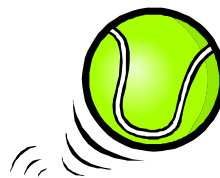


TOPSPIN



Sonning LTC Newsletter – March 2011

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Membership Renewal

Although we make good use of the courts all year round, and have enjoyed some excellent games in mid-winter, we do look forward to playing tennis in warmer weather! With the start of the new season, it's time to renew your membership at Sonning LTC. Please complete all sections of the Membership Application/Renewal Form and return to Kath Clark (Membership Secretary), enclosing payment and a stamped/addressed envelope (for your new season club tag).

Membership fees can now be paid by direct bank transfer (BACS) to Sonning LTC:

Account Code: 70854697
Sort Code: 20-71-03

When paying by bank transfer, please ensure that your surname is included in the bank reference. You will still need to complete and submit the membership application form and should include the bank reference on the form so that we can identify your payment.

Remember that you must pay your membership fees before 1st April to get the discounted rate.

Our Open Day this year will be on Sunday, 15th May (details below). This is our prime event for attracting new members - please make every effort to attend and help make it as successful as it has been over the last five years. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining, please encourage them to come along to the Open Day and pass on a copy of this newsletter, or direct them to our club website www.sonningtennis.com

The programme of events for 2011/12 is outlined below (see Club Calendar).

Club Calendar

Event	Date
<u>Club sessions:</u> Saturday morning (10:30) Sunday morning (10:30) Tuesday evening (18:00) Wednesday afternoon (13.30)	Every week, all year round Every week, all year round Weekly from Tuesday 26 th April Every week, all year round
<u>Unofficial group sessions:</u> Monday afternoon (14:00) Thursday afternoon (14:00)	Every week, all year round Every week, all year round
<u>Junior Sessions:</u> Coaching: Monday (16:00 – 18:00) Coaching: Wednesday (16:00 – 18:00) Junior Club Session: Thursday (16:00 – 18:00)	Weekly, starting 4 th April Weekly, starting 6 th April Weekly from Thursday 28 th April
<u>Team Practice (Ladies):</u> Saturday morning (09:00: 10:30)	
New season subs. Due	Apr: Friday 1 st April
"Play Tennis" Day (open day)	May: Sunday 15 th May
Social Event: Visit to Brightwell Vineyard	Jun: Sunday 5 th June
American tournament & BBQ	Jun: Sunday 12 th June
<u>Club Championships</u> Ladies Singles & Juniors Mens Singles Mixed Doubles Ladies Doubles & Mens Doubles	Jul / Saturday 30 th July (AM) Aug: Saturday 30 th July (PM) Sunday 31 st July (All day) Sunday 14 th August (AM)
Loudwell Cup	Sep: Sunday 4 th September
American tournament & BBQ	Sep: Sunday 11 th September

New Club Hut - Help Required

Great news!

The new club hut is on order and is due to be delivered on Monday 28th March. Design will be similar to that pictured, although for security reasons the doors will be solid and all the windows will have shutters. Contractors will be on site on Friday 25th March to dismantle the existing hut in preparation for the new one arriving.



New club hut design

Help Required ...

Prior to the existing hut being dismantled, we need to completely remove its contents and disconnect the services (water & electricity). We will be removing all contents, including the kitchen units over the weekend of March 19th/20th.

In the meantime, please ...

- Keep the hut as tidy as possible from now on – to minimise the work in clearing it
- Do not leave any additional rubbish – take it home!
- Contact Steve Edwards if you can help with clearing the remaining contents on March 19th / 20th

Once the new hut is installed, we will have a lot more work to do before it becomes operational:

- Applying wood treatments (inside and outside)
- Installing kitchen units
- Reconnecting services
- Installing shutters

Our target is to have everything done in time for an official opening on Open Day (May 15th).

Tennis Open Day – Sunday May 15th

← **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!**

For the past five years, we have held an Open Day at the start of the season. This has been our most successful method of attracting new members to join the club. This year, the Open Day will be held on Sunday May 15th, from 11:00 to 15:00. This is a month later than usual due to the work involved in replacing the Club Hut.



A game with potential new members

It is particularly important that we have a wide range of members (representing all abilities and age groups) there on the day so that potential new members can join in a game and see the club in its best light.



Helping the Juniors



Come along and join in!

Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested in playing tennis to come along, and help make it a fun-packed day. We would like to see as many members, friends and Sonning villagers as possible down at the club.



The refreshment stall

Any help with making this year's Open Day a success will be very gratefully received.

Please contact Hilary Moss if you are prepared to help with any of the following:

- **leaflet distribution (during the two weeks prior May 15th)**
- **setting up the equipment in the morning**
- **selling refreshments**
- **welcoming people**
- **taking juniors on court**
- **ensuring visitors get to mix-in and play**
- **talking to visitors about the club**
- **clearing up at the end!**

Sonning LTC Club Championships

The 2010 Club Championship winners across all categories were:

- Mens Singles: Tim Armitage
- Mens Doubles: Brian & Cameron Scott
- Ladies Singles: Kath Clark
- Ladies Doubles: Sheila Scott & Catherine Botwright
- Mixed Doubles: Sheila & Cameron Scott
- Teenager Boys: Sam Robinson
- Teenager Girls: Freddie Griffiths
- Loudwell Trophy: Olivia & Tim Armitage



Mens Singles 2010
Tim Armitage (Winner)
Cameron Scott (Runner-up)



Mixed Doubles 2010
Sheila & Cameron Scott
(Winners)



Ladies Singles 2010
Kath Clark (Winner)
receiving the trophy from Hilary Moss

For the first time, in 2010, we had two tournament categories for our Teenagers – Teenager Boys and Teenager Girls. This is a testament to the increasing number and standard of our Teenagers. Freddie Griffiths won the Teenager Girls tournament but has still to be presented with the actual trophy! As this was a new category, a new trophy had to be purchased – this has now been done and, once engraved, it will be presented to Freddie.

In 2011, the Club Championships will be run over two weekends in July/August, as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ⇒ Ladies Singles & Juniors | Saturday 30 th July (AM) |
| ⇒ Mens Singles | Saturday 30 th July (PM) |
| ⇒ Mixed Doubles | Sunday 31 st July (All day) |
| ⇒ Ladies Doubles & Mens Doubles | Sunday 14 th August (AM) |

We expect to be able to finish most categories within the specified half day (am/pm as above). The Mixed Doubles however (usually the most popular category), will start in the morning and, depending on the number of entrants, may last through to the afternoon.

SLTC Club Weekend Away:
Manor House Hotel – January 20th/22nd 2012

Over the last few years, to banish the winter blues, we have enjoyed a Club Weekend Away at **Manor House Hotel** in Okehampton, Devon. Next winter, we will be going on the weekend of January 20th/22nd 2012.



This is a superb weekend and is suitable for anyone (tennis players or not). Manor House Hotel offers a huge variety of (free) activities including:

- Tennis courts (6 indoor and 5 outdoor courts)
- Golf (five 18-hole courses, driving ranges, putting green)
- Badminton
- Squash
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Indoor Bowls
- Table Tennis
- Snooker & Pool Tables
- Ten-pin bowling
- Archery
- Laser Clay Shooting
- Swimming & Spa Pools (indoor)
- Gym
- Craft Centre (tutored crafts for adults and children)
- Guided walks on Dartmoor
- Saturday evening Disco
- Health Treatments (Massage, Reflexology etc)



2011 SLTC group at Manor House

For most of the above activities, there are organised sessions or competitions (free of charge).

The cost of the weekend in January 2012 (Friday and Saturday nights) is approximately £140 per person, based on 2 adults sharing a room, including Full Board and use of all facilities. There are significant child reductions.

If you are interested in going to the Manor House next year (2 nights, 21st/22nd January), we are booking rooms now! There is no financial commitment at this stage but, by registering with the hotel now, rooms will be guaranteed. Deposits are due 6 months in advance (i.e. in July 2011), and the balance is payable on arrival.

Note that the hotel is often full, especially at weekends, hence the need to book early.

For full details of facilities and tariffs, take a look at the website www.manorhousehotel.co.uk

To reserve a room, please contact the hotel directly on **01837 52592**.

If you do book, please notify Hilary Moss so that we can instruct the hotel to seat our group together for dinner.

[Social Event: Visit to Brightwell Vineyard](#)

A summer's day out in the company of your friends from Sonning Tennis Club, with a vineyard tour, wine-tasting and a picnic by the Thames!

Interested? Read on ...

Brightwell Vineyard (near Wallingford) covers 14 acres in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, adjacent to the River Thames. From seven grape varieties, the vineyard produces award-winning, quality English wines (white, rosé, red and sparkling). See website for further details ...

<http://brightwellvineyard.co.uk>

The cost of the tour (including wine-tasting) is £7.50. There is no charge for children attending the tour though obviously they will not be allowed to sample the wine.

For lunch, there are two options:

- the vineyard can provide a ploughman's lunch, using local cheeses, for a cost of £6.00
- or you can take your own picnic and eat it next to the river.

We've looked into coach hire (departing from Sonning/Woodley around 11:00 and returning by 17:00). Depending on numbers, the cost per seat would be between £8 and £12.

Prior to finalising the details, we need to know how many people are interested in:

- tour & wine-tasting (£7.50 per adult, children free)
- ploughman's lunch (£6)
- coach (£8-£12 depending on numbers)

Please contact Kate Hutchinson to book your place:

- Phone 969 8691, Mobile 07764 693091
- E-mail katy7hutch@hotmail.com

Note: we originally intended to organise a visit to the vineyard in Twyford but unfortunately they are no longer taking group bookings.

[New SLTC website](#)

In February 2011 our website (www.sonningtennis.com) was re-designed by Simon Kellaway. We now have much more information on the site and are continually updating the site with club news and events. Please take some time to visit the site and keep coming back to see forthcoming tournaments, social gatherings and match results, all of which will be constantly updated. The website is managed by Simon Kellaway on behalf of the SLTC committee.

What can be found on the website?

- Dates for your diary
- Club address, map and contacts
- Match results
- League tables
- Forthcoming events
- Coaching information
- Membership forms
- The blog ...

When visiting the new website, look out for the link to the new Sonning Tennis Blog. The blog is a vehicle to communicate news quickly so that members can see what is happening at the club on a day to day basis. Match results, news and current affairs will be published by committee members and team



captains for the benefit of the wider tennis community. Please visit the blog on a regular basis to see details of the club's affairs. You can also comment on published posts ... just below an existing post or article, you will see an area where you can leave your own comment, so please make use of this facility.

Visit the new website at www.sonningtennis.com

If you have any comments or new ideas regarding the website, please forward them to Simon Kellaway at s.kellaway@ntlworld.com.

SLTC Policy: Photographs on website

We may occasionally include photographs of club members on our website www.sonningtennis.com. Our policy as regards photographs of juniors will be to ensure that they are never individually identifiable by name without prior permission. Bearing this in mind, if you have any objections to photographs of you or your family being used on the website, please notify Simon Kellaway (contact details below).

Tennis Coaching for Juniors

Following the great success of the Junior Coaching sessions last year, we will be running similar sessions this season.

According to demand, we expect to hold four separate 45-minute sessions each week, starting from w/c April 4th, as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------|
| A) | Mondays | 16:00 |
| B) | Mondays | 17:00 |
| C) | Wednesdays | 16:00 |
| D) | Wednesdays | 17:00 |

Each session will have approximately 6 students; sessions will be grouped according to age/ability.

All sessions will be run by our club coach, Rob Stone. As well as being a LTA Coach, Rob is a qualified teacher (PGCE) and has full CRB clearance.

Cost will be:

Members:	£36 for a 6 week course, payable in advance
* special offer for members!	£66 for the full 12 weeks, payable in advance
Non-members:	£48 for a 6 week course, payable in advance

To register for Junior Coaching, please contact Hilary Moss, stating your session preferences:

phone: 962 3724

e-mail: sonningltc@hotmail.co.uk

Please note:

- enrolment is strictly on a first-come / first-served basis (with payment)
- as sessions will be grouped according to age/ability, it may not always be possible to accommodate your first choice session
- any sessions cancelled due to bad weather will be re-arranged to follow-on at the end of the course
- **places are limited and in previous years these sessions have been oversubscribed – book early to avoid disappointment.**

Rob is also available for members to arrange group or individual lessons and can be contacted on:

phone: 07713 152254

e-mail: helenstone48@hotmail.com

You will have a great opportunity to meet Rob at the Open Day on May 15th; he will be present from 12:00–14:00 and will run some informal drill sessions.

Guests and New Members

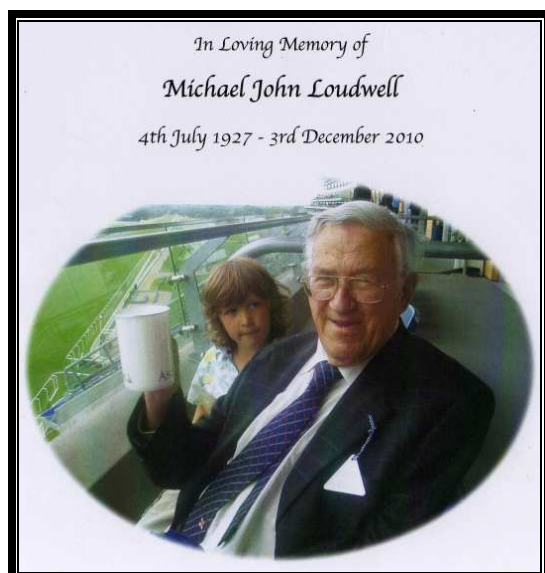
As agreed at the AGM, guest fees have been raised from £2 to £3 with effect from 1st April 2011.

The club welcomes new members. If any of your friends have expressed an interest in joining our club, please encourage them to come along to the Open Day or any of the club sessions on a Saturday or Sunday morning, where they will be able to meet other members and join in a game.

Members may bring guests to play on payment of a £3 guest fee per guest per session. Please note that each guest can play up to a **maximum of three sessions** in any one year. The guest book in the Club Hut **must** be signed on each attendance, and the £3 fee left in the box marked "Guest Fees" in the Club Hut, or paid to Kath Clark (Treasurer) or another committee member within 1 week. Anyone wishing to play more than three times in the year must join the club.

Please note that it is a strict condition of our public liability insurance that all guests are signed in. If for any reason, you do not have access to the guest book to sign a guest in, you must notify Kath Clark within 24 hours (contact details below).

Michael Loudwell



Sadly, we lost one of our longest-serving members at the end of 2010. Michael Loudwell had been a member of Sonning LTC for over 60 years and served in just about every role on the Committee. When he was no longer able to play, he was appointed Club President. Michael was a true gentleman and a nifty tennis player in his day.

The funeral service, held on 14th December 2010 at St Andrew's Church, was well attended by club members, who remember Michael with great fondness.

We are honoured that Michael's widow, Sheila Loudwell, has agreed to become the first Lady President of Sonning LTC and we look forward to seeing her at the club during Open Day

Contact Details

Please direct all general SLTC communications to the committee to the club's e-mail address ... sonningltc@hotmail.co.uk

SLTC Committee Members:

Hilary Moss	(Chairman)	962 3724	mike_hilary44@hotmail.com
Kath Clark	(Treasurer)	969 0594	kathjaneclark@hotmail.com
Simon Kellaway	(Secretary)	962 8416	s.kellaway@ntlworld.com
Mike Moss	(Communications)	962 3724	mike_hilary44@hotmail.com
Steve Edwards	(Tournament Director)	969 0594	steve.edwards33@talktalk.net
Lesley Billington	(Joint Social Secretary)	969 4609	lebilling@btinternet.com
Kate Hutchinson	(Joint Social Secretary)	969 8691	katy7hutch@hotmail.com

Other key contacts:

Ken Livett	(Senior Liaison)	969 5178	k.livet@ntlworld.com
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