

# Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club

## Newsletter – Winter 2005-6



[www.abingdontennisclub.com](http://www.abingdontennisclub.com)

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### Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Come to the AGM - 7.15 pm Thursday 23rd February</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>AGM Guest Speaker</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>AGM Agenda</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Minutes of 2005 AGM</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>President's Tournament 2005</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Tennis at Christmas Social Event</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>The Autumn Intra-Club Competition</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>2006 Club Tournament Calendar</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>TVWTL Latest Results</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Bev's Coaching Course Starts 5th May</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Membership Renewal – Due 1st April, Forms will arrive in March</b>	<b>12</b>

# 1 AGM

The Chairman and Committee invite you to this year's Annual General Meeting. They expect to see you at 7 for 7.30 pm on **Thursday 23th February 2006**, in the King's Head and Bell, East St. Helen's Street, Abingdon.

This year we have an exciting addition to the usual programme of drinks, buffet, reports, elections and trophy presentations – a talk by expert on the technology of tennis, **Jamie Capel-Davies**. See item 2 below for further information.

Please let **Linda Boston** (Tel: 01235-847367, email [linda@abingdontennisclub.com](mailto:linda@abingdontennisclub.com)) know as soon as possible (ideally by Monday 20th February at the latest) whether or not you are going to attend the meeting, as she needs to let the pub know numbers. The telephone number of The Kings Head and Bell in case you need it or are late, is:- 01235 520157

The agenda for the AGM (item 3 on page 3), the Chairman's Report (item 4 on page 4) and the minutes of the 2005 AGM (item 5 on page 5) are included below, so if you have a paper copy of this newsletter, remember bring it along to the AGM.

Nomination lists for candidates for the 2006-2007 Committee are up in the clubhouse, so please add your nominations or seconding for your choice of candidate. Candidates are requested to sign any nominations for them to indicate that they are willing to stand.

## 2 AGM Guest Speaker - Jamie Capel-Davies

The committee would like to thank Jamie Capel-Davies for agreeing to come to the AGM to present a talk on:

### **The impact of science and technology on the game of tennis, and on the way we play**

He plans to cover such things as:

- evaluating line-calling technology,
- testing the surface pace of courts,
- performance analysis of players,
- the durability of tennis balls,
- measuring racket power and spin.

He will also tell us something about the International Tennis Federation (who they are and what they do); and the role of the Technical Department. For those who want to know more the ITF web site is <http://www.itftennis.com/>.

He hopes also to look at some issues within the game – e.g., What is the future of line-calling? Is the game becoming too fast? Where does technology and science fit in with these issues?”

### **Who is Jamie Capel-Davies?**

Jamie is a former junior member of Abingdon Tennis Club. He has been working for the International Tennis Federation, the world governing body of tennis for over three years, having studied engineering at the University of Nottingham. He went to school in Abingdon at Carswell and John Mason. He works in the ITF Technical Centre – the world’s most advanced tennis-specific research facility – and is involved in projects beyond the laboratory, such as the evaluation of new line-calling technology. He has also worked and studied in Italy and Brazil.

## **3 AGM Agenda**

1. Talk by guest speaker, Jamie Capel-Davies (starting 7:30 pm)
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2005 AGM
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
5. Reports

Hon Chairman (see item 4 below)

Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer

6. Election of officers

Hon Chairman

Hon Secretary

Hon Treasurer

7. Election of Committee members (up to 13, including the officers and President).
8. Appointment of an auditor.
9. Subscriptions for 2006/7 - Committee proposal based on Senior Member rising to £128 (increase of £4)
10. Any other business
11. Presentation of trophies

If possible, please let Linda Boston know in advance about items of any other business that you would like to raise.

## 4 Chairman's Report

My year as chairman seems to have passed calmly, mainly due to the excellent work done by the committee and other willing volunteers from the club; so I would like to thank everyone for their support over this time.

Jim has continued to produce reader friendly newsletters and website updates, which has made the task of keeping the members informed about events at the club so much easier. Please try and use both sources for information – I am sure that having your picture appear on the screen as a winner should be spurring you all on to enter the various tournaments.

Links with the OLTA seem to be improving now that Ash Taylor, the new Club Development Officer for our area has been appointed. He is based at the White Horse Tennis Centre and has been down to visit the club, as well as giving us advice on appointing a Head Coach. As a club we rate highly for social activities but are let down by the Clubhouse facilities, so I propose that, rather than the committee presenting plans for a new building or an extension to the existing building, we discuss what the members would like us to do.

We do seem to be experiencing difficulties with some local children, with abusive language, threatening behaviour and also missiles being thrown onto the courts. They have also had free access to the grounds since the heavy duty wire fencing was breached in one of the gates. We have been advised by the local police to report such incidents, by phoning either the local police or by dialling 999. There will not be an instant response, but the more times we contact them, the higher up the priority list we climb, so please can all members take responsibility for reporting incidents. Bev has made contact with the local council to try and get better lighting around the outside of the grounds, but so far no action has been taken.

Coaching over the Autumn term has proved satisfying, with George Chapman acting as Head Coach. He has had a good attendance at the sessions he has offered, with a fun day in early September attracting young players. Bev has proved popular with his Adult Beginners Courses, and several of the participants have become full members. Jeremy Wood has concentrated on the teenage boys who all seem to be progressing well.

Thanks to everyone who has helped in the smooth running of the club over the last year-David Howard has been a hard act to follow.

Linda Boston  
February 2006

## 5 Minutes of 2005 AGM

Minutes of the 2005 AGM held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2005 at the King's Head and Bell, Abingdon.

The Chairman welcomed everybody and checked that all present had the relevant documents.

The following were present:

Jeremy Coles, William Lawrence-Jones, James Eastwood, Helen Asbury, Isla Smith, Sally Cullen, Roger Bones, Rita Inston, Kay Hunneyball, Neil Boston, Linda Boston, Norma Queralt, Gill Close, Mary Hensby, Val Casemore, Terry Carter, Paul Woodman, Stewart Pether, Brian Mitchell, Carol Mitchell, Tim Ramirez, Jason Oliver, Bev Woodcock, Angela Woodcock, Graham Hensby, David Howard.

### 1. APOLOGIES

Received from: Philip Tattersall, Rosemary Broome, Terry Colclough, Eileen Neaill, Daniel Scharf, Dawn Torgersen, Buzz Brown, Pam and Dennis Gordon, Craig Amison-Smith, Jenny Jones, Jean Fraser, Mike Hunneyball, Richard Smart, Jenny Williams.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE 2004 AGM, previously circulated.

It was noted that Sally Cullen and Roger Bones had been omitted from the list of those present. After correction, the minutes were passed as a true record.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) David Howard stated that he expected David Crowley to join the meeting later to report on coaching. (He did not turn up).

(b) Legal Case, in which an ex-member was suing the club for £15,000: The coach present at the time of the accident had written to David, concerned at being implicated in the case after his name appeared in the minutes. It was noted that he was mentioned in the prosecution's witness statement as being present, and that it would have been helpful if he had been prepared to give a witness statement himself.

The case was settled out of court for £3,000. The club has tried to obtain a letter absolving it of blame.

Discussion ensued as to how to reduce liability, and it was suggested that it should be added to the club rules that players play at their own risk, and also that a notice to that effect should be posted at the courts.

(c) The new floodlights are up and running.

(d) Promotion of the club: there had been no reaction from the Leisure Centre to our request to publicise the club there. Clubs are not allowed to advertise at the Leisure Centre.

(e) Team selection : Some members continue to be dissatisfied. This had continued to be acrimonious. Last year we had too many teams, and a number of matches were not played due to captains being unable to raise enough players, which had necessitated diplomacy with the League Secretary. This year, the number of 3-pair teams has been reduced to 1 per category, replacing some of the others with 2-pair teams instead. It is hoped that this will be an improvement. It was clarified that members are eligible to play in both 2- and 3-pair teams if necessary. It was also suggested that more effort could be made to include those who do not normally play in teams.

(f) David showed the cups bought by Lesley Barter in honour of Mike Barter and Nicolette Colbourne to be presented to the winning man and lady respectively at the Christmas social tournament.

#### 4. REPORTS

##### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This had been published in the recent newsletter.

In addition, David wished to mark his retirement from the post by mentioning a selection of members over his years in office who had made a mark on the club:

**Alex Wingent**, who, while sometimes controversial, stimulated thought, and has contributed enormously, being instrumental in setting up and organising the LTA Ratings tournament, and with **Steve Robson**, in organising mens' match practice on Mondays. The latter for encouraging post-play socialising at the pub.

**Lesley Barter** for organising and purchasing the new cups.

**Roger Bones** for constant support, and ready answers to problems.

**Angela Partington** for cleaning, and organising ladies' match practice, among other things.

**Dennis Gordon** for the Wednesday night intra-club league, and looking after the locks etc.

**Val Casemore** – the “Chris Evert of Abingdon”! For always giving everyone a good game.

**Mary Hensby** for organising friendly matches.

**Graham Hensby** for good advice, and support for new members.

**Jackie Hummell**, cheerfully willing to play for teams at the top and bottom of the league at the last minute.

##### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Helen acknowledged David's able handling of the combined posts of President, Chairman, Secretary and Match Secretary for some years, thus obviating the need for a separate Secretary's Report. Anything she might have said has been fully covered by the wonderful newsletters and web pages produced by Jim Eastwood, whom she thanked for the enormous amount of time and technical expertise which he puts into them.

##### TREASURER'S REPORT

Carol had distributed copies of the accounts for the year to December 2004. The following points were raised:

- (a) Match fees were down partly owing to the club fielding fewer teams, partly because in the past captains had handed in Winter League fees up to Christmas before Christmas, but this year they hadn't.
- (b) The LTA Tournament had made an unexpected small loss because of unforeseen additional catering costs.
- (c) The LTA loan had shown a surplus on the balance sheet, so an adjustment had been made to make it right.
- (d) Electricity costs were very high last year owing to a metering fault, now corrected, but have gone up significantly with the installation of the new lights.
- (e) Ground repair costs were higher because of the removal of the old lights and the making good of the courts afterwards.
- (f) The Barclays loan is being paid off monthly.

The report was passed unanimously.

## 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A list of volunteers had been posted in the clubhouse, with nine members proposed and seconded. It was noted that there were still spaces for more committee members, and two names amongst those at the meeting were put forward, one of whom indicated that he was not able to commit himself at present, the other, Kay Hunneyball, agreed to stand and was proposed and seconded.

As none of the positions was contested, it was proposed and seconded that the committee be elected en bloc; this was duly approved by the floor.

## 6. The committee for 2004/5 is:

1. Hon. President	David Howard
2. Hon. Chairman	Linda Boston
3. Hon. Secretary	Helen Asbury
4. Hon. Treasurer	Carol Mitchell
5. Membership Secretary	Isla Smith
6. Match Secretary	Jeremy Coles
7. Member	James Eastwood
8. Member	Brian Mitchell
9. Member	Bev Woodcock
10. Member	Kay Hunneyball

There was applause for Linda on her election as Chairman. Linda thanked David for all his hard work in the post.

## 7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The auditor is happy to continue. It was agreed that he was doing a good job.

## 8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

A small increase was recommended across the range. It was noted that the club has had considerable expenditure recently, and that members can use the floodlights at no extra charge. The new fees, proposed by Bev Woodcock, seconded by Brian Mitchell and carried by the floor, are as follows:

Senior Member	£124
Senior Citizen	£87
Junior Member	£31
Junior of Senior	£16
Weekday Player	£66
Student	£40
Country Member	£62
Associate Member	£62
Social Member	£20

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### a. COURT RESURFACING

The paint had not adhered to the court surface on the Southern end of the courts, and the contractor has agreed to redo it in the Spring when it is drier, at no extra cost.

Black scuff marks had been seen on the courts. It was noted that the rules clearly state that shoes with marking soles must not be worn.

One member observed that worms are still finding their way through the asphalt. This was regarded as evidence that the surface is still porous, therefore still able to drain well, and so a Good Thing.

### b. SECURITY LIGHTING

Many members feel vulnerable arriving at and leaving the club in the dark. The light on the outside of the clubhouse, by the gate, had been vandalised years ago. It was suggested that as our landlord, the Local Authority should be responsible for providing a light to shine on the gate. It should be one with a sensor, to come on automatically, though some thought that cats and dogs etc. might be a problem.

### c. POST TO THE CLUB

Graham Hensby asked for permission to use his discretion in discarding junk mail addressed to the Club when he intercepts it at the sorting office. This was agreed.

## 10. PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

Jeremy reported that Abingdon had had 14 teams in the OLTA League, of which three had been runners up in their sections. Certificates were awarded to:

Ladies 3-pair A, Div.2, captain Kathryn Schutterlin  
 Mixed 2-pair D, Div.4, captain Norma Queralt  
 Men's 2-pair A, Div.2, captain Stewart Pether

Club cups were awarded to the following:

The Mike Barter Cup	Tim Ramirez
The Nicolette Colbourne Cup	Kathryn Schutterlin
Croquet Cup	Val Casemore & Paul Woodman
The John Riessland Cup	Sally Cullen & Roger Bones
Under 21 Men	Matthew Cullen
Mixed Handicap Competition	Val Casemore & Richard Smart
President's Tournament	Not played
Most improved lady	Pam Gordon
Most improved man	Mike Hunneyball

The meeting finished in record time.

## 6 President's Tournament 2005

The President's Tournament took place on the evening of Tuesday 6th December. The winter proved to be no discouragement to the hardy Abingdon Tennis Club players, with over thirty members turning out for an evening of tennis under floodlight. Naturally, the event was organised by the present club President, David Howard.



The winners were the two mixed pairs with the highest aggregate scores, and these turned out to be *Jim Eastwood & Val Casemore*, and *David Howard & Pam Gordon*. The photo above shows them with the trophy. Note that Pam does not normally play tennis in a Santa outfit - the photo was taken later at the Christmas social (see next item below).

## 7 Tennis at Christmas Social Event



The Tennis at Christmas social event and competition took place on Tuesday 20th December. There was a good turnout, with over 30 competitors in a good variety of fancy dress: angels, reindeers, Santa Clauses, a clown, a grass skirt outfit and various other Christmas trimmings! There was mulled wine and a good selection of nibbles to get everyone in a festive spirit before the competition began.

After a good evening's play, fortified periodically with food and drink, *Kathryn Schutterlin* emerged as the ladies winner for the second year running of the **Nicolette Coleman Cup**. *Dennis Gordon* won the mens competition for the **Mike Barter Cup**. The Fancy Dress prize was won this year by the angelic *Kate Plumtree*. Thanks to Linda Boston for running the competition, and to all those members who brought along food and drink for the event.

## 8 The Autumn Intra-Club Competition

The autumn intra-club team tennis competition again proved popular, with all six courts filled each Wednesday evening from September to December. Each week the teams of four players (two ladies, two men) played four sets of mixed doubles, one set of mens doubles and one set of ladies doubles. The regular squads were augmented by a number of reserves, so almost everyone who wanted to play had a chance.

The final results for Autumn 2005 were

Position	Team	Captain
1	Orange	Brian Mitchell
2	Purple	Jim Eastwood
3	Green	Tim Ramirez
4	Blue	Roger Bones
5	Yellow	Dennis Gordon
6	Red	Alex Wingent

Congratulations to the winning Orange team squad (Brian and Carol Mitchell, Stewart Pether, Phil Tattersall, Helen Asbury and Angela Partington), and to the runners-up Purple team squad (Jim Eastwood, John Clancy, Pam Gordon, Linda Porter-Goff and Polly Moore).

The competition was great fun and a great success, with lots of close matches. At the end there was less than one game per set separating the top and bottom squads. Thanks again to Dennis Gordon for organising the competition.

The winter follow-on to this competition is now under way and results for this will be reported in a later newsletter.

## 9 2006 Club Tournament Calendar

Here are some dates for your 2006 diary.

Tournament	day	date	time
Captain's Day	Tues	11th April	7 pm
Veterans Tournament	Sun	7th May	1.30 pm
Preston Bowl	Sun	13th August	TBD
Junior Open	Mon-Sat	14-19 August	9 am-5 pm
Croquet Cup	Sun	20th August	1.30 pm
Club Finals	Sun	17th September	10 am
President's Tournament		TBD	
John Reissland	Tues	3rd October	7 pm
Christmas Social	Tues	19th December	7 pm

## 10 TVWTL Latest Results

The Abingdon two-pair teams have had mixed success so far in the Thames Valley Winter Tennis League. On balance, the ladies teams have been more successful than the mens, but all teams have had mixed fortunes.

The team positions as of the end of December are as follows:

Division	Team	Current Position	No in League
Ladies Div 1	A	7th	14
Ladies Div 2	B	4th	13
Ladies Div 3	C	5th	13
Ladies Div 5	D	2nd	13
Ladies Div 5	E	13th	13
Mens Premier	A	6th	7
Mens Div 1	B	7th	13
Mens Div 3	C	5th	14
Mens Div 3	D	9th	14
Mens Div 4	E	14th	14
Mens Div 5	F	11th	14

The Winter 2005-6 latest Thames Valley Winter Tennis League tables (at the end of December 2005) may be viewed by visiting the [Abingdon Tennis Club website news page](#) and clicking on the [Ladies League Tables](#) and or the [Mens League Tables](#) text in the TVWTL news item.

## 11 Coaching for Beginners and Returnees

Bev Woodcock Tel:01235-530904, email: [bev@abingdontennisclub.com](mailto:bev@abingdontennisclub.com) is planning to run a further coaching course for potential new adult members. The course is scheduled to begin Friday 5th May at 7.30 pm, and will be held on successive Friday evenings. If you know anyone who would like to take up tennis and who would like to have some help getting started, then tell them to contact Bev.

For more information on coaching courses, go to the [coaching web page](#).

## 12 Membership Renewal

Currently, membership stands at just over 200. There is scope for this to rise without overloading our facilities, and more members would be welcomed to help spread the costs of maintaining and improving the club facilities. So if you know anyone who may be interested in playing tennis, encourage them to come to the club. Bev's planned coaching courses for beginners (see item 11 on page 11) provides an introductory route to those who are not yet tennis players.

Membership renewal will be due again on 1st April. Subscriptions will be decided at the AGM. The proposed subscriptions for the coming year are : Senior £128, Junior £32, Weekday £68, Junior of Senior £16, Senior Citizen £88, Student £40, Country £64, and Associate £64. The late payment penalty remains at £10.

The Membership Secretary, **Isla Smith** (Tel: 07974-796751) will be sending you a Membership renewals form and entry forms for the Club Competitions in March. Isla is aiming to complete membership renewal by the end of April, so *please respond to her letter as soon as you receive it*. New members are welcome at any time<sup>1</sup>, and can find membership applications at our **web site**. If you find the subscription too much in one go, then please talk to Isla about alternative subscription plans.

**Reminder:** The OLTA rules are such that team members *must* be paid-up members of a club to play in the Summer Leagues. So if you want to play in our teams, pay your membership fees promptly!

The committee is trying to maintain accurate contact information for the club members, so please ensure that Isla has your correct name, address, email address and telephone number. The email addresses are used to electronically distribute newsletters and other club information to reduce costs. If you prefer to receive information on paper, then please let **James Eastwood** know – ([jim@abingdontennisclub.com](mailto:jim@abingdontennisclub.com)).

If you have both home and mobile telephone numbers, please indicate which one you prefer to be used. We are planning to issue the new membership list in the summer newsletter, and are aiming to minimise errors in contact information.

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<sup>1</sup>Pro-rata reductions for new members subscriptions are used throughout the year.