

Tennis Section report for AGM 7th November 2024

The Tennis section has had a very productive year.

Court 1- We finally have court 1 done plus all the other courts repainted up and looking great. Big thank you to Chris Dodd for project managing the work and to Mike Roques too for helping to find contractors at the right price. I know we have virtually emptied the sinking fund but think we all agree we just needed to get it done. A big thank you to all of you who have helped in our fundraising efforts this year, donating time, money, food, plants, cakes and even ceramics. I can't name check you all but you know who you are. This all helped to get us over the line funding court 1.

Club Play The club play sessions have gone from strength to strength – we have increased our membership by just over 15% . With more members we need to find ways of pulling us all together as a club and Michael Hradill's many competitions have been brilliant for that – ensuring that new members are included and encouraged to join in and feel a part of the club immediately. This all takes loads of work so again a big thank you to Michael for ensuring this club delivers plenty of friendly competitive tennis especially for those of us not in the league teams.

Pay and Play .

We are soon to start offering Pay and Play to the public, just fine tuning the booking procedure. We purposely factored in an extra gate on court 1 to enable us to have a separate access gate/code for non members. This code will change on a regular basis and the code only given to players on payment of court fee which will be @£7 an hour. Rackets and balls will be available free from behind the bar- deposit required. Court 1 will be colour coded for specific times (to be agreed) available for the public to book **but members will still be able to book court 1 at these times too.**

Coaching Thank you to JK for his continued passion for coaching and indeed his enthusiasm for this club in particular. For those of you who don't know, he is now working with MENCAP doing coaching sessions with them which is great for the profile of the club and it's also just a good thing to do!. When we get Pay and Play going we are hoping that any money raised from that can be used to continue this partnership- as MENCAP only have funding for 18 sessions. The juniors are going from strength to strength with some of them already playing in the senior league teams and I know JK has plans to increase the junior coaching programme as well as senior coaching. He will present in more detail at Tennis AGM.

Teams report (Chris Dodd and Caroline Walker)

The tennis section has been more competitive than ever, besides the increased internal competition, the club has been active over the last winter with our mixed team achieving second place and promotion. This year there are two winter mixed teams, both currently topping their respective divisions!

In the summer Newbury and District league this year we had 7 teams, three men's, two ladies and two mixed. A total of 74 players were involved in 36 matches with varied results,

both ladies teams, mixed B and men's A finished in 3rd place, men's C avoided last place again this year! Men's B almost won their division, but finished second having won more sets and games than the first place club! Mixed A went one better and won all their matches, gained maximum points and won their division. Mixed A and Men's B are in line for promotion.

Meanwhile we also re-entered the Berkshire League after an absence of many years. Just one mixed team this year, but they won their division in the first season. Again promotion beckons.

Notably we had a wide age range playing, including a number of juniors gaining match experience as well as many who could be classed as 'seniors' and every age in between!

CD

Ladies B team

This season we entered and fielded a 2nd Ladies team. This enabled predominantly new blood to take part in league matches. The skill and enthusiasm of the junior members was particularly welcomed. Although we won 7 out of the 10 matches, winning 49 sets and 389 games, we ended up 3rd in a field of 6. We should therefore remain in the same division. Particular thanks to Brona who relieved me of the Captaincy and ran it on a tight rein with much success. We hope she will be back with us soon to whip us into shape for next season.

CWalker

A final thank you from me to the tennis committee (and my many sub committee members) You lot make being the Chair almost fun! And thank you to Debbie and her team as ever- you guys are doing a fantastic job and very supportive to the tennis section.

For more detail on the Tennis Section, the TENNIS AGM is on Thursday 21st November.

Hopefully see you there

Claire Ward

Chair Tennis