

WEST HEATH NEWS

April 2017

GRASS COURTS

We are still in the early stages of our plans for the renovation of the grass courts but work continues to go well. Over the winter, they have been thoroughly scarified and a lot of additional topsoil has been added. We are also investing in some new equipment to help with their maintenance. Our groundsman, Andy, is confident we will find the courts in good condition when the season starts. Look out for an e-mail confirming their opening around **Saturday, 6 May**. Once open, the courts will initially be playable from about 1 pm until 8.30 pm daily. Please **do not** play on them outside the opening or closing times as displayed on the sign near the courts, or if they are wet. This will damage them and undo all our hard work.



HARD COURTS / SCHOOL USE

The hard courts were cleaned and repainted last summer. To help keep them in good condition please make sure they are always kept clear of any debris or rubbish and please play on them only in proper tennis shoes with non-marking soles.

The excellent legal, financial arrangement we have with the school gives them use of both courts from 12 noon to 4 pm in term time but please check our website for the precise times. Please do not do anything to jeopardise this arrangement.

The nearby development of Hampstead Manor is making good progress and inevitably there will be some disruption on weekdays during working hours. However, we have a good relationship with the contractors and will attempt to minimise this where possible.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Our grateful thanks go to Vandana Talwar who has been our treasurer for several years but who has now decided to step down. We are pleased that Lesley South has agreed to re-join the committee as our new treasurer.

NEW MEMBERS

Anyone wishing to join can come along any weekend from **6 May to 11 June between 3 pm and 4.30 pm** for a play-in. Or ask them to call Marjan on 07889 584567 or Moira on 07957 381036 to arrange an alternative time.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are invited to our **108th AGM** on **Tuesday, 30 May, 2017**

from **8 pm to 9 pm** in the clubhouse.

Papers will be sent out by e-mail.

Refreshments provided.

(One topic for discussion will be the possibility of a new clubhouse.)

SOCIAL TENNIS / TEAS

From **6 May** social play is on **Saturdays and Sundays from 2.30 pm to 6 pm** and **Tuesday evenings from 6 pm**. Please make everyone feel welcome. Those who have been sitting out the longest should be invited to play before those who have just come off court. Arranged games can be played on the hard courts on Tuesday evenings.

Do help to keep our weekend tea tradition going by taking your turn on the rota. This is supervised by Lesley South.

WIMBLEDON TICKETS

We will be running the ballot for Wimbledon tickets manually at the Club during social tennis on **Saturday, 6 May**. Tickets can go only to **fully paid-up** full / under 21 and junior members, aged 8+, who are also British Tennis members, with their membership linked to the club and who have opted in to the Wimbledon ballot. Those who are eligible can win a pair of tickets in the draw. We have been allocated 12 pairs of tickets. The Championship runs from **3 to 16 July**.

FREE DOUBLES COACHING

Improve your play by joining in doubles drills and coaching from Michal, on the **Tuesdays of 16, 23, 30 May & 6 June from 7 to 8 pm**.

VISITORS

Do invite your friends to come along and play for **free in May** and experience the fun of grass court tennis! At other times our visitor fee is £5 – just enter this in the Visitor Book.

TENNIS BALLS

New balls are put out at the weekend. Please make sure they are all collected after play and left on the shelf for general use during the week.

'AMERICAN' TOURNAMENTS

Our 'American' tournaments allow you to play with a variety of players in a fun, competitive environment. A small charge is made to cover tea and prizes. Please arrive promptly at **2.30 pm on Monday, 29 May, Saturday, 24 June and Monday, 28 August** to take part. Proceeds from the June date will be donated to a charity.

TEAM TENNIS

Sultan Gangji & Marjan Denis are our 1st team captains and James McKenzie & Julia Abbot are the 2nd team captains. Congratulations to the men's and ladies' 2nd teams who both gained promotion last season. There are team practices in early May and a match fixture list is attached. Supporters at home matches are always very welcome.

CLUB TOURNAMENT

The annual **Club Tournament** is from **13 to 29 July** so do keep the two weeks free and join in. Enter on the list in the clubhouse or via e-mail from the end of June. The draw will be posted on the website and in the clubhouse.

Sultan organises the '**Gourmet Dinners**' held in the second week. Watch the later-stage matches before enjoying a delicious meal in good company. To come along, add your name to the lists in the clubhouse during the first week of the tournament.



Finals day is Saturday, 29 July and everyone is invited to watch the matches and enjoy a slap-up **tea** and **evening BBQ**. Volunteers to act as umpires or make cakes, sandwiches, salads or desserts are always needed.

COACHING

Private lessons with our coach, Michal Forys, are available at the discounted rate of £25 per hour for members (£30 for non-members). Call **07840 347730** to book.

COURT CLOTHING / RACQUETS

Please wear proper tennis shoes and appropriate sports clothing at the Club. **Euro Sports** in Finchley Road (Swiss Cottage end) gives us 10% discount on clothing and 15% on racquets. It is a small shop but very well stocked. They also do restringing, as does Michal.

WEST HEATH POLO SHIRTS

We have very limited stocks of our own branded, short-sleeved, white cotton polo shirts left so please speak to Moira to check if your size is in stock. There are also a few men's large, long-sleeved polo shirts for sale. All shirts are now just £10 each or two for £15.

BAR

A small supply of beer and wine is available during the summer season. Please record your purchases in the Bar Book provided. We have always successfully managed to run an 'honest bar policy' which we are keen to continue. Squash is free.

PLANTS WANTED

If you have any spare plants for our flowerbeds then Lesley South would be pleased to hear from you.

E-mail lesley.south371@btinternet.com

CLUB WEBSITE / TWITTER

Our revamped website went live last year and thanks go to James McKenzie who is continuing to work on its development. The address is www.westheathltc.co.uk Good photos are always welcome, or if you have any ideas for improvements then please e-mail: webmaster@westheathltc.co.uk You can also follow the Club on Twitter @HampsteadTennis

THANK YOU

Thanks again to all the committee and other non-committee volunteers who have helped in many different ways, as well as to our cleaner and groundsman.

Looking forward to another great summer!

Moira Duncan
Club Chairman

On behalf of West Heath LTC Committee