



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### Newsletter – January 2020

#### Dates for Your Diary

Please note that this is not exhaustive, we hope to add more events as the year progresses. Where actual dates have been used (rather than simply a month) we will try our very best to stick to these and not change them. However, as this is the plan for the year, circumstances may change and dates might therefore need to change too, so please keep an eye on future newsletters. There will also be a copy put onto the noticeboard under the events section.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event:</b>
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Burns' Night (Cancelled)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	AGM
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April Good Friday	Easter Egg Hunt for Junior Members
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April Good Friday	American Tournament and Hot Cross Buns
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	President's Plate and Wimbledon Draw
May and June	Club Tournament - Preliminaries
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Tie-Break Tens
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Club Tournament – Finals Weekend
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Summer Celebration
September	Pickleball
October	Quiz and Curry Night
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Party – at the club
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Junior Christmas Party
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Ladies' Christmas Meal
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, American Tournament and Award Presentation

## Other Events

These are events to be held at TLTC but not run by us.

Date:	Event:
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	LTA Sanctioned Tournament
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	LTA Sanctioned Tournament
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Tennis Vets Society - Charity Tennis Tournament

## Club Tournament 2020

We have decided to change the format for the Club Tournament this year.

We are reverting to running the tournament over a period of two months, rather than running all the preliminaries over one or two weekends.

Those interested in playing will sign up as usual on the sign up sheets that will be put up in the club on the notice board or you can send an email to Keith/Heather. Once we get to the beginning of May you will have two weeks to complete your first match (per category; doubles/mixed doubles/singles).

The winners of these first matches will then have 2 weeks to complete their second matches and so on until we have either two pairs (doubles/mixed doubles) or two individuals (singles) left.

The finals will then be played on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. These dates have been chosen as they are the same weekend as the Wimbledon finals, therefore those of us not lucky enough to get tickets to attend Wimbledon itself, or playing in the finals will be able to watch tennis both live on our courts and on the TV. Of course during which we will have the bar open, so you could always enjoy a G&T (or wine/beer); with food being provided too it should be a proper celebration.

In addition to the change mentioned above, we have one more change! In both the doubles (men's and ladies') and mixed doubles, as in the past we are going to be drawing the partners. Those interested in playing in the doubles will enter the competition giving their name only; you will not choose your partner. We will then put all the names into a hat and your partner will be chosen at random.

Ladies' Final 2019



## Charity Tennis Tournament

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October the Tennis Vets Society held a mixed doubles tournament for sixteen couples at Thornbury Tennis Club which resulted in a cheque being paid to local charity Jigsaw for £710.

The Tennis Vets Society has over one hundred members from across the South West and holds several tournaments each year at various venues, raising money for local charities. In the ten years since it started over sixty tournaments have been held and £19,000 has been raised in this way.

Local resident Steve Wells founder and tournament organiser said when presenting the prizes and the cheque to Tor Goodman of Jigsaw “we’ve had a great day with some very high quality tennis and are very grateful to Thornbury Tennis Club for generously allowing us to use their excellent facilities and we are particularly pleased to support Jigsaw because of the very important work that they do”.



Presentation of cheque to Tor Goodman

## Cancer Research Tournament

In September 2019 one of our members held another successful cancer research tournament. There were 26 players and 9 other people who had lunch, making a total of 35. By serving lunch for £12, raffling a food and wine hamper, selling Christmas cards and homemade jams, marmalades and chutneys a profit of £578.50 for Cancer Research UK was made. The joint winners of the tournament were Helen Bradley and Tony Matthews. Thank you so much to those who attended for helping to make the 20th Tennis Tournament and lunch so profitable. This event is planned to take place again in 2020.

## Club Tournament 2019

The final's day took place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Play was due to start at 11:45.

Unfortunately, due to ill health the men's doubles match was cancelled and a walk-over was given. Felix Boyes and Freddie Savage remain the champions for another year.

It was a very busy afternoon for several players; Sarah Hurley and Carys Tait who were both involved in the ladies' singles and doubles finals, and for Malcolm Worster who was involved in the men's singles and doubles finals.

The afternoon kicked off with the Ladies' singles match between Sarah Hurley and Carys Tait with them both playing their first final of the day. There were lots of competitive points, but in the end Sarah proved to be too consistent for Carys and is once again the club champion.



The second match was between Luke Harrison and Malcolm Worster. As with the ladies' final many good points were played and it was a competitive and entertaining match to watch. Luke proved to be too strong for Malcolm and won the match, he is therefore once again the club champion.



The third match was for the Ladies' doubles title. This was between Sarah Hurley/Jo Hargreaves and Carys Tait/Jasmine Xu. By now we had lots of spectators enjoying a lovely afternoon at the club watching really good tennis. Sarah and Jo being regular players in our first team proved to be too solid for the pair who do not regularly play together and won in straight sets to remain the club champions.

The final match was the mixed doubles between Nick Mason/Suzie Newman and Malcolm Worster/Rose Higgins. This was a really close match, with many highly contested points. The first set went to Nick and Suzie, then Malcolm and Rose fort back to take the second before Nick and Suzie took the final and decisive set to take the match and end up victors to become the mixed doubles champions.



Match	Players
<b>Men's Doubles Winners</b>	Felix Boyes Freddie Savage
<b>Ladies' Singles Winner</b>	Sarah Hurley
<b>Men's Singles Winner</b>	Luke Harrison
<b>Ladies' Doubles Winners</b>	Sarah Hurley Jo Hargreaves
<b>Mixed Doubles Winners</b>	Nick Mason Suzie Newman

## Real Tennis – Clifton

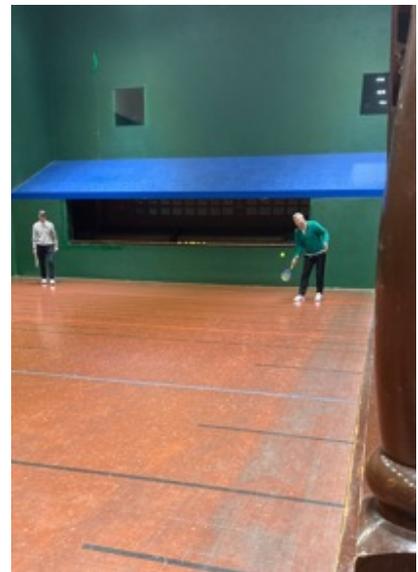


Several members of the club had a social at the Clifton Real Tennis Club in Bristol on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

We started by having coaching from Kevin King the club's professional coach and then went on to play some games.

Wow this is a very difficult game to play, nothing like our form of tennis! I think everyone was surprised at just how different and hard it was to play. Even Chris Taylor, who to be fair was considerably better than the rest of us, seemed exasperated at times with how the ball reacted or came off the roof and walls.

The ball is still made the same way it was in medieval times and hardly bounces. Also it is not actually round and due to the method it is made it changes shape as it bounces! Initially the scoring sounds like it is the same as our form of tennis, but it has the added system of chases (which would be too difficult to explain here, besides I don't fully understand it myself without the assistance of Kevin)! The racquet is not only still made of wood but it is small and shaped similar to a hand (it was originally played using the hand).



We played several games interspersed with refreshments. I hope everyone had a good afternoon but with the difficulty of the game, that may be in doubt!



## Junior Christmas Party

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 we held our first junior Christmas party at the club. It was open to all junior members and is something that we hope to repeat making it an annual event.

Unfortunately, we didn't get many children however those that did come appeared to all have a really good time. Several parents remained in the club house and with only a few children were welcomed to join in with the buffet that was laid on.



The children played several games on court with Keith and Kirstie. As Chris Taylor was around he joined in and acted as a target for one of the games along with some cones! Prizes were awarded to the winners. After the games the children had a buffet including pizza and other party snacks before leaving with a present.

## Adult Christmas Party

On the evening of Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019, we held a Christmas party at the club for adult members and their partners. Everyone enjoyed a hot buffet which included one of Linda's lovely curries along with roast turkey, dauphinoise potatoes and roasted vegetables with pudding and/or cheese and biscuits after. The food was delicious with several commenting on how good it all was.



Everyone enjoyed getting together and having the opportunity to fully include their partners. We chatted so much that we didn't manage to have a dance or play any games as originally planned, but never the less a really lovely evening was had by all. We now have the benefit of having our alcohol licence, so this obviously helped to encourage those not driving to let their hair down!



Thank you to Linda and Veronica for all their hard work, before and on the night.

## Ladies' Christmas Meal

We had our annual ladies' Christmas meal on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We returned to The Anchor Inn at Oldbury on Severn, having enjoyed ourselves there the year before.

We all had either a two or three course meal followed by mince pies and coffee or tea. Once again, we had a lovely evening, with some even feeling that it was better than last time.

It is a really lovely opportunity to meet up with ladies that we don't see regularly at the club and in an environment where we can really catch up. It has the added advantage even for those of us that see each other regularly to have a proper chat without annoying anyone when they want to play tennis!

## Mulled Wine & Mince Pies Afternoon

The Club held its annual Mulled Wine and Mince Pies afternoon on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December. As with last year, an American Tournament was organised alongside it and all players and spectators were encouraged to wear anything Christmassy to mark the festive occasion. Tony Light needs special mention for his outstanding effort to look as Christmassy as possible. Not only did he fashion his beard to look like Father Christmas but the beard also housed some flashing Christmas lights. It didn't stop there – his Christmas hat also lit up! Well done Tony, you've set the bar very high for next year.

The tournament was fully subscribed with all 6 courts being played. 24 players were organised into mixed pairs and each pair played 4 rounds with each round lasting 20 minutes. There were some fantastic matches played, and the crowds were treated to some great tennis which was fun and fast paced. The winners on the day were Tony Light and Carole Boulton.

After the tournament the players enjoyed some well-deserved Mince pies and Mulled wine and an amazing buffet which was provided by a number of members who all donated their contributions. Thank you to all the contributors – Fiona Wilkinson, Dawn Parker, Sian Mann, Janet Raven, Rose Higgins, Claire Hawkins, Gill Harrison, Linda Mantle, Nick Mason, Mair Vaughan and Di Heal.



The mince pie afternoon tournament was followed by the Annual Awards.

## Awards

We intended to present all the cups for the club tournament at the mince pie afternoon in the club on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December, however unfortunately only Nick Mason was available so was the only recipient.

After presenting Nick with the mixed doubles cup we went on to present other awards:

**Female player of the season:** Megan O'Connor. Suzie said that often you can overlook the people closest to you. Megan is a great support to her when running the teams as she often discusses strategy with her and when faced with a last minute change she is always happy to go along and play wherever needed. This year due to injury and number there were gaps to fill so she played with whoever was available. The 2nds achieved promotion this year to the 3rd division which she hugely contributed to, as did Claire, Linda, Rae and Veronica, also a mention for Gill Hardy and Jasmine who helped out as well ... well done. Megan found herself 2nd from the top over all the players in the division this year so I think deserves recognition.

**Male player of the season:** Kyle Brodley. Nick awarded this to Kyle because of his commitment to playing for the club in the Avon summer league in our first team, ie a high standard over the last two years. He has always been willing to play with anyone or anywhere. This shows his level of dedication.

**Junior ambassador:** Sebastian Lees. There are many reasons why Chris Taylor awarded this to Seb and these are: as part of the club and membership coaching squad he's a pleasure to coach and be around on the courts, he's a great sportsman and puts these skills in to play on the courts, his tennis has really progressed and Chris hopes to see him pushing the adults and play in the men's league next year, in the last 6 months, he's started to help assist coaching on the mini tennis programme and has fitted in very well with all the pupils and coaching staff, he's a great ambassador for the club and a great role model to the younger juniors, he's the biggest fan of the holiday camp cheese toasties and does a fantastic job promoting these to other squad players!

**Adult ambassador:** Steve Donkin. Steve was awarded this because he is always jolly, supportive of social events, plays league uncomplainingly when asked, gets stuck in to court cleaning (despite not playing that much) and has been brilliant at what is not the nicest job, Treasurer! All of this is despite him being very busy at work.

## New starting this year for all Junior members

This year we will be introducing a **FREE new junior member's club session** on a Friday evening between 16:30 and 18:00 for 30 weeks of the year. This will be an opportunity to meet with friends and arrange friendly games/matches, etc. There will be someone at the club with relevant qualifications to ensure the children's safety, but it is not planned to be organised. Another message will be sent in the near future with additional details.

## Winter League

The Winter League standard is very high. At the time of writing (21<sup>st</sup> January) we have played just over half our matches and are 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in our divisions. In Division 2A the bottom four teams are within four points of each other. In division 4B there are three teams, including us, each with 28 points so again it is extremely close. We need to get as many points as possible to stay in these divisions, so good luck to all those who are playing. We have 3 matches for each team in February and March.

## Drink's Licence

As you are hopefully all aware we have successfully obtained a drink's licence for the TLTC. Due to licencing laws all alcohol has to be locked away securely; if anyone is interested in obtaining a key to access this, please could you contact Keith Spalding on [keithspalding@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:keithspalding@blueyonder.co.uk). He will then meet you at the club to go through the legal responsibilities involved. Please note that the key will cost £10, non refundable and must be returned to the club if your membership expires.

## Welfare Officer

After many years as welfare officer, Linda Mantle has decided that she would like to step down, therefore we will be looking for volunteers to take on this role. Please contact us if you feel that you could help fill this vital position at the club.

## Taylor Tennis

For more information on Tennis Courses for Adults and Juniors please visit <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TaylorTennisCoaching>

## Comments & Suggestions

If you have any comments or suggestions in relation to this Newsletter or any other Club issues, please email: Keith or Heather Spalding on: [keithspalding@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:keithspalding@blueyonder.co.uk)