

NEWSLETTER



September 2008

Hello! We haven't had a newsletter since July this year so please accept my apologies. There has been quite a lot going on and it seems like only a few people to do it so anyone wanting to volunteer is VERY welcome!!

The new website is now live and it's really good – very clearly laid out and with lots of information on it for prospective members. Have a look: the link is below.

<http://www.wivenhoetennis.org.uk/>

We are incredibly grateful to Matt (Paul Cansdale's cousin) who did the bulk of the design work and to Dave Sacker who is clever enough to update and add information.

'IMPORTANT = Club play sessions'

There are some changes as from next week to club play sessions. They are as follows:

Tuesdays will remain the same and start at 6pm

Thursdays are back from 2nd October and will start at 7pm

Fridays will remain the same and start at 9.30am

Sundays revert from 6pm to 4pm from 5th October inclusive

Please note the new changes and PLEASE try to support at least one session a week. We have possibly 6 prospective winter club play members in the pipeline and it would be good to get at least 8 players out each time.

NOTE that Thursday club play starts at 7pm: this is because the juniors have the courts for their club play from 5pm – 7pm. The 7pm start seems to be quite popular with the members I canvassed: if it proves more successful than the 6pm start, we can look at changing Tuesdays to the later start also.

NOTE that Sunday club play normally reverts to 2pm from 1st October until 31st March BUT there is a widely accepted view that 2pm is not entirely convenient. Firstly it does break up the day and secondly, the sun is in an awkward position at 2pm! We can't move the sun but 4pm does seem like a good compromise.

We now have **FOUR** club play sessions PLUS two match play sessions weekly until March 2009 so there should be a day and time to suit EVERYONE!!

JUNIOR UPDATE! As you may remember from the July newsletter, Jamie started a junior membership and dedicated junior club play session. This will now operate on Thursdays from 5pm with 2 courts only from 7pm until 8pm. The cost is £20 and is valid until 31 March 2009. It's open to children aged 10yrs and over or by invitation, to the more able younger players, and is being supervised free of charge by Jamie as a benefit for the club. We already have 9 juniors paid up with several more in the pipeline so it's doing really well, and is a credit to what a fantastic job Jamie is doing for WTC. All interested juniors can just turn up and register with Jamie any Thursday evening from 5pm. Jamie also has the authority to invite juniors of an acceptable standard to 'play up' into adult club play: this is a great opportunity for them to develop into good club players and for WTC to grow.

'Wivenhoe Winter League'

This starts again at the beginning of October and we are fielding an extra team this year which means 2 mixed and 2 men's teams.

Pat Jex will captain the Mixed A team.

We are looking for volunteers to take on the Mixed B and the Men's A team: please ring me or Phil urgently.

Jamie will captain the Men's B team which will largely be made up of juniors and aim to give them some good match practice.

There are some other jobs which will need doing to support this and they are as follows:

We need a point of contact for rainy weather: someone who will be around for teams to contact.

We also need some volunteers to go and open up the courts on the few evenings when there is no Wivenhoe team playing. There aren't many occasions and we don't have all the dates yet, but we do need some volunteers.

WELCOME!!

WELCOME BACK Taryn!! Back from Sweden to work at the University until the end of October so we shall be seeing her up at club until then!

WELCOME to new member Christian who plays a mean game of tennis and has been a great supporter of club play evenings.

WELCOME BACK to Kevan Griggs who is now fully recovered from his hand injury and playing so well (especially at the net) that he might end up in the 1st team if he isn't careful!

WELCOME to new member Tom Riley – haven't met you yet so no comments I am afraid!!

WELCOME to new member Julie Smith who is a great new ladies player – we need more just like you!!

And sadly GOODBYE!!

To Ray Woodcock, our health and safety officer who has decided to hang up his racquet. This is what he says.

"Hi Ginny

I am sorry to say that my 69 year old body can no longer keep pace with my 27 year old mind! I have so many aches and pains after playing tennis that I have been advised to give up playing. So I shall not be renewing my subscription. I want to thank you particularly for your encouragement and forbearance overall and to thank Len, Bill and the two coaches for their encouragement during the last two years.

I have no doubt that Paul will be able to cope with the nominal task of the Health and Safety Officer. I have a disc with the relevant documents and signs.

*Thank you again for your support. Best wishes to you all.
Ray Woodcock"*

Ray we wish you all the best and it has been a pleasure having you at WTC. I am sure we will all bump into you now and again in Wivenhoe!

‘Court re-painting’

We have accepted a quote to have all the courts cleaned and painted which is necessary to protect the surface and prevent it from breaking up as quickly as it might. The paint acts as a sort of glue to protect the surface from frost damage and wear and tear. It's not a small job and it is going to cost about £5500 but it does need to be done. We were hoping that the work would be carried out shortly, but it now looks likely that it will be done in early April. Be aware that the courts may be out of use for about 5 days – we will let you know as soon as we have firm dates.

Any other business

This summer has been quite hard for the committee. We have suffered a spate of thefts in the club house which involved one of the kettles, the crockery box, a dust pan and brush and several tins of brand new balls. We have therefore installed a secondary combination lock on the front of the pavilion which was a far cheaper option than changing the locks so if you don't have the number, ask one of the committee. You can only have this though if you are a paid up member and key holder. This number can be changed if the thefts continue but let's hope that this has put a stop to it, as it was pretty unpleasant.

We also had an issue of vandalism when someone broke into the toilet and stole the toilet pump handle – yuck is all that goes through my mind! But this mindless act cost us £150. Think then that is 2 adult summer memberships. We can't afford for that to happen again, but preventing it is almost impossible if someone is that determined.

We need to create a sense of ownership amongst the users of the site and also amongst the people that come up to Broad Lane. I spoke with some young lads in a car parked in the larger car park some weeks ago. They had all been active in the Wivenhoe Youth Football club and use the car park to meet friends. They still have that sense of ownership to the site as they had many happy times up here so they have agreed to act as 'crime spotters' and report anything untoward to the police if they see it. The more people we get involved like this and the more eyes we have up there, the better and more secure it will be.

Wivenhoe Tennis Club is evolving and the committee realises that we need to be able to change rapidly and react quickly to the changing needs of the membership. We have amended the club play sessions because we are listening to the membership, and we need to give it a couple of months to see if it works well before we assess the results.

We have created a junior club play which is incredibly popular and hopefully that will give the juniors a sense of ownership and belonging which is vital to retain them for the future. Jamie is working miracles with the coaching programme – he isn't the type to shout out and blow his own trumpet so take the time to read his notice board on the outside of the club and see what he is doing. He is an incredible asset to OUR club. Remember also that this is his livelihood, so any business you can put his way, let him know. Forward this newsletter on to your email contacts. Tell your friends and families how good this club is – we need more members and users of the site.

I'll sign off now but leave you with one thought. 4 people can do so much in a set amount of time. Think how much more 8 people would be able to achieve. We do have some key people like Margaret, Chris and Pat helping out and that's invaluable BUT we urgently need:

Help with the winter league for Phil
A health and safety officer to replace Ray

Team captains for the winter league
And a Membership secretary!!

They are small jobs but of invaluable assistance to us. I look forward to seeing you on court soon!

Ginny, acting chairman