

Smash Hits No 34

October 2011

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From the Chairman

Chairman's Second Bite , dated 11th October

I have received generally positive feedback to the first bite.

1. We have a nomination for the role of Grounds Secretary and Ivan Carter will help with any handover
2. We have a nomination for the role of Men's Captain
3. One suggestion has been made that all members should be required/requested to assist in some role at the club for a period of a few hours per year
4. Another suggestion is that members who take up a committee role should have the benefit of a reduced subscription fee
5. One question asked is what would be the cost if nominations were not received for the various committee positions. I estimate that if the bar were to close, then the club would lose £3000 to £5000 income per year. If we were to employ a person to manage the bar, then it would cost at least £5000 per year. In the event we need additional administrative support, then the cost could be £2000 to £4000 per year. Using these figures as the best estimate, we would be looking at additional expenses of £8000, which is 25% of the income from subscriptions.

We will discuss all recommendations at the next committee meeting.

The two very important positions to be filled are Mens and Ladies Captains. These can be fairly time consuming and require commitment. The Bar Secretary role is most suited to job sharing, if there are a couple of members who have interest.

Please let me have any further suggestions or comments, as soon as possible.

Chairman's Bite, dated 22nd September

We have just attended a Club committee meeting and I am feeling very concerned about the future of the club.

At the surface, a lot is good:

- Marion and I have a lot of good friends at the club, as do many other people
- The financial resources are healthy with more than £50,000 in the bank and a positive annual cash flow
- The club facilities are in good condition
- The quality and availability of social tennis is good
- On the courts, the WDTL teams did well in their leagues and the players enjoyed the competition
- Our junior coaching program is popular with lots of minis and juniors participating, which is excellent for the Chorleywood community and the future of the club. Their teams did particularly well in various Aegon leagues and should be encouraged and congratulated.

The problem is that few members want to be involved in running the club, probably for the following reasons:

- Our lives are so busy particularly when working and raising a family
- This is a very affluent area and people are used to paying for their services
- Attitudes towards contribution to community services have changed

People show from their behaviour what they want from the club and I think presently it is just a service which is not costly, good quality and available tennis when they want it. They are not interested in running and improving the club. This is proven by poor attendance at the AGM, a lack of enthusiasm for the non- tennis social events and a lack of volunteers to help run elements of the club.

They do enjoy social and competitive tennis events, perhaps forgetting that a lot of effort has been put into arranging them by one or two people, very often the same ones!

In making these comments, I have to say 'thank you' to the many volunteers and committee members who have contributed over the years.

This year, 50% of the committee members are resigning for various reasons. They have all put a lot of effort over several years into running the club and we owe them many thanks.

We do not have volunteers to fill all these positions. I will be resigning at the end of next year (if re-elected this year).

It is tiresome to keep having to ask for help. Maybe in the future we will need to 'employ' more people for some roles such as bar and grounds secretary. We can then retain available volunteers in captaincy and development roles to steer the club into the future.

One position which has been tremendously successful is the appointment of our club administrator, but this has a financial cost. If we were to have to do the same for the bar and ground secretaries, then those funds have to come from somewhere, and we would need to raise subscriptions.

Perhaps, this is the future for our club, but all our members should be aware of the path we are following.

This is an opportunity for an individual or a group of members to step forward and really be proactive to take the club forward. The roles can be very rewarding with power to manage and create, plus the satisfaction of working with a committee of friends. As with anything, you can take out what you want, but you have to put something in first.

There are benefits too, in that committee members are guaranteed Wimbledon tickets and an annual dinner as a 'thank-you' for volunteering.

Hopefully some of you will have strong views about this subject and either start personal discussions with committee members, or even use the suggestions book to start a debate. At least start talking amongst yourselves about what you want from your club.

Hopefully many of you will attend the AGM on 24th November to listen and express your views. We obviously welcome nominations for any of the committee positions.

Tony Bryan

Committee Members

An update of the Committee is as follows:

Chairman:	to continue
Treasurer:	to continue
Membership Secretary:	to continue
Men's Captain:	standing down
Ladies' Captain:	standing down
Junior Secretary:	to continue
Community Secretary:	Committee appointment
Joint Bar Secretary:	standing down
Social Secretary:	to continue
Grounds Secretary:	standing down
Match Secretary:	position available

Further information of the positions available is on the notice board. If you are interested and would like to be part of the Committee, please contact Tony Bryan on 01923 771466 or email tony@chasara.co.uk.

AGM

The AGM will be held in the Club House on Thursday 24th November at 8pm. An agenda will be emailed out beforehand. Rules changes will be on the notice board next week, together with a list of nominees for Committee positions. These will be voted on at the AGM.

Trustees

The current Trustees are Harry Christie, Derek Roberts and Colin Wroath.

We wish to appoint one further Trustee and Percy McCloskey has been nominated. If anyone else wishes to put their name forward, please add your name to the notice on the board or email: chorleywoodlawntennis@btconnect.com.

Men's Team Tennis

Firstly a big thank to you to all the people in the Club and the various leagues we belong to that make team tennis work - I would make a special thank you to the Match Secretary and the Team Captains.

We had a mixed bag of results this year, but much fun playing the matches.

In the **Watford League**

A Team - finished 3rd in the First Division - a great result. The season started a bit slow, but the team finished in grand style.

B Team - finished 7th in the 3rd Division - the tennis was very close in the division, but with our team coming the wrong side of too many 5-4 losses has ended up being relegated to Division 4 next season, where the fight for promotion starts on day 1.

C Team - finished 3rd in the 6th Division -

Again the division was very close with some excellent tennis providing a good result.

D Team - this year saw the D Team play a number of so called 'friendly' matches, but from the level of sweat on brows I saw each match was keenly fought and much enjoyed.

We entered a new summer weekend tournament this year **Hot Rackets** instead of the Hertfordshire League. The format suits us much better as it takes 2-3 hours and involves 4 players, rather than the epic 4 or more hours and team of 6 of the Herts League. In brief two pairs each play each other over two long sets with a championship tiebreak if required. If the match is tied at this point one player from each pair plays a deciding 'Hot Set' with no dueces; first team to 6 games wins.

Chorleywood finished 2nd in Hot Rackets

Division 1 (effectively Division 2 as there is a Premier Division). This was assisted somewhat with two walkovers as the administration of some teams was poor and being our first year we were learning too. We will be entering again next season and look to improve.

Finally, it is with regret that I am giving up the Men's Captaincy after one year as with work and home commitments it has proved too difficult to serve the Club in the way it needs and I had hoped. I am continuing to captain a number of teams and will be in full support of our next captain.

Steve Page
Men's Captain

Ladies Team Tennis

Ladies A, B and C teams maintain their positions, Mixed B will go down to division 3 and Mixed C will stay in division 5. Well done to the Ladies Hot Rackets team who won the league.

Jane Smith
Ladies Captain

Vets Finals

Vets Finals Day is being held on Sunday 16 October. Matches are in progress and the order of play and start time will be advised nearer the date – watch the notice board for more details. The bar will be open and food will be available.

Supaleague

Supaleague was very successful over the summer months and has now moved on to the next stage, with some new joiners. If you are interested in signing up please email bobarty@hotmail.com.

The Caledonian of 2011



What an absolutely splendid day Sunday 2nd October turned out to be at Chorleywood Tennis Club. Despite the snarling collie in the kitchen that Dick Mander the Yachtmaster sorted, we played four rounds of doubles with our partners being drawn randomly by discs from a Russian fur hat. The blue sky and warm sun with the leaves starting to turn golden in the trees was a rare treat as we men battled for the handsome Caledonian Cup - presented to the Club by the famous C team character Alan Mitchell when he headed north to rejoin his homeland. Those were the days when the C team under our Capn Steve Smith with Jimmy the Net Bullingham, Shorts Hawkins, Baldy Arfee et al ruled triumphant and it was great to see that most of these folk were with us and still capable of hitting a ball over the net on that golden Sunday afternoon. Five courts were on the go and the scores mounted till at the tea interval we found the top four - Geoff Clements, David Baddeley, Sharia and Paul had only dropped a couple of games between them.

So we fixed it that they played each other in the final round and Sharia and Paul won that close encounter. A best of five singles saw Sharia take an early two nil lead but then Iron Man Paul came back at him and won 3-2 and collected the Cup for 2011....



Congratulations to both, and indeed to all 20 players including Harry who played a round and Chairman Tony too.....

Great to see you all and Hasta La Vista for 2012!

Bob Arthy

Men's Fitness Training

There's an opportunity at Chorleywood LTC to separate the men from the boys! Are you up for it ...?

Tuesday nights at 7.30-9.00pm Roy will put you through your paces to improve your consistency of strokes, movement and fitness. You will be pushed to improve every shot you have to a consistent level by playing drill after drill after drill to improve your game.

A list will be put up on the board week after week for no more than 12 players, but no less than 8. The list for the following week's session will go up the following day.

First come, first served. Cost: £5
Any queries, please contact Roy at retennis@ntlworld.com or text/phone 07889 332260

Juniors

What a great summer the Junior Section has had! – our U12 Girls, U14 Girls and U18 Boys are the Aegon Hertfordshire Champions of their respective divisions. Very many congratulations to the U12 Boys who won their Herts competition – well done to Felix Coles and Louis Prideaux! Well done also to the U14 Girls who got through to the semi finals. Congratulations to all those who took part.

Also a big thank you should go to the team managers, the parents who have given lifts and generally encouraged the players and of course not least all the coaches. We are very lucky to have 3 such good coaches who have helped develop our youngsters.

However, we are not going to rest on our laurels and there are a number of initiatives coming your way over the autumn and winter;

- Introduction of the Junior BIG BOX League – for all junior members to take part in.
- Fitness Coaching from Roy.
- Red and Orange Mini Tournament with Andrea.
- Squad Doubles Competitions.
- Junior Presentation evening in December.

Enjoy looking as those pennants hanging in the Clubhouse and lets aim for at least 4 more next year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

JC Nite; JC Nite is running every Friday evening from 5.30-7pm until October half term. All juniors over the age of 10 are very welcome.

Mini Red and Orange Tournament;

On the afternoon of Sunday 9 October the Club hosted the in-house Mini Orange and Mini Red tournament. There were ten Mini Orange players competing in a round robin format with Alex Sharma winning the competition. In the girls' event, Phoebe Eggs came top of her group.

To my delight, around 15 Mini Reds turned up to enjoy an afternoon of match play practise.

The club house was completely filled with children, parents and grandparents.



A huge thank you not only to everyone who turned up to help, but also to the parents who raised £50 towards purchasing new equipment.

We are all looking forward to the next tournament which will take place on Sunday 20 November at 2pm.

Andrea Ritecz, Coach

Club Hoodies

Chorleywood Tennis Club hoodies are now available to order and are available in various sizes:

Juniors (by age) 7/8, 9/10, 11/12 – £21

Adults (without the wording on the back!) – by chest size – Small 34/36, Medium 38/40, Large 42/44, XL 46 – £26



They are currently available in blue as shown but can be ordered in a different colour as long as there is an order of five or more for the same colour. If you would like to place an order, please complete an order form (pinned to the notice board) and forward it (together with a cheque made payable to Chorleywood Sports) to Nicky Edwards.

British Tennis Membership

If you do not currently have a British Tennis Membership number (BTM), it is easy to apply via the LTA website www.lta.org.uk or let Nicky know by emailed the Club. Benefits include:

- Top of Form
- Entry in the Wimbledon ballot
- Personalised monthly e-newsletter
- Discounts and priority for major events
- Discounts/giveaways from selected partners
- Access to Teamcard loyalty scheme
- Juniors get into Wimbledon for £5 after 5pm (second week)
- ...and much more!

Rock n Roll in Chorleywood

Rock and Roll night at the Club took place on Saturday 1st October. It was a dream evening - warm and windless - tables and chairs on our terrace and everyone catching up drinking and chatting. Meanwhile opposite the bar the foursome called Shadowfax with three guitars singers and drums all the way from Warwick seemed to be playing music of the sixties to themselves as folk just stood around.

After the interval a pair started jiving and then another and another and soon Rock and Roll night took off as the group upped the anti and played for real and the dance floor was seething with a mass of girls and boys all strutting their stuff.... It was brilliant and we who were there were the lucky ones who danced till we dropped way past midnight for Shadowfax got better and better as the clock went round.....Well done everyone who made the evening – and early morning – such a huge success.



Many thanks to Toby for all his hard work and everyone else who helped out on the night.

Floodlights

The floodlights on courts 4, 5, and 6 have been repaired. Additional work will need to be done in due course to bring the wiring up to current standards. Clearly this was essential work and all members should be aware that in time these lights will need replacing.

Concert Beside the Common Janet Seidel Trio

There is a concert being held on Monday 7th November at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. It is in aid of Prostate Health and the Melkonian Fund for Street Children.

With Jumping Jools, Aksana, Peter Lennon and David B, Ian Senior, Ambassador Melkonian and friends. Light refreshments and licensed bar.

Tickets £10. Contact bob@arthy.com for more information.