

Newsletter - Spring '09

BALLS4SALE

We have a number of balls for sale at £4 for a tube. See Mike, Arthur or Robert.

WORKING PARTIES

These operate from time to time, the next one will be on Saturday 7th march starting at 10am the single purpose will be to re sand number 2 carpet courts.

TESCO VOUCHERS

Look out for the Tesco combined sports and computer voucher scheme. Our box in the Clubhouse is ready for you to start filling.

DUCK RACE

Pay £1 for a duck named after your favourite tennis player. The ducks will be raced down the Cibi in heats of 10. The winner of each heat will get a small gift and their duck will go forward to the final of heat winners. The final winner will get the entire term of tennis lessons (6) free. It is open to non members as well. Pay for your duck by speaking to Mike or Robert



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I have hopefully called this the Spring Newsletter; although it does not seem a long time ago that Arthur was scraping ice off the courts, the last couple of weekends of sunshine remind us that the start of the season is not far away. The Annual General Meeting formally closes the 2008/9 season; this year it is on Tuesday the 24th starting 7.30. After the formalities of the AGM we will be showing a short film of a guided tour around the Website, in particular at the section dedicated to the Clubmark documentation. Clubmark is all about the way we manage the Club, it is a formal accreditation that we are aspiring to achieve. Clubmark is regarded highly by the LTA; conversely we would not be able to take advantage of any grants that may be on offer (e.g. for Floodlights) if we do not have this. The committee are working very hard to get all the ways of working and documentation together so that we can put our Clubmark presentation together for the start of the new season. As a result you will be seeing a transformation, hopefully you will agree for the better, of the notice boards in the Clubhouse. As a member or a parent please take some time out to look at the notice boards and tell us what you think.

The committee are very conscious of the financial doom and gloom that is everywhere at the moment. We want to be in a position where we retain all our existing members and hopefully gain more through the next years of uncertainty. To that end we are planning to put together a fun packed social calendar. Marion Ashton has volunteered to put together a team to make this happen. Marion is seeking volunteers to help her, she has posted a notice in the Clubhouse, if you can help in any way please put your name down or write to us via e-mail to info@abegavennytennis.org. The first event we are planning is a festival of tennis in early April; hopefully we will be putting together stalls, competitions and even a duck race on the mighty CIBI. Check out the Website for further details or Club notice boards. This brings me to the Website, I really do want to congratulate Robert Wedlake for the website inspiration (he's not a bad coach either) do you know we got over 4000 hits on the website last year that was up from a few hundred the year before.

Our club is an inclusive members club that means that we will only be as successful as the volunteers that make it all happen. In recent times we have replaced the floodlights, the carpet courts and floodlit the mini tennis area, we hope to be able to re-surface a tarmac court this year and have additional floodlighting as a future goal but we have to build up our financial reserves before any of this can happen. Tony has written an article on the financial challenge we as a Club face. I am keen therefore that we also raise the focus for some serious fundraising. Do we have skills in the club that can save us money or help us raise some money or be part of a team that can help in a social/fundraising event? If you have any ideas or want to offer some help either email to info@abergavennytennis.org or complete the feedback form on the notice board and put it in the blue post-box in the Clubhouse. Every member really can make a difference, do you know that we could provide the Club with a years supply of mini tennis balls by simply collecting Tesco vouchers saving tens of pounds.

To close and for anyone that does not know me personally I owe you a game so I would like to invite you to a game of tennis. You can make that arrangement via the website or come along to a Tuesday 6.30 pm/Sunday 10.0 am or Saturday 4.00 pm mix-in session.

Mike Buck



**Abergavenny
Tennis Club**



CLUB WEBSITE: ABERGAVENNYTENNIS.ORG.UK

COACHING WEBSITE: RDWTENNIS.CO.UK

CARPET COURTS

Many of you will have seen the results of the hard work by volunteer members who added more sand dressing to the carpet courts. This has brought some adverse comment from some members so we would like to explain the need for this maintenance.

According to the manufacturers instructions we should have done this between 3 and 6 months after the laying of the carpet. For some unknown reason this activity was overlooked.

This additional dressing will, we anticipate, improve the drainage of the carpet; and will certainly reduce wear on the carpet pile, thus increasing the life of the carpet.

We would ask that members wait patiently for the natural action of rain and wind that will, sooner than later, remove any excess sand.

OUR FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

The 2008 accounts have been finalised and will be available at the AGM. It was a good year for membership, with fee receipts of £19,500 about a £1000 higher than in 2007. Expenditures were merely routine with no major capital works. The Club was able to begin to rebuild its capital base, after recarpeting in 2007 (£53,000), for expenditures we will have and to maintain and upgrade the courts and clubhouse.

We have prepared a 10year budget plan to guide us in looking forward and this has highlighted issues we must tackle. 2008 was a year in which we could measure our ability to set aside operating surpluses for future capital expenses and this indicates that we can perhaps count on about £4000 a year with current receipts and cost levels. Our challenge is that we need at least double this to cover capital replacement needs and we should aim for an operating surplus of about £10,000 a year.

This is not an economic climate when we can expect much outside help so the membership will have to face this challenge together. We will have to do our utmost to increase membership and membership receipts, by far our major source of funds and at the same time explore all avenues for fund raising. This effort is required not so much for the coaching activities that are reasonably well funded, but to secure the physical fabric of the club on which we depend and for which we can have a great deal of pride.

TENNIS FESTIVAL

We are drawing up plans for a Tennis Festival on 4th April to assist our fundraising. This will be a family day out with some fun tennis themes for all the family. There will be crèche tennis led by leaders, cake and other stalls. Tennis games could include a display of some trick shots, racket demos, members tournament, speed of serve competition and heats of the Cibi duck race. Entrance will be free with small charges applied to each game.

100 CLUB

The proposal is to have a monthly 100 Club draw, first draw to be the end of May. Each entry would cost £2 with a half of all income going out in 3 monetary prizes. So for example if we sold 100 tickets the 1st prize would be £55 the 2nd £30 and the 3rd prize £15. Secure your number for the first draw by entering your name against the numbered list on the notice board in the Clubhouse. Good luck!

AGM 24th MARCH 7.30PM

Can you spend just a bit of time per week to help the Club?

Can you help to deliver members mail shots or help with a bit of ground maintenance?

We have a number of positions vacant , not all these require a place on the Committee.

Positions vacant:

- Press secretary
- Fundraising officer
- Secretary
- Places on the Social sub-committee
- Junior schools coordinator
- House & Grounds officer

Speak to Mike if you can help the club.

MESSAGE FROM THE COACH

Its now 2 years since I joined the club and I couldn't feel more settled. We have a healthy and active membership, popular coaching programme and our juniors and seniors are busy competing throughout South Wales. However as our Chairman and Treasurers' reports show, we are ever reliant on the growth of membership, efforts of volunteers and fundraising activities and I hope the coaching programme can help in all 3 areas.

The winter hasn't been kind to us weather-wise (I certainly missed a chance to take a holiday when the snow fell!), and I thank everyone for their patience as we tried to catch up postponed sessions in the school holidays. We are looking hard at a few alternatives for next winter should the cold kick in again. With the summer season approaching and the weather on the up we are bracing ourselves for some big numbers and Arthur, Mike, Sean, Dave and the Leaders are all on hand to assist me and doing a great job. As well as pushing our group coaching sessions we are keen to build up the numbers at junior night, giving everyone the chance to play at least twice a week.

On the competitive front we are performing really well at junior level, with James Morris and Dan Taylor finishing the winter series ranked No's 1 and 2 in South Wales on the Tennis Wales Mini Green Circuit with Elliot Simmonds No.2 in the Red circuit. Also well done to Tom Engel, Will Robinson, Oliver Stansfield, Sam Hay and Louise Sadler for starting their competitive tennis careers! We hope these and many more will be competing in this summers events.

Finally some sales patter; we have linked up with Volkl and Boris Becker to provide their latest ranges of rackets and accessories for juniors and seniors. There's some cracking frames with great aesthetics which are gaining popularity on the tournament circuit and now being introduced to clubs. Take a look at www.rdwtennis.co.uk or ask me for a look and a demo. We will be unveiling the lot at the Tennis Festival on 4th April. **Robert Wedlake**

TOURNAMENT TEAM NEWS



Don't miss our pre-tennis festival seniors tournament. Run by Trevor Scott, the tournament (£1/entry) will start at 10am, followed by a buffet lunch at noon organised by Marion Ashton.

Look out for a sign-up sheet in the clubhouse for both the tournament and the lunch. We hope that those involved will stay on afterwards for the festival fun.

Summer 2008:

South Wales Courtstall League

- Men's 1st team captained by Arthur Hales played in 2B East and came 3rd
- Men's 2nd team captained by Trevor Scott played in 5A East and came 4th
- Ladies' 1st team captained by Brenda Saunders played in Premier 2, having won their league the previous summer and came 5th out of 6.
- Ladies' 2nd team captained by Ashley Barcenilla played in 3A East and came 3rd.

Cymru Kitchens Mid Week League

- Ladies' captained by Marion Ashton won Division 1 and will go up to the Premier League this summer.
- Mixed 1 captained by Andy Clement won the knock out cup and the Premier Division.
- Mixed 2 captained by Alison Brinn played in Division 2 and won their division.

Winter 2008/9

- Helen Parker captained the Ladies Veterans playing in Division 3. The team won 8 matches, drew 2 and are top of the league.
- Men's Vets played in Division 2, captained by Andy Clement, and 8 matches were won with 1 draw. They came top of their league.
- Mixed Vets in Div 1 was captained by Trevor Scott, won 4 matches, drew 2 and lost 2.
- Cherie Lamont captained the Cymru Kitchen Ladies playing in Division 4 came 2nd.
- Ashley Barcenilla captained the Mixed in Division 1 of the Cymru Kitchen and are 5th out of 6.

A huge thank you to all those who captained teams over the two seasons. This summer we are running 2 men's and 2 ladies' in the South Wales and 2 ladies' and 2 mixed in the Cymru Kitchens. Anyone interested in playing team tennis should contact Alice Garlick.