

STOCK TENNIS CLUB

Chairmanship – Time to Move On

This will be my last newsletter input as chairman of STC. I've been in the position now for four years since taking it on in 2006 at which point the position had been vacant for two years since Neil's resignation in 2004. Previously I have never held a similar position and had not even been an STC committee member. It was daunting at the beginning but I've enjoyed every minute of it. However, I've now reached a position where I feel I can't commit as much time as I'd like to the position and feel it best to pass the chairmanship on to someone else.

Over the last four years the club has faced many challenges -- maintenance of facilities (especially lights), coaching (Terry / Dean / Denise), falling membership (mainly juniors) and increasing costs. At the same time we've prioritised building up club funds so that we can resurface the courts when that became necessary to ensure the club's ongoing future. We've also maintained a very full social calendar where most members have been actively involved – this being the key reason why,

AGM – Summary of Discussions

The AGM was held on March 21st in the Old King's Head. This year was well attended, so thanks to all those who turned up and joined in the discussions. It's important that we get as wide a view as possible rather than leave everything up to the committee. Key items of note are as follows:-

Treasurer's Report – The club was profitable in the last financial year and continues to build a sinking fund for future court refurbishment. However, costs are increasing (especially utilities) and an increased contribution to Willowbrook is being requested from the tennis club as well as the rugby & cricket clubs. Details to be finalised.

Membership – Adult membership down versus last year at 55 from 63. Junior membership also reduced but with holiday camps etc. hope to attract a few more members. Clearly this is a major challenge for the club.

Coaching – Denise still continues to run all the junior coaching sessions with Dean coaching in the evenings / weekends. Robert also continues to provide support for the junior coaching. No major changes planned.

Election of Officers – Chairmanship now taken on by James Fordham. All other committee members

I think, STC is so successful as a small, local, friendly club.

I have greatly enjoyed my time as chairman and have learnt a lot over the last four years. It's certainly something I'd think about taking on again when I have more time in the future. I'd like to thank all the present / past committee members for all their support over the years. I really appreciate their support and professionalism without which none of us would be able to enjoy playing tennis.

My replacement, James Fordham, was elected as chairman at the AGM. He will bring along a fresh set of views and a young approach to how the club should develop over the coming years. I wish him all the best in his time as chairman.

Again, I'd like to thank all those members (past and present) who have supported me over the last few years. I greatly appreciate it.

re-elected. Further participation on the committee is required so volunteers please contact James.

Socials / Club Knockout

Dates as follows :-

American Tournament – Saturday, May 22

Summer Tournament Finals – Sat, September 11

Summer Party (Bob & Anne's House) – Sunday, September 12

Bowling Evening – October (Date to be confirmed)

Quiz Evening – Saturday, November 13

Jean & Graham Preston have also offered to hold a "**Eurovision Song Contest**" party with sweepstake and food from around Europe. Details to follow.

Website – As some of you know, due to unforeseen circumstances, the club website has been terminated. We're now looking for a volunteer to set up a new website. Please contact James if interested.

Team Reports – All seven teams are having varying success this season. Clearly the weather and the number of cancellations have made things

extremely difficult. We'll be fielding the usual seven teams again through the summer season but will be dropping the Mens III and Ladies III for the next winter league as it's becoming too difficult to find players due to the number of matches being played. Hopefully this will help make it easier to field teams in the mixed matches which is often not easy.

Membership Fees – After not increasing fees last year it was agreed to increase fees this year by approximately 3% (See membership form attached). This is still competitive when compared to many other clubs in the area.

STC Clean Up Day

The winter clean-up day was held on March 13th. Thanks to the ladies who cleared up the clubhouse before hand and to those who turned up on the Saturday. All the leaves have been cleared up, the wire netting has been repaired and the place is generally much tidier. Paul is also in the progress of cleaning the courts to get rid of all the winter moss / debris. It's amazing how dirty the courts get through the autumn / winter – See photos.



Club Night -- Tuesdays

Just a reminder that club nights are now on Tuesdays. Please make every effort to join in as it's much more enjoyable for all if there's a good mixture of both men & ladies.

Austria Trip (2010)

Following the success of the STC weekend away at Windmill Hill a few years back, we've now organised a four night trip to Austria over the Easter break. There will be 14 of us staying in a small family run hotel in St Wolfgang where they specialise in tennis holidays offering tennis coaching, spa treatments, Nordic walking and much more. Hopefully the break will be a success and we can repeat it in the future. If interested the website is: <http://www.tennis-hotel.at/>.

Ladies Eastbourne trip (Wednesday June 16, 2010) -- Tickets now available from Sally Dillon at £38 per person including coach. Details in clubhouse. Please ring Sally to secure your ticket. Tickets will be available on a first come first served basis. Sally's Tel No. : 01277 658886.

Mac Partridge.

On yer bike Bryan

Wimbledon Tickets – The club's allocation last year was 6 pairs of tickets based on the number of British Tennis members. It's envisaged that this year's entitlement will be similar. If you aren't a British Tennis member, please join as, apart from being free until 2012, it will allow you to enter the Wimbledon ticket draw and will help reduce club affiliation costs as these are related to the number of people signed up within each club.

The Wimbledon List is now up in the clubhouse and draw will be done on Tuesday 27th April

Bryan Boddy is cycling from London to Paris on 26th - 30th May to raise money for FARLEIGH HOSPICE and would really appreciate your support. The journey is over 300 miles (which takes 4 days) so he's practising hard to raise his usual fitness level from Stock Tennis Club doubles standard to Tour de France Yellow Jersey standard!

It's easy to donate online with a credit or debit card - just go to his JustGiving page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Bryan-Boddy>

Captain's Reports

Mens I

A very good winter season from the Men's 1 team, following on from a strong performance in the Summer league. The team have finished 2nd in Division 2 and will now be playing top flight tennis in both the Winter and Summer Leagues - a great achievement for a club our size. Many thanks to all involved, particularly those who have stepped in at the last minute to help out. Tom Partridge and Simon Hardie continue to mature as doubles players (frequently winning both sets before the other pair has completed the first) with James Fordham and Neil Haynes chipping in with regular points. Guest appearances from Ian Hardie, Bob Semple, Brian Boddy and Rob Watkins have also proved invaluable. Neil Haynes will be taking on the Captaincy for the Summer season which is only fair seeing as he has been playing longer than all of the other men's 1 players put together
James

Ladies 1

This winter's season has brought some good, some bad, but thankfully no downright ugly results. Once all the 'totting up' has been done I'm confident that we will finish in 2nd place - ready to be promoted to Div 2 for next winter. We had 7 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw. My thanks go to Denise, Cathy, Helen, and Judy for their continued commitment to playing throughout the coldest, frostiest and wettest winter of tennis we've experienced for a long time. Roll on summer!!
Lynne

The Winter Season is now over. In total we had 48 cancelled matches. It has been a very successful season for Stock. It looks like Mens 1 will be promoted to division 1 for next winter and Mixed 1 up to Division 2. I will be able to post results out very soon.

Summer Season starts on April 1st but matches will not commence until the 12th. We have Mens 1, Mixed 2, and

News from the very old guard

I was distraught to read, in the last newsletter, the indictment against Mens 1. When Jim Moore (Imogen's grandfather) and I started the Winter League, the rules we set out were 'To keep fit in winter and swell bar profits'. These remained in place for many years, indeed until we stopped managing it and Writtle took over, when they insisted on creating a rule book a mile long. The rules we set were a continuation of the time honoured practice set in summer when even our standard of tennis was thirsty work.

And finally - Three Stock members are out walking one day
Mike says, 'Windy, isn't it?'
Bryan says, 'No, it's Thursday!'
John says, 'So am I. Let's go get a beer..'

Mixed I

The team has had another good year having won 7 out of 14 games, losing only 5 and drawing 2. This is in spite of having to shoehorn 2 games a week into the last few weeks of the season. Our average match score for the season was a 5-3 win. It looks as if we will finish runners-up in Division 3.

Thanks as always to the stalwarts who brave the elements, Cathy, Helen, Lynne and Denise, Simon, Neil and Iain as the mainstays.

Iain Hardie

Mixed II

This season has not been our most successful with so many matches cancelled either due to the weather or because we can't get enough players. Overall we've had some enjoyable tennis with mixed success. Thanks to everyone who's turned out through the season. Hopefully we'll finish the season somewhere above bottom place after all our efforts.

We'll be running the mixed II team again in the summer league so, hopefully, the weather will be kinder and we'll be able to play all our matches.
Dale

Fixtures Secretary

Ladies 1 in the Chelmsford league and we have Mens 2, Mens 3, Ladies 2, Ladies 3, and Mixed 1 in the Brentwood.

I have sent out copies of all documents to the captains and members for the upcoming season. Best of Luck everyone.

Simon

I trust you will highlight this disgraceful behaviour further at the AGM, and that Mens 1 will do better this winter.

Maureen and I were delighted to read of Imogen's success. Her grandparents would have been very proud, and fully justifies their efforts on many occasions, both for the parties they organised at their home, and their work in many roles for the club over more than a decade.

Derek Stewart (Past President)