

KNOLL LTC: www.kolt.org.uk

56-58 Mayfield Avenue

Orpington, Kent

Knoll LTC Newsletter: Spring 2012

Attendance at this year's AGM was disappointingly low, but we just managed to raise a quorum. There being no other volunteers, I was duly re-elected as Chairman, but wish to give notice that this third year will be my last! Patrick Driscoll has agreed to replace Anne Williams as Treasurer and becomes a Director. On your behalf, I wish to again place on record our grateful thanks to Anne for all her hard work for the Club over many years. At the AGM, Pam Gadston was also appointed as a Director.

A full listing of your new committee is on our website; a number of unfilled positions remain and we do need your input and ideas – if you are interested in contributing to the way **your** club is run, please contact me or any Committee member. The time commitment is **not onerous** and you might even find you get real satisfaction out of playing your part!

Knoll LTC teams enjoyed a very successful winter match season; I can do no better than enclose the updated report from Mark Martin, our Fixtures Secretary. Many congratulations to all the captains and team members involved, particularly those that have won their Divisions and are being promoted.

The summer tennis season will soon be upon us and a full fixtures list of inter-club matches is on the Club notice board. We are again looking forward to a number of social events – including those organised by our Midweek members - and I encourage you all to fully support them. All profits made of course benefit your club coffers.

Subscriptions & Club Structure

As you will have seen from the AGM minutes, those present agreed to raise subscriptions this year in line with inflation (you will recall there was no increase last year).

For younger players a revised range of membership categories and rates has been introduced:

- Individual Young Adult 14-18
- Individual 18 -21
- University student (now including year 13 students intending to start further education in the autumn).

Revised membership rates are circulated with this newsletter, and I am grateful to Pam Gadston for all the hard work she has put into this. I hope you will agree that these still provide **very good value for money** – particularly if the discounts for prompt payment are taken advantage of. **Please note that payments must be made by 30 April 2012 to qualify.**

A proposal was also made to change the present structure of the club to make it more inclusive and to adjust subscriptions to more equitably reflect the actual use of club facilities. This provoked considerable discussion and it was agreed that an open meeting be held to fully air the pros and cons and, if possible, to reach a consensus on the way forward. Unfortunately, circumstances have prevented such a meeting being held in the time available, but this is an important issue for the future viability of your club. A meeting will therefore be arranged soon that will provide the opportunity for you all to express your views.

Club Reserves

The club's fixed rate bond of £50,000 matures at the end of March. The money will be needed to resurface the courts, probably next year. The AGM therefore agreed to reinvest the money for a further year. The directors are very grateful to Susan Fisher for identifying an Enhanced Bond with NatWest that offered 3% interest (1.2% more than under the current arrangement), which means that over £600 more income will be generated for the club.

Social Tennis

Club social sessions are on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1400hrs. Attendance remains disappointingly poor. Margaret Jacob continues to organise ladies only groups on Saturdays; this does not of course prevent those ladies who want to from joining in other games. This session is also open to "rusty racquet" males or those requiring a less strenuous game. Please contact Margaret if you would like to join either.

Membership

Unfortunately, membership numbers continue to decline. Steps are being taken to have an article printed in the Petts Wood Gazette and posters have been displayed in local libraries. A leaflet drop was made to local houses some months ago. But you are the best ambassadors for our Club. Please do your best to encourage your friends and neighbours to join us.

Coaching

Heath Anthony from PRO-ONE is our Head Coach. He runs supervised junior club sessions each Monday evening from 1700hrs and is able to offer one-on-one coaching for both juniors and adults. Full details are on our website. After Easter, he will be organising an "Intro to Tennis" session each Tuesday evening from 1930 to 2030hrs. This is aimed at beginners and improvers. The first two weeks will be free and it will cost £6 per session thereafter. Please encourage your friends to join and contact Heath on 07752 241256 to register.

Heath is also organising an LTA-affiliated Grade 4 Easter Tournament (open to juniors and adults) at KLTC from 9 – 14 April. Please contact him for further details or look on the LTA website.

As always, this tournament is a tremendous advert for our club, as well as fulfilling one of our

objectives to serve the community; we also earn income from the LTA facilitation fee and from the sale of food and drinks – **an e-mail will soon be circulated seeking volunteers to run the catering. Please help if you can.**

Non-Members

Members are reminded that a visitor fee of £5 is payable to a Committee Member each time a guest is brought to the Club to play. The guest's details **must** be entered in the Visitors Book in the clubhouse and only **six** visits are permitted each year.

Club Tournament

Finals Day this year will take place on **Saturday 14 July**, following the main Club's tournament over the preceding weeks. We will again be having a Hog Roast barbecue. Please make a note in your diaries now to attend our main social event of the year.

Wimbledon Ticket Draw

Watch out for details, but you will only be able to participate if you are a member of British Tennis, which is **FREE** and can be applied for online at the LTA website. **It bears repeating that the more members a Club has, the more Wimbledon tickets are allocated.**

Acknowledgements

Knoll LTC is only successful because of the energy and commitment of its members, who willingly volunteer to help organise, run and participate in all the events and tournaments. Thanks to all, particularly the committee members and directors, for their ongoing support.

Communications

A final point on communications; in this day and age, it is far easier (and with the price of postage set to further increase) cheaper to communicate via the internet. I understand that a number of you have asked to be removed from the Googlegroup list because you do not want to hear about developments at the club; I urge you to reconsider.

Jeremy Larner
Chairman
Knoll LTC
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