

Newsletter - Spring '10

Calendar Dates

25th March: Quiz Night with a fish supper.

27th March: Start of the Leisure Centre Adult Beginner Coaching.

11th April: Tennis Festival. Buy your ducks soon!

1st May: Open Day evening social and BBQ.

31st May - 6th June: Family Week (we are looking for event ideas for this).

Keep eyes peeled on the notice board for possible details of a murder mystery night. Can anyone run an Easter egg hunt for the Club?

Correction: the following was omitted from the Winter newsletter:
Congratulations to the Summer Mixed B team captained by Ashley Barcenilla that won both the league and cup!

Fees: Members will soon be receiving a renewal notice for their fees for 2010/11 which are due on 1st May. Please pay promptly to save our volunteers time in chasing late payments. Members are reminded that this year a discount will be given for an early payment (by 30th April).

Chairman's Notes

The sun has finally started to break through the winters gloom so its time to dust off that racquet and tennis kit and enjoy some exercise.

This is going to be a very exciting year for the club and for me this year will be all about securing the future of what is and needs to remain a very successful tennis club. The final details of the Floodlight and resurfacing project are currently being put together, so for those that missed the EGM there is another opportunity to hear all about this project at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 23rd March starting 7.00 for a glass of wine prior to the meeting start at 7.30 pm.

I cannot stress enough the importance of this AGM. Now that we know the cost of the development and that the club for the first time in many years will be taking on a level of debt, it is very important we get feedback from the membership on these plans but moreover we get enthusiasm for the task ahead in fundraising and sponsorship that will enable us to furnish the debt.

Fundraising and Sponsorship is going to be key to getting the new facilities so we are planning a bumper series of social events. Not only are we looking for every member to be part of the social side of the club but it will also be great fun, so why not make a point of supporting at least 2 social events during this season?

If anyone has an idea for a social event that they have any experience of running and are prepared to help make it happen then let us know by e-mailing info@abergavennytennisclub.co.uk. Or put your idea on a feedback form and put it in the blue post-box in the Clubhouse.

You will find more details about the immediately planned events as you read this newsletter.

Notice of AGM



The 2010 AGM will be held in the clubhouse on **Tuesday 23rd March** (drinks from 7pm, meeting 7.30pm). We have lots of news on major developments (and expenditure/fundraising) at it is recommended that all members attend.

Volunteering: I know this sounds like a cracked record, but if we want to stay at the top as a Club we need lots more helpers to come forward in supporting roles. We recognise that not everyone wants to give up good playing time to sit on a committee so we want to look at committee members taking on liaison roles with smaller sub-committees that meet less frequently but are able to form a function within the Club. One example might be a specific fundraising subcommittee, another might be to communicate with the press. That idea aside we do need people to come forward for specific roles on committee as well. Tony Cole and Alice Garlick have indicated that this will be the last year of their tenure as Treasurer and Club Captain. These are key roles and the Club cannot function without these roles, also a prospective volunteer needs to be in place as a deputy this year so that they can more easily pick up the role next year. We would like to hear from anyone that can help in no matter what capacity great or small. Either write to info@abergavennytennis.co.uk or speak to any committee member (details on the notice board) in confidence.

Membership Secretary: Claire Howes has decided to resign from the committee after 3 years of doing one of the hardest jobs at the Club. Claire with Gordon Allan was instrumental in setting up the membership database and the Club is fortunate that Gordon has agreed to become Membership Secretary. Gordon is a wizard on access databases (most of you should already be aware of his handy work if you have already received an automatic update of your membership details). The committee would like to thank Claire for all her hard work and welcome Gordon to the role.

Why not come along to the AGM have a glass of wine and meet Gordon and say thanks to Claire?

Our Financial Challenge Progress Report

The final accounts for the year 2009 have confirmed the excellent progress that the Club has made in meeting its objectives that we outlined in the Spring Newsletter and reported on in November.

Income

Membership income reached £21,768.96 for the calendar year and is well above target, and fundraising, including the 100 club, totalling about £2148 has more than filled the gap made by the collapse of our interest earnings. The Hardwick Restaurant and REM Management Service have extended their support for our junior development programs for another year. Coaching activities were also supported by a new Community Chest grant and a grant from Sportsmatch for the junior programs to match the contributions of our two sponsors. The overall income position was therefore very healthy thanks to major efforts of some very dedicated members.

Expenditure

Our operating expenses were significantly below budget because of general savings and particularly the self-help arrangements for clubhouse cleaning and grounds maintenance. Utility costs have not risen as much as we had expected. We have also not committed any capital expenditures as we prepare for the floodlighting and court resurfacing project planned for 2010. This has allowed us to set aside £13,142 of our operating surplus for our capital fund at the end of the year. We are now well advanced in seeking grant and loan assistance from the LTA for the project, estimated to cost £110,000, and have about £40,000 of our own funds as a counterpart contribution.

The Challenge

There is no room for complacency. Our capital works present a bigger effort than we had originally envisaged. To date our fundraising has been relatively small and hard earned and, depending on the club's ultimate needs, the options for ensuring an adequate income remain through the general contributions by a growing membership, higher fees and through targeted fundraising. For 2010 we have set ourselves targets for fundraising of £2500, for Sponsorships of £3800 and for transfers to our capital funds of £12,000. We need all hands on boards to meet these objectives.

ATC Business Plan

Following the club's recent success in achieving Tennis Clubmark status and the decision to floodlight and resurface the three hardcourts in 2010 it was necessary for the club to put together a 5-year Business Plan (BP) in order that an application for grant aid could be made to the LTA.

Objectives for the 5-year period were set under the following headings: (1) Coaching (2) Coach Development (3) Community Outreach (4) Competition (5) Membership (6) Facilities (7) Club Management (8) Social Activities

Examples of objectives include:

- To increase coaching sessions by 50%
- To increase qualified coaches to 7
- To increase competition schemes to 9 per year
- To increase membership by 40 persons
- To floodlight three hardcourts
- To resurface three hardcourts
- To appoint a person to be responsible for fundraising
- To increase partner schools by 100%
- To ensure a link between social activities and fundraising

Monitoring of progress over the period of the BP will be carried out under three headings:

- Financial
- Targets
- Human resources

The full BP will be available to members at the AGM.

Easter Junior Activities

LTA Tournament: For the first time we are running an LTA Grade-4 Open Tournament this Easter for juniors across S.Wales and beyond! Run 5-9th April, the tournament will have events for all players from Mini Red to 18&U and all those within the club should be keen to enter. The standard will be broad and we hope to create a camp-style atmosphere with Wii Tennis and football in the field between matches. Pick up a form in the clubhouse or download from www.rwtennis.co.uk. *Deadline for entries is Friday 19th March!* NB. The tournament will not run during mix-in times nor during the evening. A court is available for members to use during the tournament, please contact Robert to reserve a time.

Easter Tennis Camps 29th&30th March, 1st April



In the first week of the Easter Holidays on 29th, 30th March and 1st April (sorry OLSM kids who are still in school!) we are running our world-famous tennis camps from 10am-3pm. Camps are for all juniors aged 5-12 (5-6's to finish 1pm as they will be shattered from Arthur's fun & games). There are discounts for coming on multiple days and bringing a sibling to get involved.

ATC Tennis Festival 11th April

Its that time of year again! This year the Tennis Festival will be on Sunday 11th April from 1pm (doubles mix in tournament for seniors in the morning). The Festival will include the Duck Race, Beat the Coach, BBQ, Speed of Serve Competition, Prizes, Bric-a-brac and more! Come along and bring your friends. Entry is free but each event has a contribution to the floodlight project. Can you help run the event? Contact Robert for more information.

