

WEST HEATH NEWS

April 2018

GRASS COURTS

Work continues on the grass courts in preparation for the season ahead. Look out for an e-mail confirming their opening in May. Once open, the courts will initially be playable from 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 the groundsman's hard work.

HARD COURTS / SCHOOL USE

The hard courts have been power washed and will be repainted soon. To help maintain them in good condition please keep them clear of any debris or rubbish and play on them only in proper tennis shoes with non-marking soles.

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

Work continues on the nearby development of Hampstead Manor and there may be some disruption on weekdays during working hours.

WATER

We have had a tough challenge this winter as a result of a water leak. As yet, we have been unable to find exactly where the old Victorian water pipe enters the club from Croftway and so have been unable to fix the problem. We are continuing to work on this but at present we can only turn the water on for short periods of time. Bottled drinking water will be available free of charge in the clubhouse and we would ask you to use as little water as possible until a solution has been found.

NEW MEMBERS

Prospective members can come along any weekend from **5 May to 10 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.

FREE DOUBLES COACHING

Improve your play by joining in doubles drills and coaching from Michal, on the **Tuesdays of 8, 15, 22, 29 May from 7 to 8 pm**.

SOCIAL TENNIS / TEAS

From **5 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are invited to our 109th AGM on **Tuesday, 29 May 2018** from **8 pm – 9 pm** in the clubhouse. Papers will be sent out by e-mail. Free refreshments.

WIMBLEDON TICKETS

The Championship runs from **2-15 July** and we will be holding the ballot for tickets at around **2.30 pm, on Sunday, 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 opted in to the Wimbledon ballot. Eligible members will be entered in the draw for one of the 14 pairs of tickets we have been allocated.

VISITORS

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 only £5 – just enter this in the Visitor Book.

TENNIS BALLS

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

SOCIAL TOURNAMENTS

Our social 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 (see below re 23 June). Please arrive promptly at **2.30 pm on Monday, 28 May, Saturday, 23 June and Monday, 27 August** to take part. Proceeds from the May date will be donated to a charity.

JOY WELCH

On **Saturday, 23 June**, during the social tournament, we shall be offering a special free tea and planting a shrub in honour of former member, Joy Welch, who very kindly left us a legacy of £700 in her will. We also plan to purchase other plants and a small table with the money. If you are in touch with any ex-members who knew Joy then please invite them to join us in the afternoon at 4pm.

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 2nd and ladies' 1st teams who both gained promotion last season. There are team practices at the end of April and matches from early May. A match fixture list is attached. Supporters at home matches are always very welcome.

CLUB TOURNAMENT

This year the annual Club Tournament is from **13-28 July** so be sure to keep those weeks free and join in. Entry is either via a list in the clubhouse or e-mail. The deadline for entering will be **Monday, 9 July**. The draw is posted in the clubhouse and on the website.



Sultan organises Gourmet Dinners from Monday to Thursday in the second week and all members are welcome to watch the later round matches before sitting down to a delicious meal in good company. Sign up for the meals on the lists in the clubhouse during the first week of the tournament

Finals Day is on **Saturday, 28 July** when you can watch the matches and enjoy a slap up tea and evening BBQ. Volunteers to act as umpires or to 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 a 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

The last of our branded, short-sleeved, white, cotton polo shirts are for sale in extra large size only. There are also two men's large, long-sleeved polo shirts available. All shirts are now just £5 each or make Moira an offer!

BAR

Squash is free and a small supply of beer and wine is available to buy 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.

NEW POLICIES

We have adopted the policies suggested by the LTA on welfare, child protection and safeguarding and diversity and inclusion. Full details are displayed in the clubhouse and on our website www.westheathlhc.co.uk Our welfare and child protection officer is Paul O'Flynn.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

New personal data protection regulations come in to force at the end of May and we will be advising you about these in more detail next month.

CLUB WEBSITE / TWITTER

E-mail good photos or ideas for the website to jamesstuartmckenzie@gmail.com You can also follow the Club on Twitter @HampsteadTennis

THANK YOU

Thanks to the committee and other volunteers who have helped in many different ways, as well as to our cleaner, Mariana and groundsman, Andy.

Here's to another great summer of tennis!

Moira Duncan

Club Chair

On behalf of West Heath LTC Committee