

# HUNGERFORD CLUB NEWSLETTER

*October 2021*



## Welcome

A warm welcome, once again, to the monthly newsletter of The Hungerford Club.

Both the bowls and tennis sections have completed their league fixtures but that doesn't mean the end to play for this year. The bowls section have indoor bowl fixtures while the tennis section are looking for players to form teams in the new Newbury and District Lawn Tennis Association (NDLTA) winter leagues.

You may have noticed that regularly there is food served in the club. Sandwiches are available most days. Also keep an eye on the noticeboard by the bar. You can put your name down for a Friday evening meal or Sunday lunch!!

## Some dates for your diary

15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Bowls section - Skittles at the British Legion, Hungerford

29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – Bowls section – Dinner dance and Prize Giving at the British Legion, Hungerford

11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – Bowls section AGM, Snooker Room, Hungerford Club starting at 7:30pm

Details are in the section reports.

We keep a list of forthcoming events on the website at <https://www.hungerford-club.co.uk/>



## Indoor Sports

### Darts

We are looking to form teams for the Winter Season. If you are interested speak to The Steward (Debbie) or her other half, Gary.

### Snooker

That well known snooker competition, Spoons, started on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September. It's not too late to join. Singles or pairs, depends on numbers, play against the clock to win ... a Spoon!

### Cribbage

The Thatcham and District Cribbage League starts this winter in October. You will need a minimum of four players as the evening consists of singles and doubles games. Team and individual trophies and shields are presented at the end of the season in April. Further details from Colin Currill 07887 503603.

### Poker

There is a regular poker game on Mondays.

### Table Bowls

The Club has the tables, the Bowls and the players for a league, are you ready to form a team. Two's or four's. Talk to Brona Brown or Chris Ticehurst.

### Dominos

Yes, good old Dom's can still be played down the Club. We always have a set behind the Bar - just ask Debbie.

## Bowls Section Report – October Newsletter

As I wrote my last report we were about to embark on our Bowls Tour to Weston Super Mare. This is a joint venture with Newbury BC. As had been our previous tour in 2019 it was a great success. We played 4 matches at Winscombe BC, Clarence Park BC, Ashcombe Park BC and Bath BC on the way home. We won two matches and lost two. The weather was kind to us and a very enjoyable time was had by all. Our members are very keen to have another tour next year and we are looking into different locations.

On Monday 6th September we had a visiting team from Worthing Pavilion BC who were touring in this area. Gary provided us with an excellent buffet lunch for our 40 guests before the match. The weather was again kind to us and Hungerford won the match 100 shots to 87. We were able to sit outside the Club after the match for drinks and nibbles as by then with the Hungerford players our numbers had grown to around 60.

Our Finals Days were again blessed with fine weather. Congratulations to all our winners.

The Fixture at Andover BC went very well, but the Green proved very difficult and made us appreciate our own Green even more. We lost this game narrowly by only 6 shots but our Captain for the day – Alan Bartter claimed that as a great number of our players had been for their Flu jab the day before this was definitely worth 6 shots which made it a draw.

Our next fixture was against a team made up of players from all over Berkshire. They are called Berkshire VP's and are members who are chosen because of the considerable work they have done for their own Club. This is the only fixture they have been able to play this season – and only because they are all so keen to come to Hungerford to enjoy our Green and our hospitality. Gary again provided us with the after match buffet for the 40 players and guests.

Last Saturday our fixture against Pewsey had to be cancelled at the last moment as they had a player with Covid who had been socialising with other members in the Club, a warning to us all that we are not through this yet.

On Wednesday last we had a Charity Match. Vic Lardner, our President, is involved through his son and granddaughter with Riding for the Disabled based in Chilton Foliat. During the season and culminating in this match the Bowls Section have raised £675 for the charity and as these funds will be able to be added to their Good Exchange appeal they will be worth £1,350 a wonderful result.

The last game of the season at Malmesbury has been cancelled due to the appalling weather forecast, a long way to go to get soaked.

However we are looking forward to our Skittles evening on Friday 15th October at the British Legion in Hungerford. It is two years since we were last able to have a Skittles match but I expect it will be just as competitive.

Our Bowls Dinner Dance and Prize Giving will take place on Friday 29th October, again at the RBL Hungerford, 6.30 for 7pm. Please sign up your meal requirements as soon as possible. The list is on the notice board in the main club.

During the winter we play two matches at West Berks Indoor Bowls Club, one against WBIBC on 22nd January 2022 and the other against the Probus Club of Newbury on 9th March 2022, both at 2.30pm.

Our AGM will take place in the Snooker room on Thursday 11th November 2021 – 7.30pm. We are still seeking nominations for certain posts for next season.

Very shortly the Contractors will begin their winter work on the Green and we are very grateful, together with Micky, for the excellent work they do for us.

Jennifer Bartter ([jennifer.bartter@btinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.bartter@btinternet.com) Tel 07872 849791)

## Tennis Section

### Chairman's Welcome

After a lovely few weeks of warm weather in early September, Autumn appears to have arrived. There have been busy Club Play sessions (25 signed up to a Wednesday, a new record) and lots of leaf blowing, often carried out with great diligence. Ignition Tennis coaching is also back in full swing accommodating all age groups and levels. Extracurricular highlights have included the Players' End of Season Dinner and the cricket rematch vs Milton Lilbourne (more below). We are a club run by volunteers, and a lot of their work can go unnoticed when we step out onto our recently repainted immaculate courts. A big thank you to Denis Brown, Chris Ticehurst and Chris Dodds who spent the whole of a recent Saturday morning washing down the courts for everyone's benefit. We hope you enjoy the October Newsletter.



The Hungerford Tennis Club Committee

### Players' End of Season Jamboree – 11<sup>th</sup> September



*The Pre-Speech Buffett*

The end of season dinner, organized by the Club Captains of the Ladies, Mixed and Men's Teams took place during the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> September. Open to all, over thirty of us assembled at the Club and were treated to a complimentary glass of bubbly sponsored by the "The Champions" (the very generous Men's C Team. The format was food first - indulging in a wonderful spread prepared by Debbie and Gary – to accompany the audience's appreciation of the captains' reports of their respective teams' trials and tribulations of the 2021 season.

A shared theme amongst all the captains was the generosity of the courtside support during match evenings and how during this year, after such a challenging environment for everyone over the past 18 months, it was so positive to see the club and its members come together.

Each captain had their own specific style, stories and anecdotes in relation to their team. Rhian shared how he has had to successfully alter his management style to deal with different personalities and unorthodoxy within the Men's A Team to ensure he was able to put a team out each week. Representing the Men's B Team, Gerwyn introduced some visual brain teasers to 'guess the player' as he recounted his challenging first year of captaincy. Alistair keyed the captain's report with dazzling energy and humour which was symbolic of a C Team regime with competitive

fun at its heart. Marbeth summarized the impressive achievements of the Mixed Team in securing promotion, and similarly, Ann was ebullient about the performances of the Ladies' Team as they won their division (and finished in front of the Woodlands lot who insisted on playing in a heatwave!). Both Ann and Marbeth thanked Brona for her sterling work in organizing both the Ladies and Mixed Teams as official captain.

That was not all to the evening, as it happened to amazingly coincide with the US Open Women's final, and Emma Raducanu was roared on to her incredible victory by those present. It was a super evening and thank you again to Debbie and Gary for the delicious food and excellent service.

### Mixed Team End of Season Report

On 13th September this year, the mixed team played their final match of the season. Away to Chieveley, a match rescheduled (for the 4th time) from 17th May. The result was a resounding 7-2 victory for Hungerford which secured us 2nd place in our league and promotion to the dizzy heights of Division 2 next year.

In a rain-delayed season which lasted for 4 months, the team went from strength to strength and catapulted up the table in our final 2 matches with 7-2 away victories over both Yattendon and Chieveley.



*Team C Keynote*



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### *Mixed team report*

This year's regular personnel have been a small but select band comprising (in alphabetical order and ladies first) Alice Anstee, Marbeth Blair, Ann Parker, Immy Skinner and Rhian Barnett, Mike Roques, Peter Sinyard and Gary Williams. With special thanks to James Canby, Steve Pennington and Chris Ticehurst who saved the day at short notice and won very important sets. In fact, Steve Pennington won one of his sets 6-0 as did Rhian but the champion bagel sets winners are Alice and Gary who did it twice.

Our travels took us far and wide this season: Woodlands in Reading as well as Pangbourne, Yattendon and Chieveley. Therein lies many a tale and what happens on the mixed tour stays on the mixed tour, but one outstanding piece of navigation belongs to MiLud Mike Roques whose Google maps device brought us home from Woodlands, Reading not via the M4 but the scenic route via Basildon and Yattendon. Perhaps Google is so advanced that it knew we were a tennis team and might need to do route reconnaissance for future seasons. Anyway, Rhian and Gary, who had left Woodlands at the same time, were on their second pint by the time we got back to the Club.

The mixed team has formed a strong ethos this year of playing fairly and well and socialising well. Some of our partnerships are so strong that they have at times even managed to take playing fairly to new heights - Gary served an ace and the opposition were changing positions for the next point when Alice called a net! Gary just smiled and served another ace. Typical Hungerford.

And Peter, who never plays with same partner twice in a row (although Ann is his most regular), wins matches with all of them and gets rewarded by being left to play in the dark at Yattendon - the joys of 2 court clubs.

We are also a very self-deprecating team - Rhian, "the man who can't serve", proceeds to serve a game of aces and Ann who is apparently a chocolate fire guard - I'd hate to play her when she becomes a metal one.

We are, as with all of our teams, the undisputed champions in our league of the post-match tea (and beer and wine). Copious amounts of delicious food have been provided by all of the players, but special mention must go to Immy Skinner and her warm filo pastry and chocolate desert. It was outstandingly tasty and much awaited every week. Imagine then our surprise when she informed us it came from Lidl. This from the daughter of a man who only shops in Waitrose. I am not going to go into detail of what we were offered to eat at away matches as there is no detail to go into.

I would like to say Thank You to some special people - Chris Dodd for preparing the courts for our matches, all of the wonderful supporters who came down to cheer us on at the home matches which really helped and Brona for being Captain.

Thank You also to all our amazing Mixed team players especially my incredible partner Rhian. This season has been outstanding - so much fun. It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of it.



*Victory!!*

**Hungerford Club Sloggers v Milton Lilbourne Mavericks - 5th September 2021**



This was the Sloggers' return home Twenty20 match against our old rivals, the Milton Lilbourne Mavericks, following our resounding victory at Milton Lilbourne back in July. The weather was warm, and the sun shone, unlike the freezing rainy conditions we faced away at Milton Lilbourne (which, in hindsight, was probably to our advantage).

The Sloggers had a rather depleted team as some of our 'best' players had chosen, unbelievably, to go to a pop concert instead. Fortunately, we found willing volunteers to stand in. One or two had not held a cricket bat or ball for about 30 years, if ever. Anyway, our Bold Eleven duly took to the field, ably captained by the redoubtable and eternally optimistic Gary Williams.

The Mavericks won the toss and elected to bat. The Sloggers got off to a good start by dispatching their Captain and opener, Mark Brodie, LBW for 5, off a good ball by Jay Anstee, in the second over. Unfortunately, their next three batsmen were rather more difficult to remove and between them scored 93 runs. All of whom, Butler, Morse and Horwood, retiring, as the rules decreed, after reaching 30 runs. Each fielder, except the wicketkeeper had to bowl two overs. This meant that after some competent bowling, notably by Jay Anstee, Steve Pennington, Matt Frayn, Charlie Anstee and, especially, Karl MacDonald we got into a bit of trouble. Where bowlers tend to specialise in seam, swing, or spin deliveries, several of ours specialise in 'wides'. Indeed, the enthusiastic, if inaccurate, Andy Downs managed 8 wides in one over. Is this a record? The patient and forgiving umpires might have found even more but were worried that the overs might never end. I believe 34 wides added to the Mavericks score!

There was some good fielding including an excellent catch by Gary Williams to dismiss one of their better (12 yr old) batsmen off a ball by Ann Parker. I think she had lulled them into a false sense of security by bowling several balls at 60 degrees to the wicket before getting one within hitting range. It worked. Sort of. Parker was also kept busy guarding the Pavilion end boundary and attracted many cheers for her athletic, if not always successful, efforts. Neil Harrison proved to be an effective, aggressive and sometimes 'vocal' wicketkeeper (we don't do 'sledging'). Gary Williams, helped by Karl Macdonald, deployed the fielders as effectively as could be hoped for.

At the end of their innings Mavericks were 167 for 7 wickets (3 of whom retired).

The Sloggers went into bat with openers Steve Pennington and Gary Williams. Between them they scored 18 runs. Pennington was clean bowled for 6 and Williams LBW for 12. Karl MacDonald came in and, as is his custom, whacked 30 runs in a flurry of 4s and 6s to all corners of the ground in the space of 3 overs. He then had to retire. The remarkable Andy (Boycott) Downs, batting at No. 5, managed to stay in for 8 overs, during which his bat connected with the ball precisely twice. He was eventually put out of his misery,



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bowled by Brodie, for a duck. Charlie Anstee and Neil Harrison (not out) put on a respectable 38 between them, and Ann Parker (not out) scored 3.

20 overs up, Chris Ticehurst and Hannah Gutteridge were not called upon to bat.

The Mavericks also suffered their fair share of wides, but not on the scale of the Sloggers!

Sloggers score: 128 for 7 wickets (1 of whom retired).

So we were well beaten, but if it hadn't been for the wides it might have been a different story. I think some bowling practice is in order before any re-match. Anyway, their team's average age, including four twelve (ish) year olds, probably gave them a distinct advantage.



Caroline Walker put on an excellent tea which was much appreciated. Alice Anstee provided amusing barracking commentary from the boundary with her megaphone. Alan Walker, as well as assisting with the scoring, celebrated the fall of wickets etc. with deafening blasts from his foghorn. Lt.Col Hugh Stott operated the electronic scoreboard until he had to retire with a headache caused by the heat and, not least, Walker's foghorn.

Much credit goes to the valiant, long-suffering, and patient umpires; Nick Lumley (ex- Constable and opulently attired in his MCC finery), 'Geordie' Broderick (equipped with his white stick) and Edward Sample. It's tiring and stressful work standing out in the field for 4 hours in blazing heat while arguing the odds with disgruntled players. Rather them than me!

So, the Mavericks won back the coveted (if cheap) Barnett Trophy. There were two 'Man of the Match' awards. One went to the young A.Brodie (Mavericks) for his excellent bowling figures. He was presented with the match ball. The other went to the irrepressible Ann Parker for amusing us with her often idiosyncratic bowling, batting and fielding. She was presented with a bottle of champagne.

Finally, a **Big Thank You** to the Hungerford Cricket Club for providing such an excellent pitch, facilities and not least for stewarding the well-used bar in the pavilion. They were most helpful in all respects.

All in all, it was a jolly afternoon's entertainment. We look forward to next season.

## **NDLTA Winter League – Call for Interested Players**

The new Newbury and District Lawn Tennis Association (NDLTA) winter leagues will commence from Saturday 23 October 2021. The NDLTA Committee has taken the decision to drop the separate Men's and Ladies leagues and instead focus on a single winter league of approximately 5 divisions. This league will follow a hybrid format and each team will require 2 Men and 2 Ladies. Each match will be scheduled for 8 sets and will require 2 courts. Part 1 will see the 2 Men play doubles v the opposition men for 2 sets whilst the ladies play a 2 set ladies double match on the other court. On conclusion of part 1, the pairs will split up to form mixed pairs to play 1 set against each opposition mixed pair. There is no entrance fee for each team.

In addition to this league, clubs are invited to enter teams for a Veteran league aimed at those who can play during the day or under floodlights.

We haven't been provided a lot of notice of and are being asked to submit entries by Friday 8th October. **Please contact Phil on 07779 581640 for more information.**

## **Member News**

Tommy Leigh, our membership director reports that new members since May include Anna Risdale, Dave Wakeham, Sophie Martin, Charlie Bell, Alastair Campbell & family, Daphne Mylne, Neil Harrison, Theo Ivanovic & family, Lyle Waters, Lottie Williams, Tessa Martin and Virginia Parkes. Welcome to all new members.

Congratulations to **Phil Brown**, for completing the Newbury Triathlon on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Phil has (currently) raised £1,018 for the International Liberty Association, a cause very close to Phil's heart in support promoting a respect for human rights in Iran and the Middle East, at the same time as assisting the victims of such abuses. Jonathan Currell also competed in the triathlon, well done Jonathan!

On 18<sup>th</sup> September **Tommy and Kelly Leigh** completed the Tough Mudder UK challenge, raising over £900 for Action Through Enterprise, a charity that works tirelessly to help communities in Ghana to reduce poverty through education, enterprise, and social change.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September, **Gerwyn Clegg** completed the Medio Fondo Dragon Ride. For those unaware, this is one of the most challenging road biking events set in the Brecon Beacons. Gerwyn completed it in a hugely impressive 6 hours and 58 minutes (Strava reading!), riding almost 100 miles and with an elevation gain of around 8,000 feet.

Good luck to **Andy Downs**, and his accompanying support team including several members of the tennis section, who on 2<sup>nd</sup> October will take on a sponsored bike ride from Bath to Newbury, a distance of about 100km along the National Cycle Route No 4. Andy will be riding his 40-year-old vintage bike! Andy is riding for Loose Ends, a local Newbury charity run solely by unpaid volunteers that provides invaluable services to the homeless, disadvantaged, and vulnerable in Newbury. More information can be found [here](#).

## **Ignition Tennis Coaching**

Hello Wonderful Hungerford Tennis Club Members!

Coaching point of the month is to make sure you are getting ready for every shot. We are all guilty (including myself) of admiring the previous shot and then making a mistake on the next! Pay attention to every shot, and you will make more of your shots go in.

Junior and Adult Coaching has started again for the September term. Please let me know if you would be interested in coaching. Please contact me via email on [james.kilpatrick@ignitiontennis.com](mailto:james.kilpatrick@ignitiontennis.com)

Hopefully see you on court soon!

JK - Hungerford Tennis Club Head Coach