



# Smash Hits No 31,

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## From the Chairman

We are at the end of the summer and the main playing season for 2010.....it is almost a year since the new committee took over and we are heading for the CLTC Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010. You may like to reflect on some of the issues previously reported on and raise them for discussion at the AGM.

On the playing front, the club has been represented enthusiastically, with mixed success; see Bob and Michele's report. Many thanks to all the captains and organisers who often have to put in a lot of hard work to get their 6 players in the right place at the right time.....also thanks to all the players and I hope most of you will return next year!!!

The Summer Camps and Junior coaching sessions were well attended with many positive comments from parents...along the lines that these are genuinely learning sessions and not just play sessions for the kids!!!

Congratulations to those who participated in the club championships and also those who were successful. I think that holding the CLTC finals in July was a success and is likely to be repeated. It has now given us the chance to hold the late summer Veterans tournament, which is currently ongoing....please make sure that the matches are played by the due dates!!!

Socially we have moved on this year. Nick & Nicky have organised the Two Generation tournaments, which have been very successful and also a successful Quiz night. We have been able to get newer members of the club involved.

The Singles ladder has been very well supported. As have the regular '7s' sessions and club sessions.

We have now installed a projector (originally with the objective of watching England win the World Cup!!! )....which coupled with either the television, the CD player or computer will be used at various functions. We are open to ideas about film nights or wine quiz nights etc.

We have not yet decided what to do about Clubmarking..... if you are interested, you can read up on this on the LTA Website. There is no real urgent need to Clubmark..... a lot of work would be needed by several committee members and at the present time, we do not need any LTA funding, which seems to be the major benefit. I will report on this further at the AGM.

We have a new website thanks to Bungi, who took it on as learning process for himself as well as improving the image of CLTC. Bill Burgess, who had managed the website for 10 years, gave Bungi good support in moving information to the new web site.

Finally concerning the facilities, we have completed the kitchen installation within budget...thanks are due to Ivan who even got his hands dirty as part of the process. Let us hope that it lasts as long as the original 19 year installation masterminded by Percy.

The courts have been playing well with the top courts having benefited from repainting.

Lindsay will be reporting on the state of the finances at the AGM. But I believe that the outcome will be just about as anticipated.....no substantive hidden costs or inheritances appearing!!!

All the foregoing presents many positives but there are also areas for improvement If you want to raise any issues then either do so before the AGM, to give us a chance to think about the answers, or at the meeting .

The new committee will be elected at the 25<sup>th</sup> November AGM. If you want to become involved with running the club, then please put your name forward for any of the committee positions. Notices will be put up on the board shortly.

Tony Bryan

## **Team Matches**

By Bob Arthy and Michele Castelete

Men's A team Captain Simon Loh and his band of talented enthusiastic players have stormed their way back to where they belong. They battled hard all Summer and were finally rewarded by promotion back into the First Division of the Watford and District Leagues for 2011. So our congratulations to one and all who played their part in steering our A team back into the Premier League. Nice one lads and Good Luck next year.

The B team, under the Captaincy of Steve Page had injury problems to cope with at the beginning of the season. With Steve's encouragement and inspirational pairing choices the looming disappointment of demotion was averted. More of our talented juniors gained match play experience, tasting success and disaster, whilst keeping our B team in the third Division.

Unfortunately our C team was demoted despite the hard work of Captain Steve Hull who moves heaven and earth to ensure that we field the best possible six men team. He can't though do this for other teams. Regrettably Rickmansworth fielded weak sixes at the end of the season which meant we lost out in the musical chairs that resulted from weaker teams unexpectedly winning.

Finally the mainly victorious D team played 'friendly' matches against local clubs. Tony Bryan our Captain and match organiser was well pleased with new, to match play, team members. They often played their hearts out for victory and thoroughly enjoyed the competitive experience.

This year has not been our finest year for ladies tennis. Although the Ladies A team last year had managed to fight their way back to the first division it was always going to be a battle to stay there and despite their best efforts they now find themselves relegated to the 2nd division. As a knock on result of the Ladies A team taking players from the Ladies B team this team also found itself being relegated. We however have to applaud both captains Wendy Knight A team and April Lane B team for their constant motivation and effort to try and field winning teams.

The Ladies C team is an absolute success story. Brigitte Gilbey and Rachael Conway have narrowly missed promotion from the 5th division to the 4th division. Both captains worked extremely hard and got the desired results.

The mixed teams also battled very hard throughout the season, despite lots of injuries we fielded great teams giving a number of juniors the chance to gain team experience. This being reflected in the results with the A & C teams both finishing a credible 5<sup>th</sup> in their divisions and the B team gaining promotion.

Well done to Simon, Roy & Rachel for their joint captaincy of the A team, Nick & Nicky for their captaincy of the C's and congratulations Jane for the promotion of your B team.

## **Caledonian Cup**

This year's Caledonian Cup will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October. This annual, men's doubles event is always a hard fought contest. If you would like to enter either sign up on the board or let Nicky know

## **Winter Box League**

The entry sheet for the Winter Box League is currently on the board, this is great fun with the winner team benefitting from a night out.

This year both rounds will be mixed doubles.....hurry up and sign up for this great tournament.

## **Winter Vets Tournament**

This tournament is currently underway so please ensure that you get your matches played on time.

Finals Day is 24<sup>th</sup> October, so let's hope for some good weather and come along to enjoy watching some exciting tennis and enjoy a BBQ which will get its last outing for the year.

## **Mixed Singles Box League**

The current league is coming to an end so hurry up and get your last matches played. We will look to start another ladder in November, after the end of the Vets Tournaments, this will run through to February. If you are interested in keeping fit over the winter with some singles then join this league.....just let Nicky know.

## **In-House Tournaments**

Some great fun tournaments have been run over the summer.....thanks to all Bob and Tony who have organised these.

Another Two Generation Tournament was held last weekend with 20 pairings of fathers/daughters, mothers/sons etc, we had a mixed range of children from 8 years up to 16!! Three divisions were run with Jess Stone, Olivia & Elliot Stone and Jonathan Driver winning each round robin group. Thanks to Nick Jones for running this and to all those who helped with the BBQ and general organisation. We will look to run another of these in the spring.

## **Summer Open Tournament**

Our Summer Open Competition was a bit of a repeat of last year really with our home-grown Juniors ruling. Jess Stone, 14 and 17 year old Luke Willis both triumphed in their respective singles and jointly in the mixed doubles. Jess together with Kelly Walsh also triumphed in the Ladies doubles. The men's doubles was a fantastic final with Andrew Bowler and John Ramsell lifting the trophy.

Due to the popularity of this years' competitions we were able to run plate competitions with Johny Conway winning the Men's Singles and Sue Blythe and Adrian Thompson triumphing in the mixed doubles.

Roy Richardson, our Head Coach, organised a knock out singles tournament for the Under 12's with Will Potter and Zoe Ramsay winning the Cups for the Boys and Girls events and Will partner with Louis Prideaux winning the U12 boys doubles.

Thanks to all who made our Finals Day so special... First and foremost thanks to our many

members and to their friends and children who came along and helped create such a friendly atmosphere. Then to Elaine who organised the tasty barbeque lunch and to Harry and Tom who drove the barbeque and to Jack who organised the Bar. To Nicky who worked hard behind the scenes getting the Day organised. To our Head coach Roy who singlehandedly ran the invitation Under 12's tournament and to our Umpires who supplied the gravitas...well done everyone!

## **Junior Autumn Tournaments**

We have entered a mixed U12 team in this Chiltern Tournament. The team will consist of 2 girls and 2 boys aged 11 & 12 (as of March 2011), if you are interested in playing in this please let Nicky know.

## **Junior Summer Aegon Tournaments**

Teams were entered into both girls and boys tournaments for U12, U14 and U16 age categories. Whilst we didn't fair that well all our juniors battled really hard and had some great matches and I believe thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to Viv Bartlett, Sean Brew, Chris Porter, Wendy Chesterman, Lisa Wisbey and Susan Jackson all who managed one of the teams.

## **JC Nite**

This has been well attended and will run up until the October half term but will stop over the winter.

## **Social Events**

Thanks to Elaine Loh for organising a great Hog Roast, fun was had by all who attended.

We are planning on organising a wine quiz, provisional date 20<sup>th</sup> November.....put this date in your diary and await further details.

## **Bursaries**

This year the committee has awarded bursaries to Jess and Luke to help with their tennis careers.

Jess's rating is a 7.1. Recently she has competed in numerous tournaments : Gerrards Cross, Rickmansworth, Gosling, Chesham Bois - reaching the semi or final in each in the U14 & U16 ages groups as well representing Herts in the AEGON 14U County Cup & 12 -16U Counties Championship. Jess plays for the Mixed A & ladies A at Chorleywood, and has won all 3 tournaments in the summer at the club. Good luck Jess in all your future tournaments.

Luke this year has been busy trying to balance his tennis training along with his A levels. Luke entered numerous tournaments over the summer with great results often getting to the finals. Luke was chosen to play in the Hertfordshire County Cup team for under 18's but on first day of training with the squad suffered an ankle injury and was sadly out for 3 weeks.

Luke is currently on a scholarship at Gosling tennis centre called the AASE (Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence) scheme. He is aiming to participate in many indoor series tournaments throughout the winter, matchplays, and also will be training hard for the national qualifiers later on this year.

Luke has put all this into practice when playing for the Men's A and Mixed A teams and competing in our Summer competitions. He will gain an NVQ in tennis excellence by July next year and is looking to take the Level 2 coaching course and therefore gain a qualification which will enable him to help out with coaching at the club.

The club offers bursaries to all promising juniors who wish to pursue their tennis careers further and comply with the criteria for our bursaries. If you wish to find out more please contact Bob Arthy our men's captain.

## **Pay and Play**

Simon is looking, with the help of Luke Willis and Matt Cousens, to resurrect this previously popular pay and play sessions. £1.50 for members and £3.00 for non members

This will start on 9<sup>th</sup> October, times as follows:-  
9:00-10:00am Mini red/orange (ages 6-8)  
10:00-11:00am Mini green (ages 8-10)  
11:00-12:00 Junior 11+

If you are interested let Simon know 07766 164446

## **Roy's Coaching**

Ladies morning for intermediate players 10:30-12:00 every Thursday.

Interested in improving your doubles techniques.....not sure where to stand on the court, how to open up the space.....then get a group of 2, 3 or 4 players together and book a session with Roy.

For either of the above contact Roy on 07889 332260.

Cardio Tennis, we are currently looking into introducing this.....keep an eye on the notice board for more info.