

ealing lawn tennis club

newsletter

August 2009



Founded 1882

Super Summer with a Wonderful Winter to Come!

The club has just enjoyed a very successful Summer Season. Membership figures are up; bar revenues and profits are up; and events and catering revenues and profits are up. Our three top Ladies team all won their Middlesex League competitions. Our traditional Summer Ball and Finals Day events were well attended and blessed with good weather. Wednesday Club Nights have been well attended and a huge group of catering volunteers recruit-

ed and inspired by Victor Wong have provide a wide variety of excellent food at a very competitive price. We begin our Winter Season on 21st September, with pay-in-advance block booking of the dome on weekday evenings. Our Winter Singles League starts on 1 October. Team practice evenings – so successful last year- will begin again on Sunday 6th September. The club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 25th October.



Demetri Smith receives his U12 Winner's Trophy from Ealing Mayor, Councillor Barbara Yerolemou

Sophie Regains Title and Jamie Claims His First Annual Club Championship

At our well attended Finals Day on 18 July Sophie Bell defeated Anneka Els in a fluctuating match 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Sophie also won the title in 2001. In the Men's Jamie Sordyl became the second youngest winner at 15 years old and beat four times winner Sam Tirodkar 7-6, 6-3. Sam and Simon Richards won the Men's Doubles and Cleo Andrews and Rafaela Valentino won the Ladies Doubles. Anneka and Alan Brown won the Mixed Doubles. Teschi and Shohei Yamaguchi won the Restricted Mixed Doubles. In the Handicap Ladies Doubles Juliet Matthews and Frankie Cable beat Ruri Nakagawa and Liz Price. Juliet partnering Gavin MacLellen also won the Handicap Mixed Doubles beating Jeremy and Chloe Rayner. In the Men's Handicap Doubles veteran Vernon Wong and Gareth Austin beat Benny Whitney and Mark Payling. The U14s Girls title was won by Nanami Yamaguchi who beat Lauren Oliver and in the Boys U14 Pandeli Stavrou beat Shaun Mogal.

Ealing Ladies are Tennis Champions of Middlesex for the 7th Year Running

Ealing Lawn Tennis Club's summer season league fixtures came to an end with all four of Ealing Ladies teams winning their respective county divisions.

The highlight was the Club's Ladies 1st team who secured the Middlesex Premier League title for the 7th season running. This was secured in the same manner as the previous season by beating Queens Club at home. The winning squad consisted of Sophie Bell (captain), Cleo Andrews, Hayley Baylis, Anneka Els, Claire Espinasse, Anika Hansmann, Eilis Kerr, Sarah Mannion, Raffaella Valentino, Sabine Wong and Fumie Yamaguchi.

Iain Britton, Ealing's Club Secretary commented "This is an unprecedented achievement and credit must go in particular to Sophie as a new 1st team captain and the other ladies team captains who were Takako Arie, Korin Harvey and Becky Newby".

The Ladies 1st team also competed in National Division 1 of the National Club League where they maintained their status with some excellent wins with club coach Ana Camargos joining the squad. Their best win involved another nail-biting finish against Queen's Club where Sophie

and Anika won the very final tiebreak doubles shoot out.

The Men's teams had a more mixed season. The 1st team led by Kevin Coleman came 4th in an extremely tough Premier League and so maintained their status in the top division. The Mens 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th teams also maintained their places in their divisions. However, the 2nd and 4th teams were relegated from their respective divisions.

The Men's first team were led by Sam Tirodkar when competing in the National Club League and finished 2nd in the County's highest division. So they narrowly missed out on a play off to the National Division 2.

The club's junior teams all showed considerable promise and the highlight of the season was the performance of the Boys Under 10 team. They won the top Division of their county league. The winning squad was James Roberts (parent non playing captain), Hugo Altman, Hans Manku, Karim Marchoud, Albert Olivier, Joey Roberts, and Demetri Smith.

Overall during the summer, Ealing fielded over 130 players in 11 adult teams and 4 junior teams in the Middlesex County and National Club Leagues. This was more than any other club in West London.

See the latest news at
www.ealingtennis.com

ELTC's Heritage

We are one of the oldest Lawn Tennis Club's in the world. Seen below is a recently discovered photograph of the club's first home on St Leonards Road, West Ealing. The 18 Wimbledon Singles Championships won by three ELTC lady members is unsurpassed by any other club on the planet.

In order to collect, preserve and present text and pictures of our 127 year history, the club has decided to dedicate the wall to the right of the bar as our Heritage Wall. On this will be mounted a permanent display of the club's history. We plan to unveil this wall later this year.



*ELTC'S first home - in St Leonard's Road
West Ealing - 1882 to 1906*

We plan in the Autumn to refurbish, and mount the old Honours Boards on the wall to the left of the bar. We will also commission new, compatible Honours Boards to honour the next generation of winners and runners-ups.

Winter Singles League (WSL) - Starts 1st October

The WSL is one of the largest club leagues in the country and is an excellent opportunity to play other members of a similar standard. There are 4 Rounds of the league with relegation and promotion at the end of each Round. It is open to all full adult members and juniors recommended by the coaching team. Entry forms will be available in the clubhouse from Sunday September 6th. The league is always popular and early entry is advisable as there can be a waiting list. For further details contact Iain Britton at iainbritton@yahoo.co.uk

Wednesday Night Club Social Tennis - Update

In the Winter, as the night draw in social play moves inside to the dome. When this happens a fee of £5 is charged to cover the cost of the dome and the balls. As well as catching up on social tennis, it's an opportunity to socialise with other members over a drink at the bar or a meal provided by one of the keen catering volunteers.

The food costs around £5 and what is on the menu varies from week to week. If you would like to join the merry band of catering volunteers are show off your culinary skills, please contact Victor Wong at victor_wong@btinternet.com

Visitors Fees - A Reminder

Just a reminder to sign in visitors into the visitors' book before they play and you book a court. Also please make sure you pay the guest fee in an envelope before you leave the premises and mark in the book. Details of fees are in the clubhouse lobby. This avoids any confusion as to who is playing on the courts (and means that members of the committee won't be chasing you!) The small amount that we charge for visitors fees adds up during the course of the year and means that we can direct further funds towards improving the clubs facilities.

Make your Views Known

As a members club we encourage ideas that may improve the club. This can be done in a number of ways. We have a suggestions box in the clubhouse lobby. We have a club AGM in October (date to be confirmed). And finally, feel free to contact one of the committee members if you have any ideas or concerns (contact details on the club website and club notice-board).

End of Summer Season Party

This will be in the clubhouse on Saturday 12th September. Starts at 8:00pm. There will be finger food. If you plan to attend contact Takako Arie at t.arii@btinternet.com

Vibrant Social Life at the Club

This year started off with the unveiling of our 60 inch large plasma screen with the showing of the Australian Open Finals on 1st February. Some 30 members and guests came along to watch and have breakfast at this event.

Since then, the social fabric of the club has been proven to be as strong as ever and several events have taken place including:

+ Our 2nd Curry & Comedy Evening at the club saw 100 members and guests cosily packed in the new clubhouse and guffaws still being heard after midnight

+ The club was well supported throughout the 6 Nations Rugby Tournament where various styles of food were provided to soak up excess consumption of beer

+ This year saw the return of the Midsummer's Night Ball with a Latino theme and great Spanish food provided by a local restaurant

+ The club's Annual Tournament culminated with a return to some superb catering for a sumptuous lunch on the day before the tennis finals

+ The design of the wide patio doors allowed several BBQs enjoyed by many over the Summer months

+ We also decide to provide a food and drink service on weekends, with staff opening up the bar at lunchtimes, and serving a selection of simple snacks

+ A strong volunteer corps worked over the hot stove providing food on Wednesday Social evenings. This will continue throughout the Autumn and Winter months.

+ It is intended to finish off the year with our regular Christmas Lunch with a fun tournament played before lunch. Suggestions on social events are offers of help are always welcome so please contact Victor Wong or other Management Committee members.

Tuesday and Thursday Afternoon Social Tennis - Update

Pop along if you have the time or a day off work. It starts at 1.30 pm onwards come rain or shine. In the winter months if play is in the dome a small fee is chargeable to cover the cost of the dome.

Winter Play in the Dome - Starts 21Sept

The first Winter Season Dome Block Booking period runs from Monday 21 September to Sunday 29 November. How this works is that you get a group of six or so players who are interested in playing doubles on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday evening and you pre-book and pay up front for 10 weeks. The session start times are 7:00pm and 8:15pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. It costs £26 for each 75 minute session beginning at 7:00pm and £32 for each 8:00pm session on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. 8:15 and 9:30pm sessions on Friday cost £26/session.

To enter you need to fill in an entry form and post your entry form into the club's internal mail system.

Forms and envelopes can be found in the clubhouse lobby. The last date for entries is Friday 11 September. In order to claim and pay for your Block Booking you must turn up at the clubhouse at 10:00am on Sunday 13 September.

As from 21 September all other chargeable sessions in the dome cost £12, except for Social Play 1:30 to 4:00pm Tuesday / Thursday (£5 / head) and Wednesday / Club Night 6:00pm to 10:45pm (£5 / head).

Free play in the dome is from 12:00noon to 5:45pm Saturday and Sunday.

For further details on this contact John Hall at john.hall@adelphi-group.com

Social Tournaments Coming up

August Bank Holiday Monday Tournament (31st August) - starts around 12.00 please see the notice board
Halloween Tournament - great fun and spooky prizes! - date to be confirmed around end of October

Tennis with Santa - a fun Mini Tennis tournament for both juniors and adults (although a junior normally wins!!!) - on Sunday morning in December date to be confirmed.

WiFi is coming !

The club will be upgrading its phone lines to provide broadband. This will assist those helping to run the club. But it also means that within the main hall of clubhouse there will be WiFi access to the Internet. This should benefit the increasing number of members who have laptops.

LTA Ratings Tournament - 2009

Tournament Referee and ELTC stalwart Korin Harvey reports:

'We had a very good turnout for our 12th annual event - just about 100 players - only 6 of whom were women! Girls where are you! Weather problems were minimal this year. Thursday evening was a complete washout. All matches had to be played in the dome but with a number of cancelled matches for various reasons I was able to hand the courts back to members of the club by 8 o'clock, by which time certain groups (mentioning no names of course) were already into post match drinks.

The final weekend produced beautiful weather and some good tennis to match. Two of the division 5 semi-finalists had also got through to the Tableau semis and both Guillermo and Ashley decided to make a bid for the Tableau Final. On Sunday morning the ten officials from the LTA had their coffee and biscuits while admiring the new clubhouse as Groundsman Will Leach finished off preparing the courts for the day. The two Tableau Semi Finals started at 11:00 and Gunther duly dispatched young Ashley Davies, but it was a good tournament for Ashley

having beaten a 3.2 (David Moore) the day before. Guillermo Cosson beat Amit Ramphal, who had won last year's Division 5 and is newly into the Tableau section. The 12:30 matches started with the Ladies Final which was somewhat one-sided. Patsy Mindham gamely did her best against Louise Laciny who was rated several divisions above her, and I'm sure that Louise will be moving onwards and upwards in her tennis career. The 10 & 9 division final produced a good win for Roger Guest over Barnaby Trusler. The home interest was in the 8 & 7 group with Charlie Salter not disappointing us by beating Enrico Boverino - maybe Enrico should bring a bigger group of supporters next year. In the 6th Division Chris Smith had a hard time against a very strong Irish contender, Brian Condren who will surely be upgraded soon. Up another division and an exhausted Nicolas Contentin who had played a match in the morning had nothing left against Chris Anguelov. So on to the Tableau where the man from Venezuela took on the man from Ghana but despite making things difficult with his serve and volley technique just couldn't quite make



Our own Korin Harvey, Tournament Referee, congratulates our very own Winner of Divisions 8 & 7 - Charlie Salter (right) - along with Runner-up Enrico Boverino.

it, and so Gunther was the winner as in 2007.

The prize money was not as bountiful as usual. However all the chaps got their customary Nandos vouchers, Barnaby got a racquet stringing from Charlie and The Gilded Lily sponsored the Men's Tableau winner. The ladies got hats courtesy of Jill Craybas who is in the top hundred in the world. The trophies were sponsored by Crispins Wine Bar. Many thanks to all assistant referees, Rosemary for dealing with the food for the officials and Michael for being duty photographer. The courts were, as we now expect, beautifully manicured by Will'.

Team Practice - Sunday Evenings 5:45pm – Starting 20th September

Team players and aspiring team players, this is for you. Drills aimed at improving your play in a competitive situation are devised and run by the coaching team / 1st team.

As the dome is used during the Winter a charge of £5 is payable which covers dome usage and tennis balls costs.

Clubhouse For Hire

Our new clubhouse is available to hire. With a fully stocked modern bar, fully equipped kitchen and contemporary lounge area – with big screen TV/AV facilities - it makes an ideal venue for birthday parties and other social events. Members have already hired the clubhouse for birthday parties for young and old and our local residents' group CARA recently hired the clubhouse for its Summer BBQ.

For more details pick up a leaflet in the clubhouse lobby or contact Victor Wong at victor_wong@btinternet.com

LTA Tennis Clubmark and LTA Satellite Performance Accreditation

The club and coaching team has been working with the LTA to achieve both of these accreditations and we are awaiting formal recognition on both.

Already, the club holds an LTA Mini-Tennis accreditation. We follow LTA guidelines and have adopted policies regarding running the club including child protection. For example all of our coaches are qualified, have had CRB checks undertaken and are trained in First Aid.

What this means in practical terms is; parents can be assured that their children play and are coached in an environment that meets these very high standards; our junior performance squad coaching meets similarly high standards; all members and prospective members can be assured that the club is run along lines that encourage participation in our sport and open entry to our club. Also, equally importantly accreditation means that the club is more eligible for loans and grants to support any court infrastructure projects in the future.

Arii and Charlie Win May 2009 Bank Holiday Tournament

A strong field of mixed doubles turned out for the Bank Holiday tournament played in glorious weather on Monday 25th May 2009. The hard fought final was between Takako Arii (Club Team Captain) paired with recent new member, Charles Turney (now a regular Men's 1st team player) against Rita Payne (a long standing member) and Scott White (Men's 6th team player). Arii and Charles came through a tough battle, ending up as Champions of the tournament. A fitting conclusion to a tournament thoroughly enjoyed by all the competitors.



Takako Arii and Charles Turney

Junior News

Team Tennis

Throughout the months of April, May and June, our Junior teams were busy competing in the AEGON Team Tennis competition with impressive results! Special congratulations go to the UOU team who won Middlesex Division 1 West, and only just missed out on coming top in Middlesex when they lost to Highgate on July 18th. Team mem Demetri Smith, Hugo Altman and Joey Roberts. A big 'thank you' must go to their adult Team Captain, James Roberts, for his good humoured organisational skills.

Our other junior teams put in some commendable performances too; the boys U12, U14 and U16 all played in Division 1, the U14s and U16s coming 2nd in Middlesex West and the U12s coming 3rd. Again, special thanks to the parents who acted as Team Captains – Jim

Winter, Sasha Hardman, Georgina Bartlett and Andres Lukomski, without whom it would be impossible for our juniors to enter such competitions, never mind achieving such excellent results!

The boys U18 competed in Division 2 where they came 2nd overall; they were on course for a clear win, but sadly A Levels and other academic commitments got in the way. Ryan Kirman deserves a particular mention for helping Chris Sordyl and Gillian Comyn run this team, as well as for his impressive performance on court!

Road to Wimbledon

As well as ELTC's annual tournament, the Road to Wimbledon National 14 and Under Challenge 2009 gave many of the juniors a chance to enjoy some competitive tennis. Pandeli Stavrou emerged as the overall winner in the boys event, beating Tarquin Strickland in the final. Congratulations must also go

to Shaun Mogul and Gaby Lukomski who reached the semis. In the girls' event, Nanami Yamaguchi won overall, beating Lauren Oliver. Well done to all those who took part; it was wonderful to see so many participating, including those who are not Performance Squad players and seldom enter tennis tournaments.

Junior Social

A fun evening was had by all those juniors, 12 and over, who came along to the Junior Social Evening on Friday 26th June. After enjoying some social tennis, they ate vast quantities of the BBQ, kindly run by Nevin Permaul, and then were treated to live music courtesy of Fall From Within, the band in which Gham Patel's son Ravi plays the drums! They proved a bit loud for the adolescents, but the oldies in the audience had more stamina, and stayed to listen and enjoy.

More junior social events will be coming up in the near future.