

Newsletter - Spring '11

Junior Nights

Our junior night and coaching programme continues to be popular despite the extreme weather and catch-up sessions were needed during the winter months. The Friday 5pm Mini Tennis session continues to be popular but we really would love to see older juniors coming along for a hit at 6pm. Don't forget, for members it's free!

Half-Term Activities

There is a range of activities planned this February half-term including:

- Club camps running Monday-Thursday 12-3.30pm
- Regional Camps at Cwmbran for all advanced players
- Mini Tennis Red and Orange competitions at Abergavenny and Monmouth Leisure Centre

Check out the junior coaching notice board for more information on all events!

Beginner/refresher Tennis Coaching:

In the past, during April, we have held the 'Adult Initiative' at the leisure centre for potential members of the club who want to take up Tennis as a sport. The players are introduced to tennis using a softer ball and initially indoors. Some of our keenest players started with that initiative; Sandra Travers, Rob Jenkins to name but 2. Robert is now taking over this successful initiative as part of the core-coaching programme.

A new course of adult beginners coaching will be running every Saturday at 4pm after half-term (from 5th March) and running for 7 weeks. This course will cover the basics of the tennis strokes along with plenty of drills, ideal for new and rusty players. Please let Robert know if you would like to attend, and please pass on any details to friends who may like to take up tennis and join our club!

Singles League:

The proposed ATC Singles league has also received limited take-up from senior members. However there are enough entries to run senior divisions along with all mini and junior age-groups. Look out for the leagues and playing arrangements soon along with a sheet to sign up for the May-July league.

Men's Night:

Unfortunately the take-up for a floodlight men's night has been insufficient for it to begin this February. We hope to revisit the idea in the Spring. Any Men or Ladies interested in dedicated doubles practice, every Friday evening, should let the club captains know.

LTA Open Tournament:

Following last years' successful tournament which attracted players from across South Wales and the West, we will again be staging an event in the Easter Holidays, 25-29th April. The competition has events from Mini Red through to 18&U and this year we hope to run a formal doubles event as well. All Mini and Junior members should be keen to enter if they are available, and as this has LTA Grade 4 status, UK Rankings points are on offer. This is a fantastic opportunity for our youngsters to put their skills to the test and also for the club to raise valuable funds (we will be asking for parents willing to man a shift in the tuck shop). Look out for entry forms in the clubhouse.

Club members are reminded that the tournament will require the use of all courts and the clubhouse from 10am-5pm each day (apart from Wednesday and Friday mix-ins). Courts will be available for private play each evening.

Cardio Tennis:

If we are successful with a grant application, a Cardio Tennis session will be held indoors at the leisure centre. Cardio Tennis is a new, fun group activity on a tennis court featuring drills to give players of all abilities an ultimate, high energy workout. If you are looking for a great new way to get in shape and to burn calories, why not try Cardio Tennis? There are drills for absolute beginners through to advanced players, all of which provide you with a great cardio workout while improving tennis skills. Cardio Tennis is more fun than working out in a gym or other forms of exercise.

Interested or know of anyone that might be? Speak to Robert Wedlake or Mike Buck.

New Courts & Floodlights:

It will soon be spring when the final painting of the tarmac courts will finish off the project. Although the date has not been finalised we are planning a grand opening event to mark the occasion. If any members have any ideas or would add their support please contact a committee member or put your idea/offer of help in the blue box in the clubhouse.

The club is indebted to the team led by Jason Smith who managed this project themselves saving the club a lot of money, I mean thousands of pounds. Great thanks to Jason, Bob Lawton, Dave Robinson & Tony Cole.

Another great volunteering effort helped us over the problems in the clubhouse and water mains caused by the freezing weather recently. An expert job of lagging, digging trenches and joining up split ends of burst pipes and afterwards the big cleanup, well done!

Thanks again Julia Jones, Paul Taylor, Bob Lawton and Tony Cole.

Waitrose:

The Club is considering entering a project in the "green token scheme" supported by Waitrose. If members who shop at Waitrose would like to save their tokens and put them in the blue box in the Clubhouse we will have a head start for when we are ready to enter our project.

Trevor Scott is heading up a marketing and sponsorship group which will be trying to raise the focus on sponsorship particularly within the world of local businesses. If any members have any suggestions please contact Trevor Scott.

Keystone Renovation Ltd.:

Our thanks to Keystone Renovations for the support they have given us over the years and particularly Jackie Jones. Unfortunately Keystone has now ceased their sponsorship.

Press Officer:

Thanks to Bill Rogers who has agreed to take on the role of Press Officer (outside of a role on committee) Bill will be talking to captains for articles but members are also invited to submit articles of interest to Bill. Any mention of the Club in the press helps!

Grant Aid:

The Club has received a grant from the Community First Trust Fund administered by the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action for the development of tennis at Deri View School.

An application for community chest grant aid has been sought to develop Cardio Tennis in Abergavenny.

Fosse (our new courts contractor) awarded the Club £500 over 2 years which the Club is trying to match with Sportsmatch funding. The funds, if successful, will support a new project designed at getting youngsters competing regularly.

The Club Annual General Meeting:

The AGM will be held in the Clubhouse on Tuesday March 22nd starting 7.30 pm.

Fundraising:

2010 was an excellent year for fundraising for the Club, approximately £4,000 in extra revenue was generated. Effort like that helps to convince grant aiders like the LTA and the WCVA that we as a club are good to do business with, hence the investment the LTA have made with us to enable us to put up more floodlights. The down side to the floodlight project though is that we now have a debt of £30,000 to pay back over the next 10 years. We need therefore to continually seek new sponsors and fundraising ideas:

Can the club do business with any "business-owner" members?

Have any of our members got any fundraising ideas that they can make happen eg hosting a supper evening in the clubhouse or a murder mystery evening? See below for another way you could get involved.

If anyone can help please email Mike Buck on mike.buck60@gmail.com

Let's remember our members are our best way of advertising the Club, getting new members and making sure Abergavenny Tennis Club is the fun place to be.

ABERGAVENNY TENNIS CLUB **FUNDRAISING** *Club Recipe Book*

In case you missed our email message on the 9th January we are asking members, their relatives and friends to submit at least one recipe each for the book.

Recipes are to be under the following headings:

Soups
Starters
Main Courses
Suppers
Puddings
Cakes and Biscuits
Jams
Chutneys
Pickles

**Send your recipes by the end of February to
Patsy Cole (coleap@yahoo.com)**

or

Nicola Morris (adnicjam@aol.com)

Alternatively you can put them in the post box in the clubhouse or give them to Wendy Bidwell, Christine Scott or Nicola Morris

Please include your name, phone number, email address and the origin of the recipe

No Jamie Oliver or Delia recipes please – only tried and tested family recipes!

Thank you very much for your support