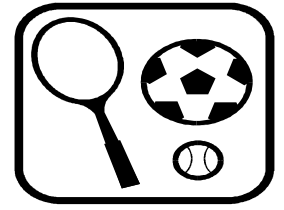


# On The Ball



## President's Piece

As usual it only seems like yesterday that I wrote On the Ball for Autumn 07, here we are in 2008 and a New Year with new opportunities.

As you are all aware, the club does not run itself, the committee and its team of volunteers get involved in all sorts of things, however there are some key positions on the committee that form the backbone of the club, these people are Directors of the club, they are also volunteers and to keep KLTSC ahead of the game we need to rotate these on a regular basis. I understand that a lot of you get involved with the club and that some just want to play their sport and enjoy the facilities, but I would ask you to consider working on the General Committee, we have a vacancy for a Treasurer and will have other vacancies which we are trying to plan for. If you can help or want to know more please speak to any of the committee.

We have had some great sporting results this year, all supported by coaches and very proud parents. Outstanding results are only achieved through dedication by the individual and the support of a lot of people.

As a club we are doing better than most, we have two very strong coaches in Steve and James; both of those people have support from parents and helpers. Croquet is increasing in popularity and has a waiting list for members; well done to an amazingly organised Army of people. We have to deal with maintaining and increasing our membership year on year and I am delighted to have a marketing team to help push forward the club as a whole.

You will see that the website is regularly updated and all the information a new member could want is available. We have had a new brochure produced and you will have already received some copies, the purpose of these is for you as a member to recommend your club to friends, family and work colleagues.

As usual there are social events going on throughout the year, the quiz was particularly good (I didn't come last), Bonfire night was well supported and we hope to be able to continue running that event every year (H&S allowing).

Like all clubs there is an army of unpaid people who help make the club run smoothly and make it one of the premier clubs in the area, I cannot thank these parents, friends and members, etc, enough, for without you we could not function as we do.

This year we will be losing two key members of the committee; Roy Johnston (Treasurer) and Anne Holmes (Junior Tennis). My personal thanks go to them both for an outstanding job during their tenure. I am reliably informed that they will be working away in the background, helping out if required.

2008 is upon us now and we must maintain KLTSC's status as one of the Premier Clubs in the area To achieve that we must constantly look for new initiatives. If you have an idea or suggestion then please let me or one of the committee know. We promise to seriously consider it and if we think it will work we will implement it.

I look forward to another year of success for KLTSC and hope that we will be able to build and develop the club even more.

**David Burton - President**

## LAST YEAR'S ACCOUNTS AND THE AGM

With this newsletter comes notice of the AGM together with copies of the important pages from the annual accounts for the financial year which ended on 30 September 2007. At the AGM your committee will explain what we have done on your behalf, what we have spent, what we think is necessary to spend in the future, and therefore next season's subscription levels. Please come, to have your say and to find out more.

The Balance Sheet shows we are solvent. In our repair funds (sitting in a deposit account) we have the £92,500 needed to maintain the playing and social facilities. Some £23,000 of this will be used for the re-carpeting of tennis courts 2 and 3, and an even larger sum is earmarked for refurbishing the Club House roof. We put £31,000 into these funds last year and this amount (inflation linked) is necessary every year to keep our facilities first class.

Where did the money come from, and what else (in addition to the repair funds) did we spend it on. The Income and Expenditure Account gives some summary figures. 60% comes from our subscriptions, up 5.3% from last year. 11% of our income comes from playing fees (stickers and tokens), which was a considerable uplift on the previous year due to the increase in price and only selling tokens with the corresponding

number of stickers. Our total income was 7% up on the previous year. Unfortunately our routine expenses were up 12%. The sports secretaries and the General Committee work hard to ensure spending is kept to an absolute minimum and suggestions and help in minimising waste and costs are always welcome. Despite this, as the bottom line shows, we made a small profit over the year. This was less than 1% of turnover, a very tight margin for error.

The current year may see some above inflation increases in the cost of utilities and we are experiencing a decrease in bar sales, so we may finish the year with a small loss. (Please drink more!!). Obviously your committee is working hard to improve on this projection (and not just by drinking) but feel that a 5% increase in subscriptions is necessary. The new fees are tabulated with the AGM papers. One additional proposal, namely that the category of joint membership for couples playing different sports, introduced at last years AGM, be discontinued.

**Roy Johnston – Treasurer**

## **Tennis Section**

### **Playing Facilities**

The surfaces on courts 2&3 will be replaced in March/April with a new artificial grass carpet: the same surface as on courts 4&5. *This investment will give us nine courts, all in excellent playing condition.*

We are evaluating options to improve the surface of the gravel/stone path between the two blocks of courts. It is hoped that for a modest investment we can reduce the noise and improve the look of this central area – perhaps with some planting also!

### **Dates for 2008**

A full and detailed list of competitions and tournaments for 2008 will be on the notice board shortly. Please note the following dates:

#### **Start of Summer Tennis Season**

7th April

#### **Finals day (June)**

21<sup>st</sup> June

#### **Finals Day (September)**

20<sup>th</sup> September

#### **End of Season Supper**

28th September

#### **Captains Day**

12<sup>th</sup> October

### **British Tennis**

The LTA have introduced a new membership package entitled “British Tennis Membership”. This scheme replaces the existing LTA Advantage Club scheme. The LTA is offering free 2008 membership to BTM but for 2009 there will be a membership fee. Clubs cannot join all members en bloc although the Clubs pay a significant levy to the LTA for every member.

*We have displayed the LTA promotional information on BTM of the Tennis notice board.*

However, at the same time we have been in discussion with the LTA about their proposal to give preferential access to Wimbledon tickets to BT members. We believe that this is unfair (if not illegal) as they will require the Clubs to continue to pay the compulsory levy whilst removing Wimbledon tickets as one of the few perks that Clubs receive in return for their large levy payments.

We have become aware that many other Clubs feel the same and currently we are in contact with all Warwickshire Tennis Clubs to gauge their opinions.

*As a result of our activities we have also been promised an early meeting between local Clubs and the LTA to resolve the situation.*

*It is currently our understanding (in a confused situation) that our members will be eligible to enter the ballot for 2008 Wimbledon tickets BUT if the situation changes we will post an update notice on the board.*

However, it is our hope that the LTA will withdraw their Wimbledon ticket ‘threat’ as an inducement to cajole Members into joining their latest money making scheme.

***Watch the notice board!!***

**Mike Ducker – Tennis Chairman**

## **Squash Section**

### **Great success**

There have been a number of players at the club that have had some outstanding achievements this year. One is Sara Jane Perry who was selected to represent England in the under 19’s in Hong Kong (when only 17) and also won the Scottish open under 19’s event.

We are very fortunate to have some other very strong ladies playing at the club Tanya Bailey and Dominique Lloyd Walter ranked 1 and 6 in England respectively and also Chris Fuller ranked highly in the under 19’s (these are all players that are coached by our very own Steve Townsend.

There have been a number of enjoyable, exciting very high class team squash matches during the season and it is great to see that members are coming along to support the teams. All the teams are doing very well this season including the Ladies team who are currently leading the 1<sup>st</sup> division.

There are also a number of club juniors who are playing and winning in the senior club teams and representing the County in different age groups, there are too many to list individually but these players know who they are and well done. Guy (under 17’s) and Chloe (under 15’s) Pearson had a double success winning the Sheffield Junior open in their respective age groups a great achievement for them.

You can keep upto date with all the team and individual successes during the season by logging onto [www.Kenilworthsquash.co.uk](http://www.Kenilworthsquash.co.uk) or the Warwickshire squash website or keep your eyes on the club noticeboard.

It has been agreed by the club committees that a few outstanding junior players selected by the coaching team will receive some reduced price courts (out of peak time) to use to train and practice. We hope you will support them with this these are our players of now and the future.

The numbers of junior players and the standard of player continues to grow we need to praise the high calibre and commitment of the coaching team, volunteer coaches and parents who give up there time freely to support there development.

**Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup>** is National Squash Day and Sports Relief Day we are planning to have a number of activities for all ages during the day and evening which will be fun but also a means to raise money for Sports relief. Please keep your eye on the club notice board and on the website for further details and other competitions and come along and join in the fun.

**Carolyn Lindsay – Squash Secretary**

## **Croquet Section**

In every respect but one, the 2007 croquet season was an outstanding success. The exception was, of course, the weather. The first half of the season was the worst period for playing croquet we have experienced since the club was founded. It was particularly disappointing for the new members who joined the section.

The membership of the section reached a record 63 members and we had to establish a waiting list. Our thanks go, once again, to David Skinner for his help with publicity.

The competitions and tournaments were well supported, though the weather delays produced a pile-up of games before Finals Day. We established a good balance between the association and golf variations of the game. This remains a priority for the club in 2008.

The club won the West Midlands Federation Association League, which allows us to enter the C.A. Secretary's Shield Competition in 2008. Our wider involvement with other croquet clubs and mainstream croquet events continued. Several successful corporate events were held and contributed usefully to the club's finances.

The success of a croquet club is dependent on the willingness of the members to contribute to the many tasks involved in maintaining a happy and successful club. The quality of the lawns is the single most important item. The club was fortunate in having so many members in 2007 willing and able to plan and execute the work involved. The club can look forward with optimism.

**Bill Sidebottom – Croquet Chairman**

## **Your Club still needs you!**

This time last year I posted an appeal to all members to consider supporting KLTSC in helping to promote the club's facilities in order to attract more members. Three members, Julie Elliott, Nathalie Moreau, and Shirley Whiting, offered their services and

we took them all up on their generous offers. Julie represented the new Marketing team on the General Committee, with Nathalie and Shirley providing their professional advice in support. Together with David Skinner, who as ever has provided excellent PR for KLTSC through his local media contacts, the team has forged ahead in presenting the club in a more professional way. I wish to personally thank all the Marketing team for their excellent work and positive, can-do, spirit throughout the past year and I sincerely hope that they will continue to support KLTSC with the same enthusiasm and professionalism for years during 2008/9 and beyond.

However, whilst we have an eclectic membership mix consisting of many people with the relevant skills and experience, very few of you seem willing to volunteer some of your spare time to assisting with the running of the club. Please consider how your expertise might help the club and speak to any of the Committee members.

If we cannot find sufficient members to support the running of KLTSC it is inevitable that one day the club will have to seriously consider employing key people to manage it professionally: consider the impact that is likely to have on the cost of membership!

***YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!***

**Sam Burton – General Secretary**

Published by: Kenilworth Lawn Tennis & Squash Club Ltd, Crackley Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Phone 01926-852673  
Website: [www.kenilworthtennis.co.uk](http://www.kenilworthtennis.co.uk) or [www.kenilworthsquash.co.uk](http://www.kenilworthsquash.co.uk)