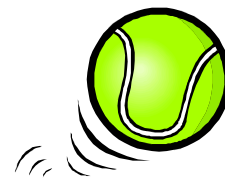


TOPSPIN



Sonning LTC Newsletter – March 2009

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Membership Renewal 2009/10

It's that time of year again when the weather starts to improve, the nights get longer, and your SLTC Membership Renewal is due. Please complete all sections of the Membership Application/Renewal Form and include a stamped/addressed envelope with your application (for your new season club tag).

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

Note: If you do not plan to renew your membership, please send your current club hut key (which cannot be copied) back to Alison Campbell and, if it is reusable, your key deposit will be returned.

Great news ... for the start of the coming season we have newly resurfaced courts to enjoy! As a "grand opening" for the new courts, we will be holding our Open Day on Sunday, 26th April this year (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 three years. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining, please encourage them to come along and pass on a copy of this newsletter, or direct them to our club website www.sonningtennis.com.

Over the last year, in addition to having free use of the courts all year round, members have enjoyed:

- Club Sessions – four sessions per week (Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
- Tennis Coaching
- Two American Tournaments with Barbecues
- League Matches (Mens, Ladies & Mixed)
- Club Championships (Adults and Juniors)
- Open Day
- Weekend away at Manor House Hotel (including tennis and many other activities)
- Wine Tasting evening

The programme for 2009/10 is outlined below.

Club Calendar

Event	Date
<p><u>Club sessions:</u> Saturday morning (10:30) Sunday morning (10:30) Tuesday evening (18:00) Wednesday afternoon (13.30)</p> <p><u>Unofficial group sessions:</u> Monday afternoon (13.30) Thursday afternoon (13.30)</p> <p><u>Junior Sessions:</u> Coaching: Monday (16:00 – 18:00) Coaching: Thursday (16:00 – 18:00) Junior Club Session: Thursday (16:00 – 18:00)</p> <p><u>Team Practice (Ladies):</u> Saturday morning (09:00: 10:30)</p>	<p>Every week, all year round Every week, all year round Weekly from Tuesday 21st April Every week, all year round</p> <p>Every week, all year round Every week, all year round</p> <p>Weekly, starting in early May Weekly, starting in early May Weekly from Thursday 2nd April</p>
New season subs. Due	Apr: Wednesday 1 st April
"Play Tennis" Day (open day)	Apr: Sunday 26 th April
American tournament & BBQ	May: Sunday 17 th May
Social Event: Barn Dance	Jun: Saturday 6 th June
<p><u>Club Championships</u> Mixed Doubles & Juniors Ladies Singles & Mens Doubles Mens Singles & Ladies Doubles</p>	<p>Jun: Sunday 28th June Jul: Sunday 12th July Jul: Sunday 19th July</p>
American tournament & BBQ	Sep: Sunday 13 th September

New courts!

A major project is on the verge of completion and we will have brand new resurfaced courts for the 2009 season. The work has been done by Trevor May Ltd, the same company responsible for resurfacing at Bracknell Tennis Club, where the surface and drainage were so good that we were able to play a league match this winter in heavy rain!

The club's finances are structured in such a way that the courts should be able to be resurfaced approximately every 10 years (as per the LTA recommendation), so now we start to save up for 2019!

Please note that the tarmac surface is soft when initially laid and hardens progressively over the first couple of years. Also, it will soften in hot weather.

Hence it is extremely important that we treat the new surface carefully at the start, so:

- **DO NOT throw rackets around** – this will cause dents in the surface
- **DO NOT over tighten the nets** – this will strain the net-post sockets and crack the surface around them (note: strain on the net-post socket, not tree roots, was the cause of the crack in the old surface next to court 3).
- **DO NOT play in hot weather (over 28°C)** – the surface will be soft and could be damaged beyond repair. The first sign of this may be paint coming off or smudging.
- **DO NOT play if the surface seems at all soft**
- **PLEASE RESPECT** any decision from the committee to suspend play in order to protect the new surface

If in doubt over whether you should play, please contact a committee member.

Also, we are aware that there is a gap beneath the fencing on Court 1 which allows balls to escape; we are working with Trevor May to fix this. In the meantime:

- **DO NOT reach under the fence (with hands or rackets) to retrieve balls** – this will bend the fencing and may make permanent closure of the gap impossible.

Enjoy the new surface!

Tennis Open Day – Sunday April 26th

For the past three 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 April 26th, from 11:00 to 15:00.



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. 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.



For Open Day 2009, we will have:

- Brand new resurfaced courts to enjoy!
- Rackets available to suit all ages
- Junior Fun Factory & Mini-Tennis
- Coaching mix-in 12:00 - 14:00
- Refreshments for sale (proceeds to club funds)
- Special rate for **new members** joining on the day



As in previous years, we will be delivering 1,000 leaflets in the area to advertise the event.

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

- ***leaflet distribution (during the two weeks prior April 26th)***
- ***organisation on the day, for example:***
 - ***selling refreshments***
 - ***welcoming people***
 - ***signing up new members***
 - ***helping juniors***
 - ***clearing up at the end!***

Guests and New Members

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 £2 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 £2 fee left in the box marked "Guest Fees" in the Club Hut, or paid to Alison Campbell (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 Alison Campbell within 24 hours (contact details below).

Tennis Coaching for Juniors

← NEW!

New for 2009! We will be running a series of Junior Coaching sessions (including mini-tennis for the younger juniors).

According to demand, we expect to be running four separate 45-minute sessions each week, starting from the beginning of May, as follows:

- A) Monday 16:00
- B) Monday 17:00
- C) Thursday 16:00
- D) Thursday 17:00 (Over 12's)

Each session will have a maximum of 6 students; sessions will be grouped according to age/ability, with the later Thursday session (D) being targeted at the Over 12's.

All sessions will be run by our club coach, Rob Stone. As well as being a Level 2 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
- 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: mike_hilary44@hotmail.com

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

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 April 26th; he will be present from 12:00–14:00 and will run some informal drill sessions.

Barn Dance (coming soon!)

At the time of going to press, we are in the process of organising a Barn Dance, to be held on Pearson Hall, Sonning.

The date to mark in your diary is **Saturday 6th June.**

Further details later.



SLTC Club Weekend Away: Manor House Hotel – January 22nd/24th 2010

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 22nd/24th 2010.



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)



2008 SLTC group at Manor House



Guided walk on Dartmoor

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

The cost of the weekend in January 2010 (Friday and Saturday nights) is approximately £125 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, 22nd/23rd 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 2009), and the balance is payable on arrival.

Note that the hotel is often full, as it seems to be most 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.

Free to play midweek afternoon tennis?

In addition to the official Wednesday afternoon club session, there are also group sessions on both Monday and Thursday afternoons, starting at 13:30. As these are not official club sessions, the club does not provide tennis balls, but those that play would welcome other members to join in.

These two sessions are predominantly attended by the over 55's but there is no lower (or upper) age limit. Please contact Ken Livett (phone 969 5178 or e-mail k.livett@ntlworld.com) for further details.

Sonning LTC Club Championships

In 2008, we tried a new format for the Club Championships which was proved to be a great success. For the first time in many years, we actually managed to get all categories completed! The "Plate" competitions, where all first round losers are entered into a secondary competition, proved to be very popular. The same format will therefore apply in 2009.

2008 Club Championship winners:



Ladies Doubles:
Catherine Botwright & Linda Burton



Mens Singles:
Tim Armitage



Mixed Doubles:
David & Linda Burton

Other category winners (no photos available):

Mens Doubles:	Brian and Cameron Scott
Ladies Singles:	Elaine Marshall
Juniors:	Cameron Scott
Loudwell Trophy:	Josh and Mark Wade

For 2009, the Club Championships will again be run over three consecutive Sundays, each category being completed within the day:

- ⇒ Sunday, June 28th Mixed Doubles & Juniors
- ⇒ Sunday, July 13th Ladies Singles & Mens Doubles
- ⇒ Sunday, July 20th Mens Singles & Ladies Doubles

There will be a straight knockout in each category, with a plate competition for the first round losers, so everyone will get at least two matches. Those entering each category will only need to be available for a single day but will need to be available all that day (to play their matches at the allocated times).

Format of each match will be one long set (first to win 9 games) with a tie-break at 8-8.

New Club Pavilion?

Our Club Hut has served us very well for many years, but is now in some need of being updated.

Now that we have the new courts almost complete, we are starting to investigate the possibility of replacing the Club Hut with a new Pavilion, complete with toilet.

This project will be dependent on securing the necessary funding / grants via the Sonning Parish Council and King Georges Playing Field Association and, for the toilet, on the practicality/cost of connection to the main sewer.



New club pavilion?

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 Alison Campbell (contact details below).

SLTC Committee:

<i>Hilary Moss</i>	<i>(Chairman)</i>	<i>962 3724</i>	<u><i>mike_hilary44@hotmail.com</i></u>
<i>Ali Campbell</i>	<i>(Treasurer)</i>	<i>969 1101</i>	<u><i>alic_sonning@hotmail.com</i></u>
<i>Sheila Scott</i>	<i>(Secretary)</i>	<i>932 0622</i>	<u><i>sheilaballinger@msn.com</i></u>
<i>Mike Moss</i>	<i>(Communications)</i>	<i>962 3724</i>	<u><i>mike_hilary44@hotmail.com</i></u>
<i>Gary Hammond</i>	<i>(Tournament Dir)</i>	<i>966 1163</i>	<u><i>gary.hammond@fish.co.uk</i></u>
<i>Steve/Lesley Billington</i>	<i>(Social Secretary)</i>	<i>969 4609</i>	<u><i>billington100@ukonline.co.uk</i></u>
<i>Ken Livett</i>	<i>(Senior Liaison)</i>	<i>969 5178</i>	<u><i>k.livett@ntlworld.com</i></u>