



# Smash Hits No 29,

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From the Chairman

Since I took over as Chairman in late November, it seems to have been continually cold, snowy and a bit bleak....not exactly the best conditions for playing tennis outside. However I am regularly surprised when I visit the club to see various groups, often juniors being coached, and hardened seniors playing their usual 'fours'. We did get a couple of social days played over Christmas and New Year but probably members have not been able to play as much tennis as they would like to have done.

The two main thrusts for developing the club this year are going to be:

- Energising the coaching program, particularly for our junior members as we implement some of the LTA initiatives, which encourage competition and require British Tennis Membership. The Junior Notice board will be much more interesting and active this year with input from a newly formed Junior Committee, the coaches and coordinated by Nicky Jones.
- Developing a busy social tennis calendar for the enjoyment of all members, which will often be accompanied by food and the bar. One objective is to get our newer members integrated into the social fabric of the club and the other is to replace revenue for the club, which has fallen during the past year.

The committee has decided that it is appropriate to repair and repaint Courts 1,2 and 3, rather than resurface with a porous acrylic or similar. This mixture of 2 surface types for a 6 court club is recommended by the LTA. This decision also fits the financial status of the club, which is presently very healthy and will now remain so.

We will be looking for ways to improve the quality of fittings and presentation of the club and welcome any suggestions through the Suggestion Book.

We have decided to raise subscriptions in April by an average of 6%, which is still very competitive for comparable clubs in the area and should ensure that income will be approximately the same as expenditure for the next 12 months.

We are trying to set up a competitive playing structure throughout the club to allow all members to find something to suit their level of ability. This includes all the usual Herts and Watford league teams, the mid-week Ladies leagues and the Junior and Mini inter-club matches. We have initiated a mixed singles league/ladder system and will increase the number of 'Sevens' and social tournaments. None of these things happen without a lot of effort by committee members and other members and we are always seeking more help in this area.

The playing season is almost with us, it is time to get fit and improve your tennis. Team coaching starts in early March and the coaches are always happy to help with some private lessons for those who are taking the new season seriously.

Have fun !!

**Tony Bryan**

February 2010

## Committee News

The committee is pleased to welcome Lindsay Bird as our new treasurer. We still however have a vacancy for the Membership Secretary and the Junior Secretary.

We now have a few volunteers for our junior committee, namely Roy Richardson, Steve Hull and Rishil Dhruva with Viv Bartlett and Chris Porter offering to run and coordinate some of the junior teams.....we still need a few more people to help run the junior teams so if you are interested in getting involved please let one of the committee members know.

## Winter Box League

The first round of the winter box league has been completed and the second round is underway so now the weather is improving it is time to get some of those matches played.

## Mixed Singles Box League

The draw for the mixed singles league is now on the notice board, and has been emailed to the participants, the first round needs to be played by 4<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone wishing to join the ladder let Nicky know and we can incorporate you into the next round

## Website

Our new website is now live and can be viewed at [www.chorleywoodtennis.com](http://www.chorleywoodtennis.com) Andrew has done a fantastic job on the site and is keeping it up to date with all the club news.

## British Tennis Membership

Don't forget to join up for BTM, it is currently free and is easy to do on the LTA's website <http://www.lta.org.uk/britishtennismembership/> The more BTM we have the more Wimbledon tickets we will get allocated, these then go into a draw for the members, however you can only enter this draw if you have a BTM number. Don't forget all you mini's and juniors you can join too. Also for all juniors to play in club teams they will have to have a number together with a ranking, which you can apply for at the same time.

If you need help with applying for your membership then let Nicky know.

## Clubhouse

It appears that the furniture in the clubhouse is still not being looked after.....more of the red tub chairs have been broken.

Please help to maintain the club house by looking after the furniture, if you rearrange things then please put the chairs back afterwards.

## Team Matches

Fixture lists will be issued by this week and will be put up on the notice board and on the website.

We are also trying to get more social matches arranged.....info to follow on these.

## In-House Tournaments

There are a number of in house fun tournaments coming up so keep a look out on the notice board.

Ladies lunchtime coaching tournament, run by Andrea, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 1.30 – 3.00pm.

Pre Season handicapped tournament, run by Roy, 6/7<sup>th</sup> March & 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> March.

Easter Monday fun day, run by Bob Arthy

## Summer Open Tournament

The sheets are up in the clubhouse for this years' open tournaments, the closing date for entries is 13<sup>th</sup> March so hurry up and sign up, if you can't get to the club then email Nicky and let her know.

## Quiz Night

Nick & Nicky Jones are running a quiz night on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 for 8.00pm start; tables of 6, £10 per head; food served at 9.00pm, meat & vegetable lasagne prepared by Monks Kitchen.....this should be a fun night so hurry up and get your teams sorted and tables booked.....some tables have already been booked and there is a limited number that we can accommodate.

## Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are due on 1<sup>st</sup> April, renewals packs will be issued by email, during the last week of March. As this year we don't have a membership secretary it will be a more onerous task trying to process the renewals, therefore if you could be prompt in returning your forms and payments I would be very grateful.

## **Junior Spring AEGON Tournaments**

We have entered a girls 14 & U 2 player team and a boys 18 & U 4 player team, matches start in March and run through to the beginning of June. If you are interested in playing then let Roy or Nicky know. We will be emailing out specific dates to all the relevant juniors in the next few days.

More teams have been entered into the summer tournaments, as hopefully commitments to football, rugby etc will have finished by then, these matches start in May.

Don't forget to log onto the LTA website to get your BTM number and rating in order to be able to play in these matches.

## **JC Nite**

JC Nite is starting up again this Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 5.30-7.00pm, and is open to all juniors age 10+. It is an informal session run by Roy and should be a lot of fun. There will be a nominal charge of £2 per session.

## **Junior Saturday Tournament**

The next Saturday fun tournament is March 27<sup>th</sup>, 12-2.00pm and will be for the 14 & U age category, both boys and girls.

## **Easter Camps**

Simon will be running his very popular holiday camps over the Easter break. There will be a three day course both weeks, 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April. More details will follow nearer the time or you can contact Simon for more details / bookings

## **Saturday Afternoon Teas**

Apparently Pam Peel baked a particularly delicious cake last week and for those of you who have asked the recipe is below.....this is definitely one that I will try.

Ingredients: 75g\*/3oz butter; 140g\*/5oz caster sugar; 2 eggs; 275g\*/10oz self raising flour (with plain use 2 ¼ level teaspoons baking powder); pinch of salt; 110 or 100g /4oz crystallised

ginger; 50g/2oz chopped walnuts; 110 or 100g/4oz chopped stoned dates; 2 tablespoons melted apricot jam; walnut halves to decorate  
\*gives best results

Peel, core and slice apples. Cook gently with water until tender then sieve or beat until thick puree. If the apples are particularly juicy the puree must be simmered in an open pan until it is very thick. Allow to cool.

Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs. Fold in the sieved flour and salt and mix to a soft consistency with the apple puree. Fold in the ginger, nuts and dates. Spoon the mixture into a large greased loaf tin and bake in a moderate oven, 350°F, 180°C, gas mark 4, for 1-1.25 hours. Cool on a wire tray then brush the top with melted apricot jam and decorate with the walnuts.....and enjoy!!