

HUNGERFORD CLUB NEWSLETTER

June 2023



Welcome

Welcome to the June 2023 newsletter. We seemed to have skipped spring and gone straight into summer. There is a lot going on in the Club as you will read!

We have the latest news from the Steward, Debbie Hutchins. This is followed by a updates from the Bowls, Tennis and Indoor Sports sections. In particular please note the details of the tennis section fund-raising event and the Live Music night in July.

Dates for your diary

- [Ladies Who Lunch](#) on 15th Jun 2023 1:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [President's Day / Charity Day](#) on 17th Jun 2023, at Hungerford Club - bowling green
- [Tennis Funday and Fete](#) on 24th Jun 2023 12:00:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [Bowls Open Mixed Pairs Tournament](#) on 8th Jul 2023, at Hungerford Club - bowling green
- [Live Music Night with Liza Marshall](#) on 22nd Jul 2023 8:30:pm, at Hungerford Club - club house
- [Hungerford Club Beer Festival](#) on 26th Aug 2023, at Hungerford Club - club house



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

Opening times

We have moved to summer opening times as follows.

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

News from The Steward

Ladies who lunch - 15th June

Ladies Who Lunch is still proving to be a success. Any new ladies out there are welcome to join us for a light lunch, conversation and lots of laughs. This month's date is the 15th June, from 1-3pm. Cost is £7.50 per lady. If you are coming on your own call Debbie on 01488 682357 and she will look out for you and make you very welcome.

A Note from Gary the Chef

Gary is steadily improving and hoping to be back in the kitchen serving his traditional Sunday lunches again in the next couple of weeks.

While Gary is away don't forget that there are plenty of meals that he has prepared and frozen, so that we can always offer a hot meal.

Also rolls and panini are on offer with fillings of your choice ... within reason!

Events

- 22nd July, 8:30pm – Live music night with Liza Marshall featuring special guest Kevan Bartholamew (pedal steel). Expect to hear a blend of American Country / Folk / Blues / Soul / Pop ... popular covers from 1960s onwards. See Liza's website at <https://www.lizamarshall.com/>
- 26th - 28th August - Beer festival over the August bank holiday weekend.

Beers coming soon

- Business as Usual - 4.4%, Derby Brewing. This is a balanced, easy drinking, malty, traditional amber ale. Has won several CAMRA awards.
- Holmes Stead – 3.4%, Farm Yard Brew, Lancs. This is a homage to a classic beer style. Five different malts are used to build a robust, malty backbone and balance it with traditional UK hops.
- Amptill Gold – 4.1%, Kelchnel Brewery, Bedfordshire. Subtle favours of biscuit from the malted barley perfectly complement the crisp bitterness and delicate hop aroma.

CAMRA Award

Congratulations to the Steward, Debbie Hutchins, for receiving the CAMRA Club of the Year 2023 award on Wednesday, 19th April.

Debbie puts in a tremendous amount of hard work into making the social side of the club alive and vibrant and this award is well deserved recognition of all she does. You can read the CAMRA article on the award at <https://westberkscamra.org.uk/award/coty-2023/>

The Hungerford Club also received this award in 2022 as you can [read here](#).



Are you getting emails from the Club?

This newsletter is emailed to all members who have given us their email address. However, sometimes things do go wrong. A common problem is that the email address is hard to read on the membership application form. If you know of a member who is not getting this newsletter via email please ask them to give us their email address via the bar. Alternatively leave a comment on the website at www.hungerford-club.co.uk. Follow the link on the home page under “Contact Us”

Would tennis section members please check that they have the most up to date contact details, including their email address, in their ClubSpark profile?

Bowls Section

The Bowls Season is now well under way having played a number of Friendlies and League matches with varied results. The weather has been very much in our favour.

Our League sides have found it difficult at times to have the required number of players due to illness and players having surgery. However we have players returning over the next couple of weeks. We have also recently recruited some new players which is very good news.

We had a pleasant time on our Open afternoon when a number of people came down from the Coronation celebrations to give bowls a try. A few have been coming back to our Tuesday and Friday Roll up sessions and have now signed up.

Next weekend we welcome Westlecot BC from Swindon. This is a Trophy match when we play for the Rose Bowl. This will be followed by the President’s Day match when Vic Lardner brings an invited team to play against Hungerford. This will also be our Charity Day when Vic hopes to raise funds for his chosen Charity – Riding for the Disabled.

We look forward to our Mixed Pairs Tournament on 8th July when we hope to welcome players from many different Bowls Clubs. This is one of our major fundraising events.

If you wish to give Bowling a try do come along to one of our Roll up sessions at 2pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. If you cannot make this time do give me a ring and we can arrange an alternative,

Jennifer Bartter - 07872 849791

Secretary Hungerford BC

Tennis Section

Tennis Funday and Fete

The tennis section are raising funds to refurbish Court 1. On the 24th June there will be a number of stalls selling everything from plants and pottery to sweets, cakes, teas and coffees.



The Club bar will be open and there will be a Prosecco Bar serving prosecco and Aperol spritzers.

There will be live music for you to enjoy while having something from the BBQ which will be serving from 12:30 to 16:00.

Try tennis for free

If you would like to explore your inner Iga Swiatek or Novak Djokovic then come along for a free session at the following times

- 5 to 10 years: 12:30 – 13:15
- Teenagers: 13:15 – 14:00
- Adults: 14:00 – 14:45
- Challenge the coach: 15:00 – 16:00

Take a look at the poster at the end of this newsletter.

League Reports

The club's league teams are having a good season. Here are some match reports – there have been some ups and downs but overall there has been great tennis.

Ladies v Yattendon & Frilsham away 18 May

This was a tough opening match with Ann and Pauline facing an experienced pair, maybe not too much power, but very good at placing the ball accurately. Whilst A & P battled on, they eventually succumbed in both sets. Alice and Hannah were on the other court with some great tennis against one former county player and one Bradfield School player. Such great tennis and in spite of one of Alice's power shots folding an opponent in two, (and making all male spectators wince!) they also lost both sets 4-6, but thoroughly enjoyed the match which could have gone either way. Halfway through and 4 sets down, could there be a recovery to a draw? Short answer was no! A & H made sure of two sets against the clever opponents, but A & P lost both of theirs against their number one pairing. Great tennis, enjoyed by all, but a 2-6 defeat for this first match of the season.

Ladies v Kintbury 25 May

Hungerford triumphed against Kintbury Ladies A team winning by a stonking 7 sets to 1

Hannah and Nicola beat their 1st pair 6-4/6-4 and their 2nd pair 6-0/6-3

The stoic and determined pair Carolyn and Isabel smashed the 2nd pair 6-1/6-2 then only just lost the 1st set on a tiebreak 6-7 and won the 2nd set 7-5 against the strong 1st pair.

It was a marathon for Carolyn and Isabel playing until minutes before the lights went off at 10pm
Congratulations to all (including Alice who had to drop out because of work commitments but turned up to drink wine and slowly freeze with me and some other hardy spectators).

Mixed B match report 15 May:

Our first match of the season against Kintbury B started very well with a quick 6-0 win by Stacey and Andrew. Unfortunately it was the quick finish that proved their downfall later on as they had to wait too long in the chill wind before their next match.

Hannah and Neil resumed their partnership easing into a 6-2 win in the first round. With both Pauline and Jay having a nervous start with flashes of brilliance, we were 2-1 up after the first round. For round two, Stacey and Andrew started strongly, faded slightly, losing that set. Pauline and Jay continued to struggle, but Hannah and Neil improved to only allow the opposition one game. So after two rounds it was 3 sets apiece.

Once again Stacey and Andrew had to wait the longest for play to resume and lost the third set. Hannah and Neil were now in the groove with a 6-0 win! But Pauline and Jay were still not settled, with again some excellent play from both. End result was a 4-5 loss although we won 39 games to their 33! A good match with some great tennis that could have gone either way.

Well played everyone.

Match report Mixed B vs Blewbury C on Mon 22nd May at home.

We were expecting strong opposition as Blewbury won the division last year. Hannah and Neil started on the middle court, i.e. the most visible for the spectators (!) and were clearly struggling against their number two pair. Three games down almost instantly. But suddenly Carolyn and Steve had finished, and so had Nicola and Peter. Both were successful, winning 6-3 and 6-2. Then everyone watched the middle court with the match still going. The opposition were to serve at 5-6 down and we finally won 7-5. So, one round completed and we were 3-0 up.

Carolyn and Steve went on the middle court, and Mel was frequently heard to groan “oh Steve” and the pair went down 4-6. Mel or Carolyn must have had words, since they took the next set 6-0!

Hannah and Neil sorted themselves out and took the next two sets 6-3 & 6-1, although Hannah said they were playing like donkeys! (Maybe I misheard and she said braying?)

Nicola and Peter were solid throughout taking 18 games to the loss of just 5.

Overall some great tennis was enjoyed by the supporters and we won 8-1 and 53 games to 23.

Well done team! And thank you to all the supporters.

Match report Mixed A vs Newbury A. 15th May

Sorry for the late match report but it's been a struggle to summon up the willpower to put pen to paper after such a poor showing from myself. Our first match of the season was away to a strong Newbury side. Alice and I won the first game of our first set and didn't win another and obviously

lost 6-1. Marbeth and Rhian were on the court next to us and we watched them win their set against a very polite young lad and his partner 6-4. Nicola was having her first outing with us, partnering Mike. They were playing a very good pair and were beaten 6-3. The next round of sets saw Alice and I play better and we served for the set but eventually lost 7-5. Marbeth and Rhian were having a set of deuces against their best pair but they came off with a 6-2 loss which was a bit harsh on them. Nicola and Mike also lost which meant that we had lost the tie before the last round. Alice and I were dismissed 6-1 whilst Rhian and Marbeth also lost heavily. We trudged off together and stood and watched Nicola and Mike, who were 5-2 up but their opponents fought back in a great set of tennis with some lovely rallies. It eventually went to a tiebreak and the Hungerford pairing went 5-2 up again only to be pulled back. They prevailed at last 13-11 and it gave us all a boost although the A4 was shut and we were fretting about getting back for a swift one before Debbie called time at the bar! A match best put behind us and I'm sure we'll come on for the run. Can't believe I've prattled on for so long over such dross.

Match report Men's C 23rd May vs Newbury C.

Time was when 'C' team tennis meant a bunch of old guys pit-patting a ball between them, with every other lobbed pit and every other mishit pat resulting in an unforced error and a point lamely won or lost. The old guys enjoyed themselves, but it was hardly good spectator sport. Time was. Rumour had spread that in 2023, things would be different. And so it was that on an admittedly fine evening, a huge audience of 20 or more turned up in huge anticipation to watch the C team's first home match of the season. What they witnessed to their surprise was some proper competitive tennis, played by athletes ranging from young to old, displaying a whole panoply of rallies, volleys, and passing shots, some quite sumptuous. Ok, a little bit of hyperbole going on here, but it was genuinely good stuff. We eventually lost 3-6, but as non-playing captain, I am immensely proud of my boys' performance against a very strong Newbury C team. The 3 sets in our favour were all won by our devastating pair of Jacob and Ash (well in truth they were 3, with Jacob standing by his homophone, but luckily the opposition didn't notice). Success was guaranteed once Jacob had heeded the instruction to play percentage tennis and he realised after a while that this meant taking 75% risk with every shot rather than 100% risk. Ash was, as usual, very strong at the net, sending 3 balls out of court after hitting life-threatening winning smashes. The pairing of Robbie and Charles (average age of 43, so you realise how young Robbie must be) provided stiff competition for their opponents in all sets, without quite seeing a win. Graham H and Mike H similarly competed strongly but lost crucial points after reaching deuce in many of their games.

All agreed, players and spectators alike, that it had been a good fun evening. Huge thanks to all those who came to watch and support.

Match report Mixed A vs Bucklebury A. 22nd May.

Our second match of the season was away to Bucklebury and we had another young lady making her first appearance for the Mixed A team in Isabel. She had to wait even longer on the night though as they only have two courts and Marbeth & James and Alice & I played first. Marbeth & James were playing together for the first time in a long while and lost their first set 6-3. Alice set off hitting the ball beautifully and we romped to a 6-2 win in quick fashion. On came Isabel & Mike to

play Bucklebury's top pair. I only saw a little of this set but Isabel looked to be hitting it nicely and I could hear Mike congratulating her for some lovely tennis. It was in vain though as they lost that set 6-1. As that set was progressing Alice and I inexplicably went from 3-1 up to 5-3 down against their 3rd pair. We got back to 5-5 but eventually lost it 7-5. This was to prove costly. Marbeth and James lost their next set against the home number ones but Isabel and Mike played very nice stuff to win their second set 6-2. This meant that we had to take the last three sets to win the tie. Again Alice was belting it hard and with accuracy and we won a tough set 6-4. Marbeth & James came up short in their final set but by now Isabel had really settled down and was striking some lovely shots which was impressing the rest of us as we had all finished and were watching on. They went on to win that very nice set of tennis 7-5 and even though we lost 5-4 on the night it could have gone either way and was very enjoyable anyway. Well done everyone.

Match report. Men's C away to Yattendon 31 May.

It was a story of firsts. Our first visit to Yattendon (why did Hot Fuzz keep coming to my mind?); and our first encounter with the larger-than-life phenomenon that is Ridgeway. But THE first overshadowing everything else - this was the first time any of us had experienced a win as the C Team. Perhaps the first C team win ever? The history books may need to be re-written. The hope at the outset was that Michael and Ash would win all 3 of their sets, which would just leave Alistair/Charles and Cliff/ myself to win one set each. Amazingly and brilliantly, this plan worked to perfection, and we won!

In fact, the plan got very close to being upset, as Cliff and I should have won a 2nd set - we were leading all the way through the set, but somehow allowed the opposition to come back to 6-6, and after taking a 3 point lead in the tie-break, we eventually lost 8-6....

Everyone played a key part. Ash was his usual mix of charm and a looming aggressive presence at the net,; Michael showed his usual remarkable mobility around the court and ability to recover seemingly lost points; Charles displayed his usual steadiness, always threatening to unleash a surprise bit of power play to keep the opposition uncomfortable; Alistair was our entertainer to match (and psychologically nullify) Ridgeway's banter, pulling off some sublime shots, including a truly remarkable half-court half-volley pick-up of a shot hit at real pace an inch off the ground. Charles and Alistair managed to upset my careful planning by winning not just one, but two sets, giving us a 6-3 set win! Cliff was playing sensible percentage tennis, winning points at crucial moments. My own part, I don't like to say!

It would have been a very enjoyable evening anyway, as Ridgeway and his teammates were extremely welcoming, and a lot of fun. But a win meant we were all basking in an unprecedented warm glow.

The Hungerford Club

TENNIS SECTION

**TRY
TENNIS
FOR FREE!**
details below

**MIDSUMMER
FUN** *draiser*

STALLS

Plants
Pottery
Teas, coffees
Home made cakes
Sweet shop
Greeting cards
Arts & crafts
Textiles & jewellery
Bric a Brac
Tombola

LIVE MUSIC

**SATURDAY 24TH JUNE
THE CROFT 12 NOON**

BBQ

•••
SERVED
FROM
12.30pm
til **4pm**
•••

**PROSECCO BAR
and Aperol Spritz**

**AUNT SALLY
FREE**
Fun for all the family

TENNIS
5 to 10 years 12.30-1.15
Teenagers 1.15-2
Adults 2pm-2.45
Challenge the coach 3-4

Indoor Sports

Darts

The Club is a member of the **Lambourn and Hungerford Darts League**. The team is enjoying some real success. An outstanding moment was a 180 by our steward, Debbie!

Snooker Room

A new carpet is planned for the snooker room and it is due to be fitted any time now.

The snooker room is in demand since another local venue has closed its doors. This means those keen players are looking for alternative tables. **Please** read the Snooker Etiquette rules on display in the bar. We want as many as possible to enjoy our wonderful facilities.

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

Various lightbulbs in the snooker room have failed. Those round the walls are relatively easy to replace and we have tried to keep up with the failures. It seems that when one bulb fails the others quickly follow. This is probably because they were all installed together and are reaching end of life. The bulbs high up in the roof space are harder to get to and we need to close the room to get to these.

There are new emergency lights in the clubhouse and some repainting around them is needed to make the job look tidy and finished.

Most members will not have seen this but there is a problem with condensation in the rear lobby of the bar coming from from the glass washer. Air holes have been cut into the rear door and rear lobby external door and a “hit and miss” vent put over holes. The condensation is produced from the heat and steam from the glass washer and is nothing to do with any dampness.

The alarm system is to be resited from the area – the control box is in a poor position and interferes with access to the new glass washer.

Club Roof

We are pleased to report that the work on the club roof is now complete. At the time of the last newsletter the north pitch was being finished and work was due to start of the flat roof over the bar. Both jobs are complete. A number of people have commented on the improvement to the look of the club. We will not miss the moss on the old roof!

When work started on stripping the flat roof it was found that the fall of the roof was wrong. This explains the leaks that would occur during heavy rain as the rain water built up against the main building and the roof light. The good news is that this has been corrected. Where necessary new timber and boards were fitted and the roof has been felted.

Solar Panels

Low Carbon Workspaces grant.

Thanks to information passed to us via the LTA, the club applied for, and was awarded, a Low Carbon Workspaces grant covering 40% of the cost of the panels. This grant is available to any small workplace, charity or other organisation employing staff.

The solar panels are integrated into the new roof and so we saved the cost of the equivalent area of roof tiles. This saving, combined with the grant, made the solar panels particularly cost effective.

Performance

So how are they doing? After one month of operation we are getting a feel for the performance of the solar panels. The amount of sunshine hasn't been particularly out of the ordinary but even so the panels are providing about one third of the club's electricity.