



On The Ball

President's Piece

My last OTB read that the dark days of winter are behind us now and we can begin to enjoy our sports and the summer.

What a wet summer we have had! However, I am pleased to see that all sports have continued to be enjoyed, albeit in mixed weather.

We have continued to enjoy success in all our sports and, through the hard work of David Skinner, we appear regularly in all the local media.

There has recently been significant work to the fabric of the club, much of which is unseen: all our squash courts and clubhouse heaters are now new high efficiency units, and we have just let a contract with Warwick Glass for double glazing the entrance and the bar areas, with new doors and improved security for access to the tennis courts and veranda. We are also looking at insulation for the squash courts and hope over the forthcoming winter to save a lot of the £13K we spent last year on gas and electricity.

Through our contacts with England Squash and Racketball we have been made aware of the possibility of receiving a six figure grant towards the cost of a 6th glass-backed exhibition squash court. We have submitted an 'Expression of Interest' as the first step towards securing their funding. While we are waiting to hear if we will be viewed favourably we are undertaking a site survey and some feasibility studies. We are hopeful ES&R will favour our application, and we will be able to move on and develop an investment plan. It is my intention to bring this proposal to a meeting of the members before we make any commitments.

As always we ask for your support for the club in the social functions, some of which we have had to cancel through lack of support or late interest. Our next function will be the Quiz Night on 26th September; notices are on the notice board and in the bar, please sign up early so we can cater for everyone.

We are also looking for members to fill vacancies on the General Committee; we have lots of talented members and if you could spare some time to help run and develop your club then please speak to any of the GC members.

David Burton – President

Club Marketing

The Club was invited this year to participate in the Kenilworth Festival and be part of the town's entertainment schedule – which we did in 2 ways: we opened our doors and were well publicised on the local radio stations inviting prospective players to try out our great facilities.

All our sports participated despite the inclement weather, starting off with youngsters coming along on Saturday morning

to try tennis. Family members could try their hands, or mallets! at the increasingly popular croquet. Fortunately the afternoon activities were indoors where juniors and families could sample squash and racketball.

Activities continued into the evening with the duo 'Village Idiot', led by our very own Stan Barker, performing a cross section of Kenilworth Rap and Comedy Songs. Leamington band Firedaze also performed their unique blend of folk rock to the select audience.

Croquet demonstrations were held at the Abbey Fields on Sunday with plenty of interest generated.

Kenilworth Chamber of Trade visited us on a glorious summer's evening in July when local Members joined us to sample the delights of golf croquet. Our expert tutors led the visitors through the rudiments of the game, generating much more of a challenge than one would imagine. The club was buzzing with activity; gents social tennis, ladies matches and squash too, which all contributed to a lively atmosphere. We still managed to find room for our guests to enjoy a meal overlooking the lawns, to round off an enjoyable evening – "wonderful hospitality and a credit to Kenilworth" was the verdict.

The online member's survey is still available for completion, we have extended the deadline to get more opinions, and we want to know what you our members think about the club. So please go to www.kenilworthtennis.co.uk/

Julie Elliot – Marketing

Tennis

The new Committee structure can be found on the notice board in the entrance area of the Clubhouse. As with all new committees, new ideas and thoughts present themselves and we hope members will be supportive of the whole Committee as we move through this transition year.

With this in mind, it may be a good time to remind you that any Committee operates best if it understands its members needs and the Tennis Open Meeting (early October – date to be confirmed) is a good opportunity to discuss issues/put forward suggestions/show support to the Committee. For instance, we have recently trialled a new system for Thursday Evening Fixed Fours court bookings in response to requests and plan to review this soon. Also a request has been made by the Ladies 4th team to be allowed to play on Courts 2&3 for their home matches on Tuesday evenings in the summer. The Committee understands the implications involved and welcomes members' views at the Open meeting.

Work continues with the implementation of CLUBMARK: Coaching Team agreements are virtually complete – this ensures that any member of our team has submitted relevant copies of CRB checks, coaching qualifications/awards, workshops attended, etc. In so doing we have made certain that James is backed not only by a very enthusiastic team, but by a "professional" one. A similar set of agreements is underway and almost complete for volunteers.

Team news –

Ladies' teams: The Ladies' teams had a good summer in the League. Congratulations to the third team, captained by Gill Cure, on winning the fourth division title. The first and second teams both came a safe sixth in their respective divisions and

the newly promoted fourth team finished a good third in the fifth division. The Vets' team has made it through three rounds of the National Inter Club Knock out Competition and will shortly travel to West Bridgford, for a quarter final match.

Men's teams: Despite injury problems leading to many team changes we have had a good season. The first team struggled early on but came back well to secure their place in the Premier League. The Seconds got off to a good start and continued this to end up as winners of their league, gaining promotion to Division 2. Sadly, the Thirds were relegated from Division 3.

Congratulations to all those who played and represented the Club – we now look forward to the winter season!

Diary dates – **7th September:** Start of winter Season. (Please note this is a month earlier to overcome day length problems with floodlights etc). **19th September:** Finals day. **27th September:** End of Season Supper and Presentation Night
11th October: Captains' Day

It is also very important that we remind members of a few "basics". Please always wear your current shoe tag when on court. We do try to make sure that only fully paid up members are using the facilities and this is the best way to let everyone know you are a bona fide member. Wearing it prevents offence and/or embarrassment to both parties if challenged.

Always sign in any visitors – stickers should be purchased as soon as possible if the bar is not open at the time you arrive with a guest, but at least write their name down on the Visitors' Register (located by the light meters). Remember it is the member's responsibility to do so!

Anne Holmes – Tennis Secretary

Squash

It's that time of year again - you should have received your renewal reminder and sent in your payment; we're lucky to be members of such a vibrant club achieving so much success.

A new Committee has been formed and we have a diverse team. If you want to help, even in only a small way, then please let me know - many hands make light work.

To encourage members to enter and play their league games there is to be a squash & racketball 'League Cup' to be played during October to April so if you're not already in the leagues then sign up and join the action. Roy Cooper & Martyn Kerry will be running their 'fun tournaments' and we're hoping to have some friendly matches against other clubs (mixed squash & racketball).

Our junior section is going from strength to strength and on Saturday mornings it's great to see so many youngsters taking the game up. It's also good to welcome back university students who think it's worth coming back home to play squash at Kenilworth (ok so the home comforts swayed them a bit) but welcome back Joe Faulkner, Chris Hall & Rooshab Shah. Let's hope that this trend continues and we can welcome back more juniors.

Notable success at international level was gained by Chloe Pearson & Sarah-Jane Perry who became European Junior Champions and Chris Fuller has just played well in the World Junior Championships in India. He came up against the No 2 and nearly pulled off a great win but lost 1-3.

We're also blessed with lots of 'Oldies' and we had Geoff Redfern winning The British Open Squash over 55's. We then followed up with three UK National Champions in Racketball with Ceryg Jones winning the over 45's, Mike Livock retaining his over 50's and Tony Howarth taking the over 55's.

Our racketball team won the Warwickshire County league.

We've just had our annual court maintenance programme completed and court 2 has a new floor so all of our courts are in good 'nick' (sorry couldn't resist the pun).

To ensure that our courts stay in good condition could all members ensure that they do wear correct and clean squash footwear. Incorrect footwear damages the courts and doesn't make the game any easier on your feet and legs either.

The booking of the two 'phone in' courts continues to be abused and leads to a lot of frustration for other members. After a lot of searching we're planning to implement a web-based court booking system, which will enable us to make bookings without having to travel to the club and deal with no-shows! More soon.

I'd like to thank all members for making Kenilworth such a warm friendly club and if any member has an idea for making it even better, please don't hesitate in suggesting it.

Roger More – Squash Secretary

Croquet

We are now coming to the end of another record breaking season in terms of membership, finance and unfortunately, rain!

July and August were the wettest on record but surprisingly few days were lost and the lawns are in excellent condition although a little slow for the better players.

The season started with the Kenilworth Festival Golf Croquet Tournament played for by teams from Midlands clubs with Kenilworth the victors! This was followed by an Open Day at Abbey Fields during the Festival in the Park and our own Open Day at the club. These events generated new members and much interest and exposure for croquet and the club.

We competed in the West Midlands Federation League and Ashby was added to our Friendly fixture list; allowing members of all standards to experience competitive croquet.

In July, Rachel Rowe competed in the Under 21 Golf Croquet World Championship in Egypt. She reached the last sixteen stage and ended a very creditable 13th.

Demand for our Social Croquet events exceeded available days this year. At these events, groups of people from outside the club pay for an enjoyable session of croquet. This raises money for the club and increases awareness of croquet, our club and its facilities.

The 2009 season ends all too soon with the finals of the many internal club competitions being held over the weekend of 26/27 September.

Much end of season work will then be carried out on the lawns and we plan a number of social events through the winter.

Adrian Morris – Croquet Chairman

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