

# Smash Hits

No 28,  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2009

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A welcome from our new chairman.....

I am pleased to have been elected to the position of Chairman. This will be a step up for me, from working behind the scenes at the club to a more visible role.

The new committee will put a lot of energy into developing the club but hope that some of the newer members and parents of younger members would like to get involved....it would be great to have some new blood with fresh ideas.

The club is in good health in terms of an efficient administration system and a healthy financial reserve. The previous committee has worked hard to deliver this position and should receive many thanks from the members.

There are several important issues for the 'new committee' to address:

- New faces are needed on the committee; the positions of Treasurer and Membership Secretary are not filled. Roy has taken on the role of Junior Secretary but in some ways this is a conflict of interest since the Junior Secretary is supposed to monitor the Head Coach' performance and work in partnership to deliver the junior coaching program. It maybe that we set up a Junior Committee to enable the work load to be spread.
- The Cash flow for the last year was in deficit, £7000, after minor capital investment, £6000. Whilst we have reserves in excess of £40,000, we should not run a deficit when future investment in an improved coaching program, court surfaces, lighting and clubhouse development are essential. We have gained subscription income but lost bar and social revenues. Expenses have remained under control although the cost of administration is up due to the appointment of a paid administrator.

- CLTC has to decide what it wants to be and how to fund the objective:
  1. we can remain a small community club offering the playing, social and coaching services as we have for several years. We could probably exist by trimming expenditure, developing the social revenues and minor subscription increases....or
  2. we can grow the club particularly with respect to the coaching and development of the younger members, and changing the playing surfaces. With a significant increase in new young players we now have an obligation to offer a facility, which meets their aspirations. This development will come at a cost which needs to be funded
- LTA accreditation through Club mark is a basis for moving forward to grow the club along the lines of 2. above. This is fully described on the LTA website and a synopsis of the pros and cons will be provided to members. The committee will review the Club mark option and make recommendations for the future. It is estimated that the cost could be £5000 in the first year.
- We need to take action to improve the playing surfaces. Any decision to make a major investment in new synthetic surfaces would be presented to the membership in advance of a decision being taken.
- We need to stimulate the club social playing sessions and consequently the revenue, which comes from the bar.

Some of the issues are for immediate action and some will evolve over the next few months.

Basically this is a small but very successful tennis club with good facilities, a healthy number of members and a strong financial position. The new committee will strive to improve this position but always taking into account the opinions of the members.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead

Tony Bryan

## **Committee News**

As Tony mentioned we have a few positions vacant and are planning on forming a Junior Committee.....if you are interested in getting involved please let one of the committee members know.

## **Ladies Christmas Tournament**

After torrential rain all day and the chance of any tennis that evening minimal at about 7pm the rain stopped and the evening cleared.

A fantastic evening was had, great food and tennis, approx 35 ladies turned up for a few hours of tennis followed by supper and socialising.....a great evening was had by all and we think we may repeat the event at the start of next season.

During the evening there was a small raffle to fund the buying of the Club Xmas tree.

Champagne, wine and chocolates were won and £40 was raised.

A big thank you to Claudia Borroughs, Anne's daughter who offered free manicures or back massages during the evening to all the ladies who wanted it.

## **New Years' Day Tournament**

Michele and Bob, with a little help from their friends, will be organising not one but two tournaments over the forthcoming holiday period.

The Apres Noel Fun Mixed Doubles Tournament starts at noon on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> come and enjoy some great tennis....work off the mince pies and then enjoy some mulled red wine which will be gently warming. Sign up on the notice board or email Nicky.

Last year we had a massive turn out for the 'Show down at Noon' New Years Day tournament with refreshments. So as we always aim to please, there will be a repeat New Years Funday tournament at noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. Sign up in the club now or send an email to Nicky. We look forward to seeing in the New Year with you on our tennis courts.

## **Winter Box League**

With the end of December looming so is the end of the first round of the box league.....please hurry up and get all those outstanding games played otherwise you will lose those hard fought for points!!!!Watch out for the new set of pairings in January.

## **Caledonian Cup**

Alan Mitchell so loved the tennis in the Men's C Team that he bequeathed us with the Caledonian Cup when he went back in the '90's to his forebears across the border. Ever since then we have commemorated those halcyon days by having a late October competitive men's doubles tournament. This year our revered, former C team Capn Steve Smith, and his players Jim (The Net) Bullingham and David (Mr Pastry) Hawkins were on parade. The sun shone and we all hammered the balls fast and furiously. When all the individual scores from the twenty players were totalled Alex Hawkins, Mr Pastry's son, walked away with the Caledonian Cup.....Congratulations Alex

## **Parking**

I know that some of you like to park within the clubhouse, please can you refrain from parking there when it is Junior and Mini squad times, approx 6.30pm most evenings. The children do use the practice wall and it is rather dangerous to have young children and cars in that area at the same time.

## **Website**

Following our competition to design a new website our winner is Andrew Bungard.....thanks and well done Bungi..... we now have an exciting new site that is being developed and hope that we will be able to go live with it early in the new year.

