

# HUNGERFORD CLUB NEWSLETTER

*April 2023*



## Welcome

Welcome to the April 2023 newsletter. Spring is here, if a little wet and windy. Be that as it may the Hungerford Club is very active regardless of the weather.

We have the latest news from the Steward, Debbie Hutchins. This is followed by a updates from the Bowls and Indoor Sports sections. Welcome to Claire Ward. Claire gives her first update as the new chairman of the tennis committee.

Finally there's a report on the maintenance work, particularly the refurbishment of the roof. Take a look at the front cover to see the finished roof.

## Dates for your diary

- [Ladies Who Lunch](#) on 13th Apr 2023 1:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [Felled wood clearing work day](#) on 29th Apr 2023, at Hungerford Club - tennis courts
- [Hungerford celebration of the Coronation](#) on 7th May 2023 2:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [Bowls open afternoon](#) on 7th May 2023 2:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - bowling green
- [Bowls Coaching Evening](#) on 9th May 2023 6:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - bowling green
- [President's Day / Charity Day](#) on 17th Jun 2023, at Hungerford Club - bowling green



## Opening times

We have not, yet, switched to summer hours. The opening hours of the club bar are as follows.

	<b>Opening hours</b>
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

## News from The Steward

The next gathering of the Ladies who Lunch will be on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> April starting at 1pm for about 2 hours, or as long as you like! 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
- Freshly made Ham and Cheese toasties
- Bacon, Sausage and egg bap

## **Friday and Sunday Food**

For the foreseeable future there will be no food served on Friday evenings or Sunday lunchtime. Gary Hutchins, our chef, has had an operation on his hip and he isn't allowed to put weight on the affected leg. We wish Gary a speedy recovery and we look forward to his return!

## **Events**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May the Hungerford Town Council are organising a picnic on The Croft to celebrate the Coronation. The celebration will start at 2pm and end at around 7pm.

You are invited to bring your own picnic and chairs to The Croft. There will be music and entertainment throughout the afternoon.

The Hungerford Club is supporting the event. We will have the pizza oven and barbecue at the front of the club, from which we will sell food. The bar will be open for the sale of drinks.

There will be more details to follow.

## **Subscriptions**

We would like to remind you that subscriptions to The Hungerford Club become due on the 1st April each year. There is a one month grace period, until 30th April, during which you can pay your subscription for the coming year. From the 1st May 2023 your membership will lapse. After this time you will have to apply for a new membership.

Bowls and Indoor Sports members should visit the club and pay your subscription over the bar. Tennis section members can pay via ClubSpark or over the bar.

## **Contact details**

If your contact details (email, phone or address) have changed please provide your updated details when renewing your membership. Tennis section members should do this via ClubSpark if possible.

## Bowls Section

The new season for Bowling is here. The Green is ready and looks magnificent. The days are getting longer and we have even had a glimpse of warmer weather.

We will open the Green for the 2023 season at 2.30pm on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April** when the Town Mayor, Helen Simpson will join us to bowl the first wood to declare the Green open.

There will be an **Open Afternoon** from 2pm on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May** alongside the Coronation celebrations in the Croft when we hope to welcome anyone wishing to give bowls a try.

There will also be a **Coaching evening** on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm** when coaches from the Royal County will be joining us to offer advice to all our bowlers, old and new.

If you have an interest in trying the sport do come along to either of these occasions. Bowls can be provided. All we ask is that you wear shoes with a very flat sole.



There will again be the popular roll ups on Tuesday and Friday at 2pm together with a full programme of Friendly and League Fixtures. Spectators are always welcome.

Some of the highlights during the season are as follows:-

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> June** – President's Day/Charity Day

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July** – Open Mixed Pairs Tournament

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> & Sun 10<sup>th</sup> September** – Competition Finals Days

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> September** – RCBBA Benevolent Assoc. Charity Day

For further Information please contact our Secretary – Jennifer Bartter

jennifer.bartter@btinternet.com Tel: 01488 684471 Mob: 07872 849791

## Tennis Section

### Chairman's Welcome



As we come out of the dark winter months there's not too much to report from the tennis section at this time of year. There were of course a hardy bunch who continued to pitch up to club play even on the coldest, darkest nights.

We are all looking forward to the new season and some warmer weather and have all the teams signed up and in place for the summer N&DLTA league. The matches will start on the 9<sup>th</sup> May with details of all matches displayed in the Club so feel free to come along and support our teams if you have time. If you would like to play in the matches, but have not been contacted by any of the captains, please do get in touch. There will be Men's A, B & C teams, a Ladies team and Mixed A & B teams. There are typically 10 fixtures in the season, equally spread between home and away venues.

Another huge effort led by Chris D and many volunteers ensured that the ongoing task of clearing the wood from the felled diseased ash trees has continued but there is still more to do. Next work day is on 29<sup>th</sup> April should any of you want to help.



## The Hungerford Club Newsletter – April 2023

The 29<sup>th</sup> April, being just before the start of the new match season, is also the date for the big tidy and clean of the courts, clubhouse and surroundings, so there is plenty to do to get everything spic and span before our guest opponents arrive.

We also have a refreshed committee with Phil Brown **finally** managing to step down as Chair. Many thanks to Phil, Alex and Denis for all they have done on the committee. We think they deserve a break now.

### 2023 Committee as below

Claire Ward - Chair  
Chris Dodd - General Maintenance and refurb project  
Bruce Powell - Treasurer and secretary  
Alice Anstee - Safeguarding  
JK - Membership and Juniors  
Jerry Crowther - Communications and marketing  
Charles Gardener – HTC Business plan  
Caroline Walker  
Rhian Barnett  
Mike Roques

### Court 1 Refurbishment

Our most urgent task in the next few months is fundraising to refurbish Court 1 as the damage caused by tree roots breaking through from neighbouring trees is becoming a serious issue. We intend to organize some fundraising events (details coming soon) but if anyone feels inclined to donate, please go to the Good Exchange at

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/19781/hungerford-club/tennis-court-refurbishment>



or scan the QR code with your phone.

### Subscriptions

And just a gentle reminder that subscriptions are now due (all match players must be fully paid up members).

We have been alerted to some people experiencing issues with Clubspark so if you do have any problems please contact JK or you can pay at the bar. We will look into the issues and hopefully resolve as soon as possible.

## Indoor Sports

### Darts

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

### Snooker

The snooker tables are very popular. Due to the success of the Club's Snooker Room and the increased demand for games it has become necessary to reiterate these guidelines for use by members.

These guidelines are also on display in the bar.

### Snooker Room Etiquette

1. Members must be in the Club to assess the availability of a table.
2. If both tables are in use a member wishing to play shall put his/her name on the chalk board provided.
3. Members playing should acknowledge the chalkboard action and, when their game is over, should inform the person who chalked their name that a table is available.
4. At times of heavy demand for games playing members are asked to limit their session/game to thirty minutes duration or a maximum of two 50p in the light meter.
5. In the event of a tournament these rules will be suspended for the duration of the tournament only.
6. Members are expected to abide by these simple snooker room rules for the benefit and enjoyment of all members.

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

### New roof

Members cannot have failed to notice the scaffolding around the clubhouse.

The roof of the club has been showing signs of deterioration for some time. It was covered in a thick layer of moss which caused problems as it rolled into the gutters. When we got an assessment for work to remove the moss we were told that the roof tiles were delaminating and several were cracked.

So, before the AGM, we solicited quotes for the renewal of the roof. This would entail the removal of the tiles, the battens underneath and the felt. Then all would be replaced with new. We realised that with work so comprehensive we had an opportunity to fit solar panels to the rear of the club. By integrating the panels into the roof we would be able to save the cost of a significant number of tiles and so offset the cost of the solar panels.

Several firms quoted for the work and the committee selected A.T.Martin Ltd. as the roofing contractor and CosmosEnergy to install the solar panels. There were a number of meetings to discuss details and to ensure both firms understood their part of the work.

The scaffolding was erected during the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> February and the first stripping of the roof started the following week. To allow the solar panels to be installed the rear roof pitches were tackled first.

Although the roof structure had been assessed from inside as in generally good condition there was a little nervousness as the tiles, battens and felt were removed. This revealed work done in the past to strengthen the roof. There was signs of a little bowing but, in general, the structure was found to be sound. Not bad for a roof that is over a 100 years old! A structural engineer was consulted to advise on the bowing and, on their advice, some additional timbers were installed.

With new felt and battens in place on the back pitches it was time for CosmosEnergy to install the solar panels. Twenty four panels have been fitted feeding a 6kW inverter. This is double the capacity of a typical domestic installation but is designed to significantly offset the energy use of the club. The chillers in the cellar run continuously to keep the beer and larger in good condition but they do use a significant amount of electricity.

The installation of the solar panels and the associated electrical installation work went very much to plan. The system was commissioned at 3pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.

Since then the front pitch has been stripped and totally renewed. This has allowed the scaffolding to be dropped and work to start on the rear flat felt roof over the bar area. Work is proceeding well.

When the felt was removed from the flat roof over the bar it became clear that the fall on the roof was not correct. This is being corrected and we are now confident that with the new domed roof light and by raising the roof falls in the corner behind the roof light we will have over come the intermittent leaking problem in the bar area when it had rained heavily.



The hope is that the flat roof will be complete by 14th April but this can be affected by the weather.

## Gable End

With A.T.Martin on site we have also discussed the poor quality of the existing hanging tiles on the gable end of the building. We have discussed the wrong tile and fixing of the tiles which exist at the moment. We will receive an estimate shortly for discussion and possible execution prior to the winter months this year.

## Ladies toilet

Internally working is ongoing to refurbish the walls of the ladies toilet as done in the gentlemen toilet. This includes installing a strip electric heater in the cubicle to help with any dampness and provide some form of heating.

## Pavilion

Black mould was discovered recently in the ceiling area of the pavilion. Andy Pullen attended and removed the ceiling with the aid of face masks - the spores can be detrimental to health. Replacement plasterboard has been installed with some lagging to the exposed cold water pipes which caused the original problem over the winter months due to the lack of heating in this area.



*Work in progress to renew the club roof - March 2023*