

# Newsletter - Winter '09

## **It's official we're Guinness World Record setters!**

Guinness World Records verified the National Family Week attempt for the 'Largest Picnic - Multiple Venue'. 79 venues (including ATC) officially took part in the Family Week Picnic on Monday 25th May (and adhered to all of Guinness' guidelines) with 12,934 participants in total so a big thank you to everyone that joined in

We hope you'll help us with next year's record attempt which will be part of the Family Week Sports Day. Further details coming soon!



## **Chairman's Notes**

Firstly an apology, we had planned to release this autumn newsletter almost a month ago but we were inching close to achieving two major successes for the Club, so it has been worth the wait. Firstly and pending a satisfactory visit of the assessor on 21<sup>st</sup> November, we have achieved Clubmark. To explain, Clubmark is a Kite mark for the sound management and operation of Sports Clubs. To put this in perspective there are currently only 18 Clubs in Wales out of a total of 93 who have Clubmark status. You should have already have received via e-mail some of the output; namely the Codes of Conduct useful for parents and junior members but Clubmark is an entire management system so if you have time please browse the notice boards for more information including feedback forms and examples of best practice, eventually the entire package will also be on the website.

Secondly, we have got planning permission to install Floodlights on the three rear tarmac courts. There is a special notice for an Extra Ordinary Meeting (EGM) in this newsletter, this is to consult with members on the project to floodlight and resurface these courts. There will be a lot to be done, we will need a project manager, we will also need a business plan for the future of the club and not least of all we will need the funds. Please come along to the EGM and give us your views. I would particularly like to see the new members to the club participating.

Another double success was that of Sean Jones getting the Tennis Wales award for the Coaching Assistant of the year and secondly both he and James Hodges have been awarded the UKCC2 coaching award. Well done to both who now join Dave Robinson as 'Community Coaches'

At the beginning of the year I feared that in a year of recession our membership might fall, in fact it has been a good year for membership boosted by the introduction of new sessions. If you think that these new sessions (for example the Mum's Monday session) are steps in the right direction then let us know via the Feedback forms to be found in the folders by the Clubhouse notice boards. The season is not over yet all the mix-in sessions continue over the winter months, Friday night will continue for the juniors and Robert is still very much available with a full coaching programme so do not let those cold days put you off playing.

**Mike Buck**

## **Notice of EGM**

There will be an EGM on December 8th (Tuesday) starting 7.30 pm and after some pulse racing tennis. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the possibility Floodlighting and resurfacing of the rear courts and celebrate an excellent year with a glass of wine. Please try to make it; we aim to close the meeting at 9.00 pm.

## **Floodlight project**

If we go ahead to floodlight the rear courts we will need a project manager. Do we have a member or friend perhaps of a member that would be prepared to take on this role or simply help out in the planning of this project?

## **First Aiders**

Do we have any qualified First Aiders (or medically qualified) that would like to add their names to our list posted on the Clubhouse notice board? If so speak to Mike Buck or Robert Wedlake or write to us via [info@Abergavennytennis.org.uk](mailto:info@Abergavennytennis.org.uk).

## **Team Success**

Congratulations to our Mens 1sts and 2nds teams, and Ladies 2nd teams who all gained promotion in the Courtstall Summer Doubles League. In the Veterans Leagues we were champions of Division 1 (Mixed), Division 3 (Ladies) and Division 2 (Men).

### Our Financial Challenge

Last Spring we outlined our financial challenge to cater for the future needs of the club. Since then good progress has been made on several fronts.

### Income

Membership income has reached £21,200 for the calendar year and is well above target, and fundraising, including the 100 club, totalling about £1,500 has helped to fill the gap made by the collapse of our interest earnings. We have also had excellent support from the Hardwick Restaurant and REM Management Service for our junior development programs. Coaching activities are 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 is therefore quite healthy thanks to major efforts of some very dedicated members

### Expenditure

Our operating expenses are 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 await planning permission for floodlighting and prepare a request for grant funds from the LTA. The net result is that 2009 is going to be a good year for rebuilding our capital base and we should beat our £10,000 target for transfers to our capital fund.

### The Challenge

There is no room for complacency, however, as our capital works program may present a bigger effort than we had originally envisaged as indicated by Mike above. We also need urgently to address the issue of greater burden sharing in financing and daily operations of the club. 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. The last has been tough so far this year.

**Tony Cole**

### Ratings Competition Boxes

Our new Competition Boxes allow all mini and junior members who have British Tennis Ratings to play matches at coaching, junior nights and in their spare time which will count towards their rating. Scorecards are under the notice board, simply challenge an opponent, play your match and put your scorecard in the results holder. And remember, for Mini Tennis Ratings simply playing a set number is all you need to get from 4 to 3!

### New Mini Tennis, Extra Coaching Courses and Online Booking!

Our Sportsmatch-funded Leisure Centre Mini Tennis sessions are proving to be extremely popular and we plan to continue these for the Jan-Feb term. But for those who cannot make them, we are running new **Saturday morning mini tennis coaching**. Other new sessions include our **Thursday daytime adult clinic** and the return of **Sunday evening junior squads**. From January our new booking system should be ready for you to book all your family members in and pay online, with all discounts calculated and an extra 5% off for using our new system! Keep an eye on the coaching website [rwtennis.co.uk](http://rwtennis.co.uk) for more information...



### Volunteering

We are always in need of members giving up a bit of their time to help the club out. In particular we have committee posts to be filled for:

- Volunteer Coordinator.
- Fundraiser (as opposed to sponsorship)
- Junior Coordinator.

We had a good year in 2009 particularly in the field of fundraising, this has given us a some good ideas for development but we need help from anyone willing to put aside a little bit of time so that we can make the most of these ideas. If anyone can do this speak to Mike Buck or any committee member or write to [info@abergavennytennis.org.uk](mailto:info@abergavennytennis.org.uk)

### Junior Competitors

Very well done to all our mini and junior players who have been competing in our match-play evenings, competition boxes and tournaments in South Wales and beyond this Summer and Autumn. There were simply too many successes to list in one newsletter but many of those who are relatively new to competition have already boosted their Mini Tennis Ratings from 4 to 3 including some as young as 5 years old! The summer haul of trophies from Radyr, Llanelli, Leominster, Dinas Powis, Cardiff (the list goes on!) did our club proud as well as the good feedback we receive on the attitude of our players. We are fast establishing ourselves as one of the top S.Wales clubs for producing 10&U players.

### ATC Club Clothing

We have sent off for of ATC Club Clothing for those who have made an order. Forms are on the Coaching noticeboard and website for anyone else that wants an ATC hoodie, tshirt or polo shirt.

### 100 Club

The 100 club was put in place to support the funding of the new Floodlights.

There are still places available, if you would like to contribute speak to Alice Garlick or write to [info@abergavennytennis.org.uk](mailto:info@abergavennytennis.org.uk).

### British Tennis Membership

A reminder we have until 30th November to register new BTM's for them to count towards the Wimbledon Ticket allocation for the Club and Wales. We need to bear in mind that since last year when we got 31 pairs of tickets Wales has doubled its number of BTM's so we need to get as many of the 80+ members that have not signed up to do so before the 30th November. So if you are one of the 80+ (including all juniors) please either go online [www.lta.org.uk/britishtennismembership](http://www.lta.org.uk/britishtennismembership). Or pick up a form from the Clubhouse or speak to any committee member (names on the notice board)