

Tennis Newsletter



March 2017

Hi Everyone -

A warm welcome to the new season, especially to the new members who joined us last year - I hope you are getting into the swing of things - no pun intended!

You will have noticed, if you've been playing over the winter that we have replaced the astro turf on the all weather courts and after a few months play they are now settling down to provide a good playing surface. If any dead spots persist we have spoken to our contractor Fosse, who will come back to undertake any recurring remedial work. Next on the list is the repainting of our hardcourts, All in all I think we have the best playing facilities of any of



the clubs we play against- but lets keep them that way. On this point it is important that the astro turf courts are not played on when it is frosty or when there is standing water present - and make sure that you wipe your feet on the new matt that runs at the back of the courts to the gate. Finally don't forget to wear the correct footwear, which must be flat soled tennis trainers.

Last year we saw an increase in membership - no doubt helped by our new member offer, following a decline in the previous 3 seasons - a fact sadly too common amongst other tennis and other sports clubs. It would however be good to see our existing members support tournament, social slots and social functions a little more as these are essential ways to bring new members into the Club and a great way for existing members to meet. We always welcome new ideas to help us grow and if you do feel you have something to offer and can make a difference - give me a shout.

Turning to more positive matters and the growth of the Club, you will know if you have been a member for a while, that we have seen a transformation of our facilities (for all sports) since the late 1980's. This has included a new and subsequently expanded and improved Clubhouse, new artificial grass courts and floodlighting of all six tennis courts. We don't intend however to stand still and a Development sub-group of the Club Executive is now looking a further ways to improve our facilities. As a starting point we are looking to put together a Business Plan that Gill will lead on with input from the rest of the Committee and other members including Deana. We are intending that this plan will provide the basis for funding applications so if anyone has experience of securing funding and dealing with grants - and willing to help, then let us know.

Finally I'd like to thank my fellow members of the Executive Committee for all their support over the last year, to the captains, who do such a stirring job, all our volunteers who help in running the Club, from organising club leagues and ladders, groundworks, locking up and switching the floodlights on. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Paul Jepson who has established a comprehensive coaching offer, is a great Club member as well as a budding golfer.

Alan Millington

League Tennis

Last season was a solid one with the highlight for the Club being the ladies A team's success in yet again winning the Manchester League 1st division. Our Oldham A team also gained promotion back to the 1st division and we had success with the Autumn mixed A team winning the first division. The Mens B team also performed well, finishing second in the second division although the ladies B team were relegated from the Manchester League 1st division.

Regarding match nights - following the changes last year when it was agreed Manchester League matches would be played on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Oldham League games on Monday and Tuesday, it was agreed at the AGM's of both Leagues that this format would be retained. This means that the Oldham League teams will play their home games on Monday night, with home nights for the Ladies A and C teams being on Wednesday, Mens A and Ladies B on Thursday and Mens B and C on Friday evenings. If captains need help with the online booking system when re-arranging matches please speak to Paul Jepson or Keith Garton

CAPTAINS for the season

Mens 1st team - Chris Lord
Mens 2nd team - Simon Boyle
Mens 3rd team - Phil Handley
Ladies 1st team - Sue Marcroft
Ladies 2nd team - Christine Fitzmaurice
Ladies 3rd team - Pat Steele (deputy Shannon Bambrick)
Oldham League A - Helen Lord
Oldham League B - Mike Tasker
Under 14s - Dom Hunt
Under 17s - Joanne O'Hanlon
Mixed Autumn League
A team - Sue Marcroft
B team - Deana Kaye
C team - Keith Garton

PRESTWICH CRICKET TENNIS & BOWLING CLUB

COACHING UPDATE from PAUL JEPSON



Hi, can I take this opportunity to wish everyone all the best for the upcoming season and I look forward to seeing everyone over the spring/summer months. The winter has been a busy one with the continuation of the Junior and Adult Coaching Program. Can I thank all those juniors, parents and adult members who have braved the winter weather and attended the coaching sessions during this period. This winter we saw an actual growth in total junior attendees, so hopefully

this will continue into the more traditional tennis season when we will see lots of sunshine! (I hope).

The coaching program will continue to run throughout spring/summer with the Wednesday evening and Saturday morning junior sessions running as normal. The adult tactical class will continue to run on a Wednesday evening 7-8pm.

I will also be running a beginners/rusty rackets course towards the end of May, so please do let me know if you are aware of any 'newbies' interested in starting up tennis. We will be running two Great British Tennis weekends this year and hopefully be linking this to some promotional events at the local supermarket sites.

There will be several new initiatives this year all with the aim of increasing participation in the sport at our club. I will be looking to run a weekly new improvers session as a follow on to the success of last year's ladies only Tennis Tuesdays program. I will also be running a Schools Roadshow, engaging with the local primary schools and running a schools tennis festival at the club. Finally I will also be looking to expand daytime coaching offers looking to engage local groups for cardio tennis sessions and a Senior Citizens soft ball coffee morning. If you can help in the launch in any of these initiatives then please do let me know.

Once again the LTA have selected our venue to run several 'Tennis for Kids' courses offering free coaching and rackets to children aged 8 & under. This will hopefully establish an additional evening of junior coaching at the club.

Can I take this opportunity to thank Anna Oliver for her contribution to the coaching program at the club. After several years of supporting me to grow the tennis program, Anna has successfully been accepted to start a career as an Air Hostess. I wish her all the best and cannot thank her enough for all her efforts. I know she will be missed by all the players and parents and if you never know, she maybe treating you to some duty free on your next trip abroad.

As always I am available for Individual, group and squad coaching. To book a session or if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Email- pb365@outlook.com Tel- 07841605244

Forthcoming dates for your diary

Sunday April 9th @ 1pm - Club Sunday lunch. These are great value at £15 for a 4 course lunch and ideal after a morning's tennis. For those of you who have not attended before please contact Brian Lorenzini direct on brian@prestwichsport.com

Friday April 7th - Race Night from 7.30pm

Good Friday Ramble - Approx start 10am from Club

Fees

Last year we introduced as a trial a new member offer. This offer proved to be popular, particularly the full year option and it was agreed at the AGM that we should continue with a simplified version offering full year membership for £65. This offers great value for money so if you know anyone who is interested in taking up or returning to tennis, then please bring them down.

Fees are due on 1st April and any not paid by 31st May will, as last year be subject to a late payment fee of £10

Fees for the forthcoming year will be:

- Full / Tennis Adult- £135
- Full Junior - £44
- 25 & under - £35
- Junior U18 - £28
- Junior U13 - £20

Please also note that any adult paying a full membership can join up an U18 for free.

In order to assist members to pay their fees, we will be offering a couple of new ways to pay in addition to the existing methods of cash, cheque or debit card at the bar.

The first way is by BACS. This can only be used to pay fees in full and if you want to take advantage of this method, the Club account for tennis fees is short code: 205458 and account number 40653489 Please reference your payment with your name.

We are also offering payment by Standing Order so that you can spread the cost of your fees over the year. If you want to take up this option please complete a Standing Order form and return it to your bank. To cover the additional admin fee the cost will be £12 per month (£144 pa).

With all forms of payment **you must complete a renewal form** - as this ensures that we have a record of your renewal (a copy is attached to this letter). and should be returned to Gill Boyle on the address listed at 16 The Coppice, Prestwich M25 1ED or by e-mail to gill@the-coppice.co.uk

If you have changed your e-mail, home address or phone number, then please let our membership secretary, Gill Boyle know and if anyone is having difficulty paying fees then you should contact Chairman Alan Millington at the beginning of the season.

PRESTWICH CRICKET TENNIS & BOWLING CLUB

BRITISH TENNIS



British Tennis is on the up with the fantastic Andy Murray leading the way but now supported by a raft of great talent - with Johanna Konta breaking into the top ten and Andy now supported by Dan Evans, Kyle Edmund and Aliaj Bedene in singles and Jamie Murray and Dom Inglot in doubles. If you get the chance there are some great chances to catch top class tennis in this Country with ATP and WTA events at Nottingham, Birmingham and Eastbourne, as well as Queens and of course Wimbledon during June and July

By being a member of British Tennis, you can often get offers on tickets for major tournaments as well as Davis Cup matches so as well as being essential if you want to give a chance of Wimbledon tickets. If you are not already a BTM then just go the LTA website and sign up - not forgetting to state 'Prestwich' as the Club you are linked to.

Social Tennis

Social tennis slots (Saturday 1.30-5pm and Sunday 2-5pm) and Tuesday evening (summer) and Thursday (winter) 6-10pm are an essential aspect of



the Club and an excellent way of keeping in touch with friends and fellow members, integrating new members, improving your own match play and having fun. If you'd like to come

along to the social slots or already do but would attend more if you could be sure there are other people to play with then join up to the 'Social tennis' Whats App group that has been set up by Keith Garton. Members are already using this and it is proving to be working well. If you are interested in joining you should speak to Keith on 07921004383 about joining. Please also note the last Thursday social session is on 13th April and the first Tuesday on 17th.

300 Club

The 300 Club was originally introduced when the Club was extended and our hardcourts laid. Many of you will still be members but as people have left or sadly died, we are keen to attract new members, particularly in the light of our ongoing development plans. If you are not already a member then it would be great to have you on board. The cost is only £4 per month and there are 3 cash prizes every month of £200 and £100. An application form is attached.

TOURNAMENT DATES

In addition to an itinerary of Club tournaments we will be hosting some external tournaments this year including the Manchester League mens and ladies doubles tournaments

Tournaments agreed so far are:

American tournament on the May day Bank holiday at 1pm.

Manchester League ladies doubles - Wednesday 12th July @ 6.30pm

A further-mail will be give of all other Club tournaments and League or LTA competitions that will be held at the Club. Also keep a watch on the notice board in the Swallow Lodge, which will also provide for details of tournaments at other clubs and venues.

Wimbledon tickets

The LTA are continuing with the system introduced last year, despite misgivings from many northern based clubs who correctly noted that they would receive fewer tickets. To be eligible for Wimbledon tickets in our ballot you will need to have opted in to the ballot (on the LTA website). Unfortunately the date for opting in has now passed but it is important to do it for next year. Everyone opting in to the ballot will be placed in the Club ballot and those attending the AGM or volunteering in some way will have additional place in the ballot that will be held on 17th April at 8.45pm

Don't Forget- Club security

Could everyone please make sure you shut the gate from Heys Road on your way out. If someone is still playing check they have a key to lock up, if not, they will have to come off court if there is no-one else around.

Groundworks - Saturday 1st April 10am - 1pm

Help make our facilities look pristine for the start of the season. There are a few jobs to get on with so please spare an hour or so if possible. If you can't turn up on the day then speak to Alan, Keith or John Bentley, who will be able to advise on jobs you could do at other times.

Recycle your old tennis Balls

If anyone has old tennis balls at home or in their tennis bags then don't throw them away - we can re-cycle them and receive money back for the Club. For every 200 old balls we collect, Recycaball will pay £20 into Club funds and we have already received our first cheque. There are two plastic blue containers in the Swallow Lodge where you can deposit your balls.

