

IVYBRIDGE TENNIS CLUB • APRIL 2016 • NEWSLETTER

Dear Members

Like most tennis Clubs run by volunteers, everything may appear to be running smoothly, with Members regularly playing with people they like, at times that suits them, and at costs they can afford, whilst in reality behind the scenes, there are those operating like the proverbial swan – all serene above the water, but paddling furiously below the surface to keep things going!

We are no different, following a difficult year when we lost our Manager and Chairman part way through the season, and this has left a few people picking up the pieces as best as they can. We admit we have not always got it right, and if you were unhappy with the way we handled things, please accept our apologies. We are now hopeful that we can move forward positively with a new Committee:

CHAIRMAN:	Dominic Hall
TREASURER:	Mark Owen
BOOK KEEPER:	Verity Holdsworth
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:	Sarah Owen
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Andy Copestick
	Annie Haigh
	Di Kellett
	Nicola White

President:	Steve Hitch
Company Secretary:	Alan Strowger
Minute Secretary:	Julie Hulett
Mens Captain	Duncan Matthews
Ladies Captain	Sarah Owen

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Unusually, the Annual General Meeting will be held in June this year, so please put the following date in your diary. **TUESDAY 14th JUNE, 2016 at 7.00pm.**

FUTURE MANAGEMENT and STRATEGY of the CLUB

As a result of the recent upheavals, it became an opportune time to look at the future management and whole structure of the Club, particularly as the facilities are now 14 years old and beginning to show signs of wear. We are already facing expensive maintenance costs, but our overriding concern is to establish how we will be able to afford to replace the indoor carpet surface in perhaps three or four years time, which at today's cost would be about £120K.

The Committee have been in discussion with the LTA, and are considering three Options

- 1) Appoint a new Manager
- 2) Appoint TennisMad - who have expressed a wish to manage the Club.
- 3) Appoint an outside operator experienced in managing UK clubs (such as GLL)

Following the previous experience with a Manager, the Committee have decided that it will not pursue Option 1), but invite TennisMad and GLL to make presentations to the Committee, with two or three other members of the Club attending, as part of a Working Party. It is the Committee's intention to report on these presentations to the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP and COURT RATES

The Committee has left the Subscriptions as they are, simply because these changes have to be approved at the AGM, but the Court Rates have been simplified, with marginal increases. We have recognised the need for income from Non Members and visitors, and as such we have reduced these rates, which were excessive last year and resulted in a loss of players and court income.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

In order to attract many of those who left the Club, back to the fold, we are introducing a new Associate Membership for £10.00, and purchasing vouchers where the rate reduces the more you acquire. The vouchers are designed to appeal to novice players and may be used by their friends and family. The playing times are restricted to the Friday evening Club Session, and Sunday afternoons between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, provided the courts are available. The Vouchers are sold in books of 10, and have the advantage of giving the Club up front payments.

WIMBLEDON TICKETS

The Draw was held on Tuesday 26th April 2016 in the Clubhouse, and the following members were successful. This is a Provisional List, as we await people to confirm final acceptance of their tickets.

	CENTRE COURT	COURT 1	COURT 2
Monday 27 June	Madeleine Rolls		
Tuesday 28 June	Sally Hitch	Alice Kellett	Dominic Hall
Wednesday 29 June		Jayne Ellmer	
Thursday 30 June	Jill Dickinson		
Friday 01 July		TBC	Penny Punch
Saturday 02 July	Mike Thong	Rhys Dunford	Kieren Kothari
Monday 04 July	Sheila Mitchell		TBC
Tuesday 05 July		Gus Hayward	
Wednesday 06 July	Steve Turner		
Thursday 07 July		Amelia Stitson	
Friday 08 July	Vanessa Walker	Keith Furzeland	
Saturday 09 July	Sharon Bligh	Dianne Kellett	
Sunday 10 July		Chris Halse	

Unfortunately, many Members were disappointed to learn that the LTA had deemed them ineligible to enter the Wimbledon Ballot this year, for the following reasons. You must:

- Be an active "Affiliated" British Tennis Member (BTM)
- Be an Adult (18+) or Junior (9 - 17) BTM.
- Be a fully paid up member of a relevant venue(s) linked to your BTM record.
- Have **OPTED IN** to the BTM ballot with the LTA, by **19th February 2016**.

In making the draw, we had to carefully check the LTA data for eligibility, as they would refuse to issue the tickets.

The number and general distribution of Wimbledon tickets we received this year, was very poor, and it is simply because our BTM members ignored a reminder by the LTA last October 2015, to **OPT IN** by the **19th February 2016**, and furthermore, they ignored a reminder by the Club a week later.

Remember, the number of tickets we get, are determined by the number of Affiliated BTM's we have, regardless of whether you want to go to Wimbledon or not. It is important that everyone should **OPT IN** at the end of the year, for the benefit of the membership as a whole.

CLUBHOUSE, CHANGING ROOMS and OUTSIDE COURTS

You will have noticed that the Clubhouse and Changing Rooms have been superbly decorated, and the outdoor courts and terrace tidied up, and we must thank Paul Butcher (in particular) for his long hours and hard work. He was also ably assisted by some parents of juniors, together with other volunteers, and we thank all of them for their efforts. As always, we thank Ben Semmence for his grass cutting duties, over many years.

LEAGUE TEAMS

We have entered four Men's Teams and three Ladies Teams in the **Plymouth and District League** this year, and three Mixed Teams, and one Men's Team in the **South Devon Summer League**.

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

The Committee are seeking volunteers to help out with specific areas of expertise.

- Solicitors who could cast an eye over commercial and employment contracts.
- IT expertise to help with software and hardware issues.
- Qualified Plumbers and Electricians.
- Health and Safety Files and knowledge of fire regulation procedures.
- General maintenance, carpentry, etc.

CONCERNS

If you have any concerns, please contact me, or any Member of the Committee.

I trust you have an enjoyable Summer Season

Dominic Hall - Chairman