratulations to Beryl Saunders who scooped the Christine Clode Cup at the recent Bridge Drive. £80 was donated to Lewis Manning.

The club we all take pleasure from can only exist and operate due to its members who help run it voluntarily. We do not have paid members of staff except Adam our groundsman. That is one reason why we are able to keep the annual subs at a competitive price for everyone's benefit. The Tennis Committee would like to sincerely thank all those members who help in the running of the club in all its aspects - however large or small that contribution may be.

If you feel able to make a contribution we really need your support. The more of us who get involved the more can be shared around to make life a little easier. If you can help please contact a member of the tennis committee. Some of the areas where we need some help are:

**Junior
Section
Rep**

**Open
Day
Helpers**

**Club Day
Co-
ordinators**

**PR and
Publicity**

Please email: tennis@edltcc.com or speak to a committee member if you can help

MAX Tennis School UPDATE

The Spring adult and junior coaching programme will restart week of 20th April for 8 & 10 weeks. There is already early interest so get your name down ASAP via Brian McFadden 07930 454764 or visit www.edltcc.com

Easter Camps will run from April 6th -10th & 14th - 17th.

A new MINI RED Academy, run by Sam, will hopefully be established shortly. He has 14 players to ID but already there are some players who reach the standard.

Sam and Brian have attended a total of 3 coach/education sessions with LTA reps. James Deem will be attending the club shortly to give a talk to parents on tournaments.

THE TENNIS SECTION NEEDS TO FIND A JUNIOR OFFICER who can represent the junior section. We are very aware that not having a rep from the junior section is an important issue that needs addressing. The junior section needs a voice to shape the future of the club because our juniors are the future. If you are willing to help or know someone else who might be interested please contact us.



Up and Coming ...

Exhibition Match and Clinic - Peter Fleming and Chris Wilkinson

The highlight for the tennis section's centenary activities will be the exhibition match and clinic conducted by Peter Fleming and Chris Wilkinson. This will be held on Saturday August 8th, and will include a full day of activities plus a BBQ and Rum Bar in the evening. Entry tickets will go on sale shortly for the event, which will be open to the general public as well as members. Clinic tickets will also go on sale. If anyone is interested in joining the project team to organise this event please contact Simon Harrison.

Visit to Roehampton

As part of our centenary celebrations we have been invited to visit the LTA's HQ at Roehampton, to have a look around, meet the LTA Chairman and then after lunch, play some tennis. There are 30 places available with a list on the noticeboard in the clubhouse - please sign up quickly if you are interested. The visit, on Saturday July 18th, is free of charge but the club has organised a coach to take people up to Roehampton and back again and there will be a charge of under £20 per person to cover this. There are 6 junior places available (Brian will also be in attendance).

Social events at the club

On 4th April, Waitrose are putting on a Wine and Cheese Evening - tickets are on sale but be quick! Café 8 are hosting an Easter Sunday Lunch (book ASAP). The next competitive night will be on the 25th April with a Darts Night & supper. May 16th sees the Centenary Barn Dance and a Team Quiz Night follows on the 30th May. With loads more events planned for the summer please watch the notice boards and our new website for details. For any social queries please contact our regular socialite Maggie Richardson.

The Club was very sad to hear of the death of a long established member - Dudley Woodall. A chair has been placed by court 5 in his memory. Spend a moment there and think of him - he would like that.

CLUB-DAY PROCEDURE – A Summary

Club Day is a vital ingredient in the success of East Dorset, giving all members an opportunity to mix in and play on a social level. This is how many members have integrated themselves into the club and made new friends. It can be a little daunting as a new member to fit into club day and that's why we have a structure to make it fair for all.

As a reminder to everyone, below is a summary of the procedure for Club Day – please ensure you stick to it to ensure Club Day retains its appeal.

- All full adult Tennis Members are entitled to play in senior Club-Day sessions. Improvers and those with ratings of 10.1 and 10.2 are entitled to play in certain sessions, such as Rusty Racquets. Improvers are not entitled to play in senior Club-Day sessions. Juniors have their own Club-Day sessions.
- **The Rota-Board system provides a simple means of ensuring Club-Day runs smoothly and fairly. It should be used whenever there are more than four members waiting for a court.**
- Each Full Tennis member will be provided with a Club-Day name-tag by the Membership Secretary on request. Men's are coloured red, ladies' blue. When not in use the member should retain these tags. Replacements will be available for a nominal charge for materials.
- On arrival you should place your tag in the Rota-Board, above others on the left-hand side (under Perspex). The owner of the tag at the bottom of this stack is responsible for selecting a suitable four for the next available court. **The selection may be made from the eight names above this tag (i.e. from the nine tags including that of the Member making the selection).**
- The selection will normally be for a Men's, Ladies' or Mixed Doubles set. An alternative mix may be made if suitable names are not available or if the balance of the four is better than others available.
- Recent arrivals have no priority over those who have already played and are waiting.
- Where possible, the four-selection should be made before the court is available to minimise delay between sets. **The member making the selection is responsible for arranging the pairings and should offer four balls of an acceptable standard for play.** You should also be able to decide on partners, ends and service before going on court. We recommend that you take your name-tag with you on-court rather than leave it in the Rota-Board (right-hand side), as you are less likely to forget it when you leave.
- **On completion of a short set (first to six games wins the set), shake hands with opponents and partner, notify those waiting and vacate the court as soon as possible.**
- Return the tags to the Rota-Board, winners first and ladies below men. The first to return to the board should re-enter the tags (if available) of all those of the four planning to continue.
- If you leave the court area for any reason, inform the owner of the bottom tag if you are to remain available for the next four. If not, remove your tag and take it with you. On return, place your tag at the top of the left hand stack of tags.
- The tag of an absent member reaching the bottom of the stack may be removed and should only be returned to the top when the owner returns.
- **Do not allow visitors and new members to reach the bottom (selection) position, as they will be uncertain of procedures and unfamiliar with players' standards. Please select these before they reach the bottom of the list.**
- Don't forget to take your tag home with you! Finding it amongst many others is often difficult and it is more likely to be lost. The last players to leave should tidy away club-day materials and close all doors to huts etc.
- Where possible, avoid using floodlit courts 1 and 2, to minimise wear on these courts.
- If free balls are provided, ensure that they are returned after the final set on a court.
- The first set to use a court should check the net height using the stick measures provided. Use the winder to adjust the tension and the centre tie to adjust the height. You may need to use an alternative hole in the centre tie to achieve a suitable tension.
- Do not venture onto another court in use without the permission of those playing there.

Club Centenary History

The club is trying to pull together an historical account of events that have occurred over the many years of our existence. We are endeavouring to eventually make this available on our new web site so watch this space. However we couldn't resist giving you a taster, especially given the antics of our horse!

1909

8th February - Club formed and ground rented from Wimborne Estate. First Committee of 9, held at Church House, Parkstone included Rob Llewellyn (Upton house) and R M Manser (Solicitor). A deed of trust was signed on 30th April. Club colours were chosen – Dorset Green with club initials in white.

1911

A stable for the Club horse was erected. Hoof muffs were fitted on the horse when pulling cutters or rollers. Croquet tournaments commenced.

1914

60 members lost in the war. Most tournaments were cancelled during the war but 4 tennis and 2 croquet courts were kept going.

1930

Rev Heber-Percy presented a Shield for a mixed doubles tennis tournament.

1938

An air-raid shelter was built on the ground for public use; now part of Worthington Crescent.

1943

A full-time grounds man was employed at £5 per week.

1959

50th Anniversary – May 9th – Mayor and Mayoress of Poole joined members for tea. Ground known as the 'railway plot' was reacquired for £190 proposed use for tennis courts.

1967

200 tennis members – entry now dependent on vacancies.

1971

2 new hard courts built @ £5230 paid by LTA loan of £1400, education grant of £2300 and Club funds as Bonds. Bob Carder and Les Butler enclosed the pavilion verandah with other volunteers costing £230.

1987

4 tennis members played continuously for 92½ hours in an attempt to beat the world record of 96½ and to raise money for Cancer Research.

1989

A further attempt succeeded with 126 hours 16 minutes of continuous play. This record still stands.

2004

Petanque court installed to competition standard in memory of croquet member.

2006

New sign with the Club logo in blue and white.

2009

Bar Refurbished

Path resurfaced to top tennis courts

3 more tennis courts floodlit

Total club membership over 700.

To be continued ...

Membership Tags

PLEASE DON'T BE OFFENDED

It seems some people are using our tennis facilities without being a member or paying a green fee (£5) and signing in the visitor's book in the lobby. Hence the reason for introducing the shoe tags last year.

To help us manage this process please ensure you are wearing your shoe tag or have your membership card available. To protect the interests of all our members a more robust approach is being adopted.

If you are challenged then please do not be offended.

We all have a responsibility so if you see someone you don't recognise then please speak with him or her in a friendly manner to ascertain the circumstances and if necessary report it to the tennis committee so it can be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

WINTER TEAMS UPDATE

Big congratulations to our star Junior Orange Team who are unbeaten including a 22 to 3 sets win vs West Hants. The Mens 1st team have won 6 out of 7 matches and should be promoted to Division 1 and the 2nd Team should remain in Division 4. The Womens teams should remain as they are. The Mixed team will hopefully be promoted.

Court News

Condition of our courts

The condition, life and wear and tear on our courts is often a topic of conversation of members waiting to play or at the bar. So we're pleased to provide a little context to the debate. And perhaps more importantly we all need to accept the reality of the issue to change our playing habits and routines.

When the Astro courts were first done they had a playing surface of 15mm. Over the years the usage on each court has varied and as you would expect courts 1, 2, and 3 have had the most. The playing surface for Court 1 is now at 6mm with the others varying between 7mm and 10mm. Although this is not a major concern yet it does require significant consideration over the coming years. It is incumbent upon everyone to take responsibility so we can try and extend the life of the courts but especially Court 1. Therefore please do not play on Court 1 unless it is the only court remaining. On Club days, match practice sessions etc play should commence from Court 6. In addition all matches should now be played on courts 4, 5 and 6.

We do have a maintenance programme in place but we can all assist this process by wearing the correct footwear and ensuring that mud is not trailed onto the courts. If you require further advice please contact the tennis committee.



Hard Court Cleaning

The hard courts have recently been professionally treated and clean, and they are now much less greasy and slippery. The next stage is for them to be re-painted and lined, and this has been scheduled for week commencing May 25th.



SUNDAYS AT THE CLUB

The tennis committee is looking to set aside a number of courts and introduce another formal club day session to run throughout the summer on Sunday afternoons. This would take place every Sunday except the last in each month when the AMERICAN TENNIS TOURNAMENT will run. It's a really good opportunity to play some extra fun social tennis during the summer months.

Centenary Year ... So Far

The Centenary Bridge Drive was held in January and was the first of many centenary celebrations. The partition was opened to make room for the twenty tables and eighty players, and a team of bridge committee members arrived early to decorate the rooms with streamers, balloons and centenary banners. It was decided to do something different for this bridge drive and we had a 'spot the price' theme, which meant players stopped for a few moments while they used the centenary date of 08.2.1909 in various ways to distribute small prizes. It was good fun and many players said how enjoyable it had been. We had two lady contenders for the birth date nearest to 1909 so both won prizes for not being shy to admit to it. Cafe 8 did the catering and we enjoyed sandwiches and savouries, as well as delicious cake decorated with 100 candles. Everyone had a great time and the first centenary event was a special celebration with the "WOW" factor.
(provided by Sonia – thank you).

The Centenary Tea was held on Sunday 8th Feb, to celebrate the official opening of the club 100yrs ago. The club invited the Major of Poole and representatives of the LTA & CA to Afternoon Tea with invited club members, past and present. There was a fantastic spread provided by Café 8 that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The new Club flag was hoisted and photos will be available on the centenary noticeboard and on the website shortly.

Social Events ... So Far

Café 8 has become an established and very welcome part of the club. In fact, one could go as far as to say an essential part to those who regularly enjoy wonderful lunches on Tuesday, Friday and Saturdays. With the help of Café 8 the club is putting on a few more social events for all members and their friends to enjoy.

So far this year we have had a Sunday Lunch, which sold out almost as soon as it was announced. Then, in February, a team led by Jilly Thatcher won the Skittles Night (their accuracy in knocking down the pins was not hampered by the numerous bottles of wine consumed!!) Thanks to Café 8 for the generous donation of prizes. Members who attended the "Fashion Extravaganza" in March benefited from being able to buy designer labels at much reduced prizes and then we had Mothers Day Lunch on the 22nd March and the Intersection Bridge Competition on the 24th March. If you are a closet bridge player the tennis section needs you!

CROQUET FOR TENNIS MEMBERS

The Croquet Section is introducing the opportunity for Tennis Members to play croquet on 6 Saturday mornings throughout the summer. The emphasis is on playing croquet for fun. Our joint Tennis/Croquet members who appreciate both games will run it. Dates TBA but please express your interest to Pat Oxley

Your Tennis Committee Members:

Simon Harrison, Jane Brookfield, Maggie Lock, Ken Percy, Colin Patterson, Judith Spark, Maggie Richardson, Clive Richardson, Steve Morris, Julia Dustin, Brian McFadden

Your feedback on any aspect of the club is appreciated. Please contact Judith at email:
patandjudith@hotmail.co.uk