

HUNGERFORD CLUB NEWSLETTER

September 2022



The Hungerford Club Newsletter – September 2022

Front cover: Kat Jayne sings at the Beer Festival on Sunday, 28th August 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the September 2022 newsletter. We took a break over the summer, and what a summer it has been!

With the good weather the tennis courts have been very busy; read more in the tennis section report. Though there has been a summer break, the bowls green has been watered regularly, thanks to the built in watering system and is ready to go! Meanwhile, back at the club house, the beer festival has just finished. The good weather over the August Bank Holiday weekend meant that many enjoyed a drink while sitting on The Croft.

Dates for your diary



- [Competition Finals](#) on 10th Sep 2022, at Hungerford Club - bowling green
- [Ladies Who Lunch](#) on 22nd Sep 2022 1:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house. Please bring a raffle prize in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.
- [Annual Tennis Club Dinner](#) on 24th Sep 2022, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [HTC outing – Crimes on Centre Court – A Play](#) on 30th Sep 2022 6:30:pm, at Corn Exchange, Newbury
- [Quiz Night](#) on 30th Sep 2022 7:30:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house

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

Opening times

The opening hours of the club bar are as follows.

Opening hours	
Monday	12 noon – 11pm
Tuesday	1pm – 11pm
Wednesday	12 noon – 10pm
Thursday	1pm – 10pm
Friday	12 noon – 11pm
Saturday	12 noon – 6:30pm
Sunday	12 noon – 6:30pm

Ladies who Lunch

The next gathering of the Ladies who Lunch will be on Thursday, 22nd September 2022 starting at 1pm for about 2 hours, or as long as you like!

As many of you may know, Macmillan, the cancer charity, are organising the world's biggest coffee morning. The club would like to support this so would you please bring a raffle prize, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, to the Ladies who Lunch?

If you haven't been before you will be assured of a warm welcome. If you are coming on your own call Debbie on 01488 682357 before hand and she'll look out for you.

News from The Steward

There are a couple of club institutions. The Sunday meat draw is one and the Christmas raffle is another. The Christmas raffle is about to start. Look out for the board in the bar.

Food

We would love to see you at the club for something to eat. The selection varies but at the moment you can have

- Freshly made Ham and Cheese toasties - £3.50
- Bacon, Sausage and egg bap - £3.50

Friday & Sunday Food at the club

Why not enjoy a meal at the club? Food is now available on Fridays as well as Sunday!

Please book in advance by calling into the club to put your name down on the sheet by the bar *or you can reserve your place by phoning 01488 682357*

Vegetarian options are available – please book in advance.

Fri 9th September Coconut chicken curry & rice - £9.00

Sun 11th September Roast gammon, new potatoes & vegetables - £12.00
Bakewell Tart & ice-cream - £4.50

Fri 16th September Fish, chips & peas - - £9.00

Sun 18th September Roast chicken breast, sage & onion stuffing, roast potatoes & vegetables - £12.00
Apple strudel & custard - £4.50

Fri 23rd September Cottage pie & vegetables - £9.00

Sun 25th September Roast pork, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & vegetables - £12.00
Treacle sponge and cream - £4.50

Beer Festival was a roaring success

How would you judge the success of a beer festival? Well first, nearly all the beer was sold, but crucially, not quite! So those who came towards the end of the festival didn't go away thirsty. There were a few barrels left and those will be served from the bar over the next week.

The weather during the Bank Holiday weekend was lovely. Not too hot, not chilly either. So full use was made of the picnic benches, tables and chairs with quite a crowd sitting on the Croft.

The event wasn't just about the beer. The entertainment went down a storm. The appreciative audience applauded enthusiastically at the end of each number and as each act finished their set. There's a photo of the scene on the front cover featuring Kat Jayne.

The barbecue was set up to the left of the club door and was cooking lovely burgers and hotdogs throughout. There was hardly a pause for the volunteer cooks until we sold out of burgers at the end. So those who thought this Friday's meal at the club would be barbecue themed will be disappointed. However they can console themselves with a delicious chicken curry, instead.

A good time was had by all who came. It would not have been possible without members volunteering to help serve the beer, cook on the barbecue, collect glasses and rubbish, move tables and chairs and a host of other jobs. Thank you to all – your efforts are appreciated.



Crofton Stokers perform at The Hungerford Club beer festival 2022



"Flippin' burgers" at the Hungerford Club Beer Festival 2022

Looking ahead

Rather than watch Jools Holland on New Year's Eve would you like to bring the family to an evening of fun at the Hungerford Club?

We wondered if you'd like to see in the New Year with a fancy dress disco at the club? Fancy dress won't be obligatory but it will be more fun. Maybe you have an Abba costume that needs an airing or there's a witches or wizard costume left over from Halloween? One member says he'll be coming as a cricket umpire with a white stick.

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We will be inviting a DJ to provide music and there will be food and fun for all with a fancy dress competition earlier in the evening. As we will be seeing in the New Year the bar will be open until after midnight for those who have staying power on the dance floor!

We will have a limit on numbers that can attend so this will be a ticketed event.

We would like to get a feel for numbers so please let Debbie know if you are interested. Either phone the club (01488 682357) during [opening hours](#) or put your name down on the sheet by the bar.

Bowls Section

The last month on the Bowling Green has been a mixed one with the highpoint being on the last Wednesday evening of the Ashley Baker League season when we won by 10 points to 0 on the new all-weather carpet at Milton Hill. This secured our position being Top of the AB League. Quite an achievement and very well done to all who played in these matches.

Our KLV A team ended the season well winning 10 points to 0 at Hagbourne to secure their place in Division 1 West. Our KLV B side, who play in Division 3 West finished 5th out of 8 teams.

Unfortunately the last few weeks have been marred by the cancellation of many of our friendly fixtures either because of the extreme weather or because the opposition sides have struggled to field a team. However we did manage to play the two legs of the Godwin Cup against Newbury BC. The first leg at Hungerford resulted in a good win for Hungerford. However the second leg at Newbury was won convincingly by Newbury and so they retain the Godwin Cup.



A spectacular view of the bay from the Greenhill Bowling Club green, Weymouth

At the time of writing we are packing our cases for our Tour to Weymouth. We play at Dorchester on the way down and the following two days have matches at local Clubs in Weymouth. We then play at Gillingham on our way home. At this point in time the weather forecast is not good, but we just hope we can avoid some of the showers.

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During the weekend of 10th/11th September we will be holding our Finals Days for our Club Competitions. Details are posted on the Notice Boards. We do hope that members will come along to watch these matches and give support to those taking part.

Sadly we then enter the last few weeks of our season which has gone by much too quickly.

The remaining Fixtures are:

- Sunday 18th September – Home to Andover at 2.30pm
- Wednesday 21st September – Berkshire VP's (a team from all over Berkshire) at 2.00pm
- Sunday 25th September – Home to Pewsey at 2.30pm
- Wednesday 28th September – Charity Match – (in aid of Riding for the Disabled) at 2.00pm
- Saturday 1st October – Away to Malmesbury at 2.30pm

Bowls members do make sure you sign up for all these games so that we can finish the season well.

There is still time to try Bowling. Our Roll ups continue on Tuesdays at 2pm and Fridays at 6pm. If these times are not convenient please contact Jennifer for an alternative.

Nominations for Officers and Committee members for 2023 are now being invited. It would be nice to see some new faces!

Jennifer Bartter (07872 849791)

Tennis Section

Chairman's Welcome

In what has been one of the hottest and driest summers on record, it feels like HTC has had the most tennis on court for a long while. Club play is regularly attracting more than 20 players on Wednesdays and Fridays, and it's also great to see some younger members joining in. On a related note, best wishes to Immy on her adventure to Japan, where she will be teaching English for a year.



Thank you to those who have volunteered with court maintenance on Saturday mornings. We now have the semblance of a rota (see the HTC club noticeboard) and some further explanatory words from Chris D. below.

Team match play has concluded, mark your calendar for 24th September for our annual celebration, where team captains will provide a deep dive into the trials and tribulations of the season.

The Hungerford Tennis Club Committee

Match Team News and Annual HTC Tennis Team Dinner

Team match play has concluded, mark your calendar for Saturday 24th September for our annual celebration. It's a sellout event, so stay tuned for updates nearer the time.

Spoiler alert – if you want to find out where our teams finished, see [here](#). The gory details will be provided in extensive detail on the 24th.

Tennis Maintenance

Our sports ground always looks magnificent, thanks to Micky Lambourn who maintains the bowling green along with all the grass areas and the front hedges. He is working there every day, but you might have to be an early worm to catch him! He also maintains the entrance path and benches around the bowling green.

Tennis does not have the same dedicated individual to look after the courts and surroundings. We have been fortunate that members have kept the courts in good order, clearing away leaves and bird droppings on a weekly basis, (Saturday mornings between 10 & 12) and preparing the courts for matches and club play. We now have the beginnings of a rota of members to carry out this vital Saturday morning work. Tennis maintenance extends to the hedge alongside the courts, weeding the edges and managing the area under the trees by the canal. To the surprise of many, this is Club land. Sometimes members will need to clear leaves before they can play. We have two cordless blowers for this in the store cupboard. If you need to know the code, contact anyone on the tennis committee. For other work, we have a pressure washer plus hose and cable, (although at present it's a bucket and scrubbing brush job due to the hose pipe ban), a cordless hedge cutter and a cordless brush cutter. If you use any of the cordless tools, please put the batteries on charge ready for the next time.

For serious leaf removal we have a ‘billy goat’ petrol engine outdoor vacuum machine. Again, this is locked away so ask for access to the key. Before use check the oil level and remember to empty the bag and fill with fuel after use so it’s ready for the next time. Please do not fill with fuel on court as any spillage will damage the surface.

The tennis committee is highly appreciative of the work of the volunteers who look after our courts. More volunteers are always welcome, please contact Alex J to add your name to the rota. If you require any guidance on the use of any of the equipment, please contact Chris D. Thank you.

Tennis Committee

The tennis section of the Hungerford Club manages several aspects in relation to the running of the Tennis Club, from treasury, communications, maintenance, membership, safeguarding and coaching. Our AGM was in January of this year, and it is likely that some of the existing committee who have stood for several years will be taking much needed sabbaticals! Please contact Phil if you would like to understand more about the roles and if you are interested in being a part of the committee going forward.

Crimes on Centre Court – A New Play at the Corn Exchange Newbury, Friday 30th September

Our chairman is in the process of negotiating a special deal for HTC members for a new play, ‘Crimes on Centre Court’. Synopsis from the Wiltshire Times:

Based on a story from New Old Friends’ podcast (number 2 in the iTunes fiction chart), this hilariously inventive, new comedy thriller serves countless characters boasting such names as Hugh Knows, Notta Damclu, Perry Pink and Owen Owens.

As ever with New Old Friends, the action and script rely heavily on quick-fire costume changes and lightning wit as the brand-new murder mystery unfolds court-side.

Lord Knows, the chair of The Whombledun International Invitational Tennis Tournament, has died and his son Hugh, is suspicious. The police won’t take the case so Hugh calls in Perry Pink & Penny Pink, private investigators.

Look out for your exclusive offer in your inbox in the coming days.

Indoor Sports

Snooker Knockout Tournament

Starting soon, there will be a snooker knockout tournament on Mondays. Think Sheffield Crucible but without the same size crowd.

The start date has yet to be decided so you still have time to put your name down for the tournament and get in a little practice. This is a members only competition. There's a £5.00 entry fee and the winner takes all! It's unlikely to be a life changing amount but it will be good fun!

Names on the sheet by the bar please. Don't delay!!

Darts

The Club is a member of the **Lambourn and Hungerford Darts League**. For details speak with Gary or Debbie.

Snooker Room

May we remind members that children under fourteen are not allowed in the Snooker Room. Children over fourteen are allowed in the Snooker Room when accompanied by their responsible adult.

Please Note: **Food is not allowed in the Snooker Room. Drinks must not be rested on the tables.**

Club Maintenance

Hungerford Club Trees

As we reported in the June newsletter, the Committee had commissioned a report on all the trees growing on Club land in the sports ground area, hence the orange spray marks.

This report included a number of recommendations both to manage the health and balance of the healthy trees and to remove the diseased trees. The Ash trees are suffering from ‘Hymenoscyphus fraxineus’ commonly known as Ash dieback. This disease destabilises the trees resulting in the eventual collapse. In our location this creates a potential danger to life and property. Therefore the diseased trees are to be removed in line with the report. The report recommendations to improve the healthy trees will also be carried out.

Following the report, tree surgeons were asked to quote; we received two quotes to the specification with a third company declining to quote due to the extent of the works.

As the Croft is designated a ‘Conservation Area’, permission is required from West Berkshire Council to undertake any works on the trees. This written permission has now been granted.

It is planned to undertake all the works this autumn.

In order for the tree surgeons to access both the garden and the area between the courts and the canal, we will need to take down sections of the tennis court fencing, and then re-install the fence once the work is complete. We will be looking for volunteers for this and will advertise details once we have firm dates. Clearly, whilst this work is undertaken, the tennis courts will be out of use. The tree surgeons understand that any machine movement across the courts will need to be on boards with the court surface fully protected.

Because it will not be possible to use heavy machinery to move substantial sections of timber, the timber will be cut into manageable dimensions and stacked within our boundary. Brush wood will be chipped and the chips sprayed also within our boundary. There will be a quantity of timber available to members to collect, season and log should they so wish. The timber will not be open fire or log burner ready and will need to be reduced in size and seasoned for some time before being used as fire wood.

Due to the necessary work, the garden area (beside the courts and behind the ‘Fishermans’ Hut) will be closed.

The work is due to start on the 10th October.

Toilets off the snooker room

Andy Pullen has now completed the lovely refurbishment of the toilet off the snooker room. Try it out for yourselves next time you are in the Club! We still require a courtesy notice to be put on the outer door leading to the snooker room asking those entering to be mindful that snooker players may be concentrating on their next move.

Clubhouse roof and Solar Panels

We have now received two “like for like” roofing quotes for the main Club roof replacement tiles. These will shortly be discussed by the Committee. We are awaiting the first Solar Panels quote having already met one contractor. The second firm has been approached but due to work commitments and imminent holidays will not be able to inspect till mid September. Both companies will be provided with the Club’s annual electricity consumption figures and asked to design a system that provides a maximum panel coverage to the rear pitched roof area. We are not able to provide any savings to our gas consumption as we do not have a hot water storage cylinder with our type of gas boiler system. We have opted for an integral panel system so that the corresponding roof areas covered by the panels will not require roof tiles, saving us duplicating costs. Also both trades work will be “dovetailed” together so that one scaffold can be used efficiently for both.

Once the two Solar Panel quotes have been received we will ask a Consultant Specialist (John Downe a Club Member) to give his recommendations for which Contractor we should employ as this is a relatively new type of installation and some firms may not be “up to the job” they profess to be able to provide.

Lighting

New emergency lights have been installed inside the Club. The relevant areas around these new lights on the ceiling and walls still requires re-painting.

Damp

Dampness and moisture staining is now manifesting itself in both toilets. We had previously installed low level plastic skirtings but the dampness and staining has soaked upwards. The existing MDF wall panels are becoming very stained and unsightly. These need to be replaced with a different type of panel which is moisture resistant and the hot and cold pipes located behind the panels require lagging to stop condensation.

Picnic Benches

The existing timber benches outside the Club have been repaired by Andy Pullen who very kindly did this urgently on Sunday 28th to save further collapse ... of the benches and those sitting on them!

Well done for reading this far. Hope you enjoyed it, Geordie.