

HUNGERFORD CLUB NEWSLETTER

November 2022



Welcome

Welcome to the November 2022 newsletter.

We have the latest news from the Steward, Debbie Hutchins. This is followed by a updates from the Bowls, Tennis and Indoor Sports sections. Finally there's a report on the maintenance work in progress and planned.

Dates for your diary



- [Bowls section – A.G.M.](#) on 10th Nov 2022 7:30:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [Tennis section – A.G.M.](#) on 17th Nov 2022 8:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [Ladies Who Lunch](#) on 24th Nov 2022 1:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [AGM – 2022](#) on 24th Nov 2022 7:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [Bingo Night at the Hungerford Club](#) on 25th Nov 2022 7:45: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	1pm – 11pm
Tuesday	1pm – 11pm
Wednesday	12 noon – 10pm
Thursday	1pm – 10pm
Friday	12 noon – 11pm
Saturday	12 noon – 5pm
Sunday	12 noon – 5pm

News from the Steward

The next gathering of the Ladies who Lunch will be on Thursday, 24th November 2022 starting at 1pm for about 2 hours, or as long as you like!

Drop in and have a chin wag and a drink with Debbie. She servers the best coffee in town! If you are coming on your own call Debbie on 01488 682357 and she'll look out for you.

Food

We would love to see you at the club for something to eat.

The selection varies but at the moment you can have

- Soup of the day with a crusty roll
- Beef & Vegetable Casserole
- ~~Balinese Chicken Curry~~ – Sorry, you've missed it. Sold out!
- Freshly made sandwiches or toasties on request. Gluten free bread is available.
- Bacon, Sausage and egg bap

Sunday Roasts

Why not enjoy a Sunday roast down at the club? Vegetarian options are available – please book in advance.

Please call into the club to put your name down on the sheet by the bar. Not going into the club in the next few days? Then phone on 01488 682357 or use the WhatsApp group (see below).

All Sunday lunches are £12.00 and deserts are £4.50.

New Years Eve Party – it's happening!

The New Years Eve party is fully booked!

There will be a DJ and dancing and there will be a fancy dress competition earlier in the evening. Food will be available and the bar will remain open until after Big Ben has sounded in the New year.

AGM – 2022

At the October meeting the committee confirmed that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for The Hungerford Club will be held on **Thursday, 24th November 2022 at 7pm in The Snooker Room, The Hungerford Club.**

The confirmed agenda, nomination papers, accounts and the minutes of last year's AGM have been emailed to members. Copies are also on the notice board and on the website.

An Interview with Debbie Hutchins

On 27th October 2022 Sara Culpepper had a chat with Debbie Hutchins, our Steward.

Q1) Where were you born and tell us about your early life...

A1) I was born in Oxford and brought up in East Hendred near Wantage. I lived with my mum, dad and older brother until I was 18.

Q2) How did you meet Gary and tell us about your own family.

A2) I met Gary when I was 17, he was 29 and I thought he was with a friend of mine so although I liked him, I didn't say anything. My friend asked me why I kept putting off his advances and I said I thought he was with you? She said 'he really likes *you!* we are just friends', and the rest is history. Mum and Dad went mental because they thought he was too old and was divorced with kids! We have been together for over 30 years now though and have three children together and Gary also has his older two daughters as well as nine grandkids!

Q3) What was your work journey to the Hungerford Club?

A3) From 17 – 24 I was an elderly care nurse, going on to be a mental health nurse for a year at Thornford Park in Thatcham which I loved. Because of the children and my safety, we decided that joining Gary in the Hospitality industry would be more practical. We then went on to manage a variety of pubs across Berkshire and the Midlands. Returning back to Berkshire I worked at the Crown and Garter before joining Gary who was working at The Downgate and then took over the Hungerford Club.

Q4) Do you have any hobbies?

A4) I love to read! Preferably a good murder mystery or anything with a juicy story! I also enjoy walking and would swim if I had the time.

Q5) What's your favourite food?

A5) Chocolate! – Although if it was my last supper, it would be steak, chips, peas and mushrooms followed by something citrusy like a lemon tart. To drink, gin, wine or cider.

Q6) What three things would you take if you were stranded on a desert island?

A6) Not Gary!! A good book, sunscreen or an umbrella and Lola, I couldn't leave my dog!

Q7) Being a publican/landlady is hard graft, what do you enjoy about it and what don't you like?

A7) Yes, it is! I love meeting new people and people watching as for things I don't like its also people, especially when they are being rude or inconsiderate!

Q8) What is your earliest memory?

A8) My 6th birthday as it was the first year, I was allowed a party or camping holidays with the family and sleeping on the floor between the bunks.

Q9) What is your favourite place and why?

A9) Poole in Dorset, we spent every holiday there as kids and with Gary and our kids. We have even taken Geordie!

Q10) What makes you happy?

A10) Gary, I couldn't imagine my life without him, he is like my left arm...or my right! And my family (when they are not winding me up) and my Grandkids.

Q11) Any funny incidences/stories at the pub you would like to share?

A11) Not really anything major here, but between Gary, Ryan and Geordie there is a lot of hilarious moments! Including me not knowing what car Gary drives!

Q12) And lastly... have you ever played and enjoyed. Tennis, Bowls, Snooker or cards?

A12) I used to play tennis and had lessons when I was young, never any good but do still keep a racket at home. Have never played bowls but always wanted too. I have played snooker, but I am better at pool, the table is smaller! We used to play a lot of cards but don't really get the chance now.

Bowls Section

Our final game of the season on the artificial surface at Malmesbury proved to be as difficult as predicted and resulted in a considerable loss overall. However, in spite of this, our members had a very enjoyable afternoon in lovely weather for the time of year.

The Green is now closed and most of the winter work has been completed. The contractors have scarified the green, solid tined it (taking out cores to improve drainage) and seeded it. They have also put on winter fertiliser and at the moment it looks excellent. Our thanks to Micky who continues to work hard alongside the contractors.

Last Saturday evening we held our Annual Dinner and Prize Giving in the Club. It was a very enjoyable evening with delicious food prepared by Gary and Debbie. It was good to be able to congratulate our 2022 Competition prize winners.

Our AGM is to be held in the Snooker Room on Thursday 10th November at 7.30pm.

We hope to have a good turnout. It is very important for our bowls members to attend this meeting and show their support for the committee who work so hard throughout the year.

We are planning to hold a skittles evening at the RBL in early February so look out for more information later.

Jennifer Bartter

Tennis Section

Chairman's Welcome

We missed the cut for the last Newsletter, but since last time there has been lots of activity. The annual tennis teams' dinner celebration took place with some exhaustive analysis on team and player performance. The King appointed His Honour Judge Roques to be a Circuit Judge on the advice of the Lord Chancellor. A huge effort led by Chris D and many volunteers ensured that the substantial task of clearing the wood from the felled diseased ash trees was accomplished. JK and Danielle were proud to announce the birth of their baby boy Freddie. Tennis play continues to be hugely popular even as we move towards darker evenings.



Tennis A.G.M.

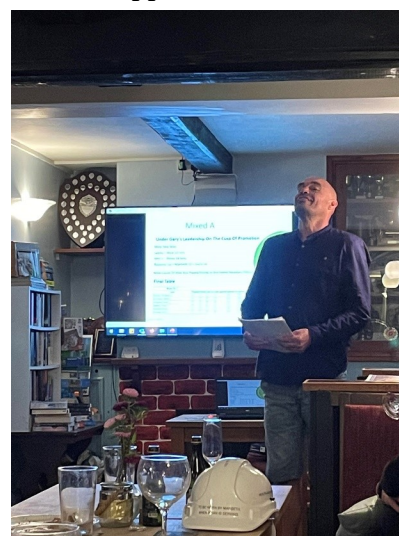
Don't forget that the Tennis AGM will take place on 17th November at 8pm – a brief year-end report will be issued by Chairman Phil before the meeting.

You are all very welcome to the AGM on the 17th November at 8pm in the Snooker room (a separate note with nomination forms was sent out in a previous communication). Please consider standing for the committee and put your name on the copy of the form on the notice board the tennis changing rooms.

Any questions to Phil 07779581640 or philip@philipbrownviolins.co.uk

Annual HTC Tennis Team Dinner – 24th September

What has become a landmark event in the HTC calendar failed to disappoint. The evening is intended to shed light on the highs and lows of the preceding season where we were represented by a Ladies' Team, two Mixed Teams, and 3 Men's Teams. Admirably compèred by Steve who shared a plethora of data using his proprietary statistical model, each captain took it in turn to deliver their 'season's report' to the expectant audience, some in a much greater level of detail (and time) than others. A very enjoyable evening as usual with plenty of drinks and much appreciated nibbles.



Trees

As previously announced, the tree works commenced on the 10th October and were completed within one week. As can be seen in the photographs, this was essential work with the large tree in the garden area hollow for quite a long way up. The other Ash trees that were taken down also showed disease but not as badly as the large one.

Many thanks to the members who dismantled fencing for access and the large team who prepared the courts for use at the end of the tree work. A number of members cut and removed timber before the tennis fences were re-erected but there is still a lot of timber to be cut and transported away should any members wish to do so.



Court Maintenance

The maintenance rota is up and running also for Saturday morning. Please contact Alex J or Chris D or put your name on the noticeboard outside the courts.

Ignition Tennis Update

We've reached the halfway stage of the Autumn term and have enjoyed coaching everyone thus far and putting them through their paces!

JK will be back on court to resume coaching from the 31st October as a new dad so please bear with him if he looks tired! We're sure you all join us in offering him our biggest congratulations on the birth of Freddie 😊



The Hungerford Tennis Club Committee

Indoor Sports

Darts

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

Well done to the darts team who won through to the finals and then smashed it. They have to wait until the League's Finals Night on the 12th November before they can get their hands on the cup!

Snooker Knockout Tournament

The quarter finals (a.k.a. the 2nd round of the knockouts) will take place on Monday 7th November.

You can keep track of progress, i.e. who has progressed and who has been knocked out, from the tournament results sheet on the bar noticeboard.

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

Damp

The source of the damp in the men's toilets has been identified. The culprit was the toilet cistern splashing each time the toilet was flushed. Andy Pullen has the rectification in hand, including the replacement of the wooden panelling.

We can also report another damp problem has been resolved. Rain water has been getting under the emergence exit from the snooker room. By breaking up the concrete step outside the door and remaking the step substantially lower and with the correct fall away from the door the problem has been resolved. The heavy rain on Tuesday 1st November really tested the fix which passed with flying colours.

Roof

We are working through the quotes for the work on the roof and the proposed solar panels. We have made a preliminary selection of contractors and are now bring them together to ensure they coordinate their work and eliminate duplication. For example, scaffolding has to be suitable to satisfy the access requirements of both teams.

Trees

News about the trees is covered in the tennis section. Thanks to the volunteers who helped clear up the courts after the contractors had left.

While the contractors were on site they identified a cooper beach tree that is unstable. This was only apparent after the ash trees nearby had been felled. Sadly the tree cannot be saved and will have to be felled. Paperwork has been raised to get permission from West Berks. Council.

A Request to all members

Most members will be aware of a garden area behind the Bowls pavilion and the boundary with the canal towpath. In the past this has been used to grow flowers and vegetables.

In August a notice was put up in the garden area announcing the start date of the tree felling to alert anybody informally using the area that the area would be closed from 1st October.

With the ongoing tree maintenance work the area remains closed. The committee have not made a decision on the future use of the area and will be unable to do so until all work is complete.

Members are asked to not enter the area.