

Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club

Newsletter – Winter 2008-9



www.abingdontennisclub.com

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1 AGM

The Committee invite you to this year's Annual General Meeting. They look forward to seeing you at 7.30 for 8 pm on **Thursday 26th February 2009**, at the Abbey Sailing Club, Abingdon.

Please make an effort to attend. It is your chance to put forward your ideas on how the club should be run, or to have a say about how others want the club to develop. If you are one of the competition winners, then you should attend for the presentation of your trophy. It is also the occasion when you get the opportunity to elect the new committee. A bonus this year is our guest speaker who will be telling us all about designing an indoor tennis centre.



Mary Hensby presenting the John Reissland Trophy to Craig Amison-Smith and Linda Boston at the 2008 AGM

The sailing club is located on Wilsham Road. To get to it, go down Preston Road and instead of turning right into Lambrick Way as you would when going to the tennis club carry straight on. At the end of Preston Road turn right, and the Sailing Club is a little way along on your left.

This year we have the usual programme of drinks, buffet, reports, elections and trophy presentations. The Community Support Officers, Chris and Emma, will come along at the start of the meeting so you can get to know them. After the main AGM, Jason Oliver will give an illustrated presentation on his experiences as Project Architect for a recently completed university Indoor Tennis Centre.

Please let Kay Hunneyball (Tel: 01235-525903, email kayhunneyball@btopenworld.com) know as soon as possible (ideally by Monday 21st February) whether or not you are going to attend the meeting, as she needs to estimate numbers.

The agenda for the AGM (item 2 on page 3), the minutes of the 2008 AGM (item 3 on page 4)

and the Annual Accounts (item 4 on page 8) 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 2009-2010 Committee are up in the clubhouse, so please add your nominations or seconding for your choice of candidates. Candidates are requested to sign any nominations for them to indicate that they are willing to stand.

2 AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2008 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Reports: Hon Chairman
 Hon Secretary
 Hon Treasurer
5. Election of officers: Hon Chairman
 Hon Secretary
 Hon Treasurer
6. Election of Committee members (up to 13, including the officers and President).
7. Appointment of an auditor.
8. Changes to the constitution
9. Subscriptions for 2009-2010 – Committee proposal is based on Senior Member remaining unchanged at £138 (see item 5 on page 10.)
10. Clubhouse improvements
11. Any other business
12. Presentation of trophies
13. **Illustrated Presentation**

Designing an indoor tennis centre

by Architect, Jason Oliver

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

3 Minutes of 2008 AGM, 26 February 2008

Minutes of Abingdon LTC Annual General Meeting Thursday 28 February 2008

Held at Abingdon Rugby Club, Lambrick Way, Abingdon at 8.00pm

Present: Linda Boston (Hon Chair), Kay Hunneyball, Viv Boorman, Jason Oliver, Jeremy Coles, Jim Eastwood, Bev Woodcock, Craig Amison-Smith, Daphne Hill, Sally Cullen, Roger Bones, Graham Hensby, Norma Queralt, Jenny Williams, Anne Stark, Concetta Williams, Paul Cox, William Lawrence Jones, David Smith, Stewart Pether, Terry Carter, Dennis Gordon, Gill Close, Lesley Barter, Lorna Fullard, Richard Smart, Mary Hensby, Brenda del Nevo, Val Casemore, Ed Mallinson, Colin Hogben, Susie Hogben and Joy Browning.

Item		Action
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence: Brian Mitchell, Carol Mitchell, Neil Boston, Jenny Jones, Isla Smith, Thelma Druett, Brian Steel, Sue Aldington, David Howard, Gail Viney, Ann Spencer, Jackie Hummel, Helen Asbury, Joy McWhirter, Will Cullen, Marie-Jose Moor, Antonia Cox and Pam Gordon.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the 2007 AGM: The Minutes were agreed to be a true record by the members present. Proposed: Jenny Williams Seconded: Jason Oliver</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising: There were no matters arising.</p>	
4. 4.1	<p>Reports: Chairman: Linda thanked everyone for attending and was pleased by how well the club is "ticking along". She updated members about the developments at the LTA and the present major focus on junior tennis. The LTA want all club members to join the British Tennis scheme, which allows them access to members' details. Posters and literature were shown, and are in the clubhouse. Anyone wishing to apply for Wimbledon tickets in the Club ballot will be required to be a member of the British Tennis Scheme. For 2009 the club allocation will be dependant on the number of Abingdon LTA members who are affiliated to the British LTA. In order to enter the public ballot for Wimbledon tickets it will be necessary to be a member of the British LTA in future. The cypress trees around the border of the courts have grown too tall. The council has a reduced budget and say they are unable to cut them back as they have done in previous years. We cannot afford to do the work ourselves and if we do it once then major pruning will become our responsibility. At present we trim back the growth on our side of the fence regularly during our annual spring clean. Sweatshirts can be ordered from Workwear on Stratton Way. They can carry the club logo and/or a name with various</p>	

<p>4.2</p>	<p>styles and prices. Junior coaching is building up with David Smith and Craig, and Bev's Friday evening coaching classes generated several new members. Bev is manning a stand at the White Horse Leisure centre on 6 March at an event aimed at the Over 50s. Fortunately there has been less vandalism at the Club this year. Linda thanked Viv, who had taken over as Treasurer, the committee, and other willing volunteers for their hard work over the last year. Sadly Helen and Jim are leaving the committee and will be much missed. Helen has done an amazing job of caring for the clubhouse, and Jim has put amazing effort into the Newsletter and website. Gifts were presented to them both. Linda explained that she is standing down as Chairman after 3 years but is willing to continue on the Committee. She encouraged members to join the Committee.</p> <p>Secretary: Kay thanked Linda for all she has done for the Club in the last 3 years and presented a gift from the club. Kay thanked Jim Eastwood for the excellent Newsletter and website, which played such a large part in keeping members informed. She reminded members that minutes of the Committee meetings are usually on the noticeboard in the clubhouse within a week of meetings. Members need to speak to a committee member if they wish any item to be raised at a meeting. Information about the Wimbledon tickets should be available in April and will be displayed on the noticeboards. Details about the date and time of the draw and any requirements of the British LTA will be displayed. There is an Abingdon Town Council Clubs and Societies Day on Saturday 5 April at the Guildhall. Kay asked for volunteers to man the stand to show the variety of club members we have.</p>	
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Treasurer: Viv produced a Balance sheet and an Income and Expenditure account for the year to 31 December 2007. These have already been audited by Jackie Layzell FCA. A further copy will be displayed in the Clubhouse. There were no questions. The documents were agreed by members.</p> <p>Proposed: Bev Woodcock Seconded: Kay Hunneyball</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Election of Officers: Hon. Chairman: To be elected Hon. Secretary: Kay Hunneyball Hon. Treasurer: Viv Boorman Proposed: Jim Eastwood Seconded: Linda Boston</p>	

6.	<p>Election of Committee Members: President: David Howard Membership Secretary: Bev Woodcock Match Secretary: Jeremy Coles Junior Rep.: Will Cullen Jason Oliver, Craig Amison-Smith, Gail Viney, Concetta Williams, Linda Boston. Proposed: Norma queralt Seconded: Viv Boorman Paul Cox has now agreed to join and there may be other appointments.</p>	
7.	<p>Appointment of Auditor: Jackie Layzell will continue as Auditor. It was agreed that £50 would be paid to the Auditor as an appreciation of her time. Proposed: Viv Boorman Seconded: Linda Boston</p>	
8.	<p>Changes to the Constitution: Viv outlined the reasons for ALTC acquiring Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status included: Rates attract 80% mandatory relief and 5% discretionary relief, interest is not subject to tax, Gift aid can be used and so for every £100 paid another £28 comes from HMRC. HMRC advised a number of changes to the constitution in order to achieve CASC status. These changes were accepted by the members. Proposed: Bev Woodcock Seconded: Jenny Williams</p> <p>The motion to bring in Senior citizen status from 1 January in the year of the person's 65th birthday, was withdrawn.</p>	
9.	<p>Subscriptions for 2007/8 It was agreed to increase the Senior Membership to £138 per annum in line with inflation, with other categories increasing pro rata as shown in the Newsletter. The joining fee for the new members would be £10. Proposed: Graham Hensby Seconded: Jim Eastwood</p>	
10.	<p>Clubhouse Improvements: Jason reminded members that at the last AGM we had decided on gutting the clubhouse and adding facilities at the side. Disappointingly, the LTA has now changed its policy and despite offering interest free loans last summer, these are currently not available. They offered Jason a list of twelve possible funding providers within the last week and he is now approaching them. Linda said that the Vale of White Horse would not help with funding. Planning permission has been granted and with Gift Aid, donations will reach £10,000. Once we have answers regarding potential funders we will come back to the membership.</p>	
11. 11.1	<p>Any Other Business: Concetta proposed that the club hires a cleaner for the Clubhouse. It was agreed to discuss clubhouse cleaning at</p>	

<p>11.2 11.3 11.4 11.5 11.6 11.7 11.8</p>	<p>the next committee meeting. Viv is holding a fundraiser on Tuesday 22 April between 10.30am and 1230pm at the Club. It will involve a book swap, a Rusty Rackets session and a home made cake stall. A suggestion of an extra payment on Match fees was not accepted. Daphne thanked Mary for acting as Friendly Captain for a number of years and making all the arrangements for summer Wednesday evening friendly matches. This summer Daphne and Norma would put up a list in the Clubhouse and invite players to sign up as Captain for one week. The Captain for the week would take responsibility for players, transport and food. Richard and Norma entertained the members present by a poem about the Veteran's Tournament. Jason will put up a Sign up sheet for the Club Tournament soon, and will not assign dates. It will be up to pairs to make their own arrangements within a suggested timescale. A Clean Up Day needs to be agreed by the committee, but March 30 was suggested at the last Committee meeting. Sally Cullen has a small signet ring found after the Christmas Tournament.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Presentation of Trophies: Mike Barter Cup (Christmas Tournament): Roger Bones Nicolette Colbourn (Christmas Tournament): Val Casemore Ladies Veteran: Linda Boston Men's Veteran: Jim Eastwood Ladies Singles: Kathryn Schutterlin Men's singles: David Soanes Boy's under 21: Will Cullen Ladies Doubles: Katherin Schutterlin and Helen Crofts Men's Doubles: David Soanes, Martin Steen Handicapped Mixed Doubles: Roger Bones, Kate Plumtree Mixed Doubles: Jason Oliver, Dawn Torgerson John Reissland: Craig Amison-Smith, Linda Boston Croquet: Gail Viney, Craig Amison-Smith Captains day: Terry Carter, Dawn Torgerson President's Trophy: Angela Tyreman, Sue Aldington, Craig Amison-Smith, Richard Smart Most improved Lady: Man: Junior:</p>	

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.
The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 3 April 2008 at a venue to be agreed by the new committee.

4 Accounts for FY 2008

5 Membership Renewal

Membership renewal will be due again on 1st April. Subscriptions will be decided at the AGM. The proposed subscriptions for the coming year are to remain the same as for last year, namely: Senior £138, Junior £34, Weekday £69, Junior of Senior £17, Senior Citizen £90, Student and young persons £44, Country £69, and Associate £69. The late payment penalty, which will be enforced, remains at £10.

The Membership Secretary will be sending you a Membership renewal form and an entry form for the Club Competitions in March. We are aiming to complete membership renewal by the end of April, so *please respond to the letter as soon as you receive it*. New members are welcome at any time¹, and can find membership applications at our web-site. If you find the subscription too much in one go, then please ask the Membership Secretary 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 the membership form 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).

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.

6 Abingdon Junior Open

The Junior Open Tournament is now a well established Grade 4 LTA event for Under 8 to Under 18 players. It is a major showcase for our club and a source of income. Last year it took place from Monday 11th to Friday 15th August. The Open is a Grade 4 LTA tournament for juniors, and takes place during week 33 each year.

For the second year running, the Open was plagued by unseasonably cold and wet weather. The competitors took this all in their stride whilst their parents suffered! Total entries this year were almost the same as last year, but with more younger but less older players (173 entries, 337 sets and 2530 games).

Matt Hill, the Tournament Referee, managed to keep the tournament running smoothly, despite the weather difficulties. However, the dire weather forecasts for Saturday led to us abandoning

¹Pro-rata reductions for new members subscriptions are used throughout the year.

our traditional Finals Day this year. Instead we had a long day for Friday. In order to get the matches in and allow sufficient rest for the players, all the Friday consolation matches were short sets and match tie-breaks, and all the main draw matches to two set plus a match tie-break.

This was the first year that we tried online entries. Results and orders of play were put on both the Abingdon and the main LTA web sites daily. To find more details, the full results and pictures of the finalists, go to the ALTC web page <http://www.abingdontennisclub.com/open2008>.

Julia Freeman will referee the 2009 Junior Open. The Tournament will again be held in week 33, i.e. the week beginning Monday 10th August.

7 OLTA Summer League Final Results for 2008

The final positions of the Abingdon OLTA Summer League teams is listed below.

OLTA Three-pair Summer 2008 League			
Team	Captain	Division	Position
Ladies	Alison Haynes	2	6/8
Mens	David Soanes	1	5/7
Mixed	Paul Cox	1	5/6
OLTA Two-pair Summer 2008 League			
Team	Captain	Division	Position
Ladies A	Joy Browning	2	4/8
Ladies B	Sally Cullen	4	5/8
Ladies C	Carol Mitchell	6	2/8
Mens A	Chris Coles	2	7/9
Mens B	Stewart Pether	5	5/9
Mens C	Craig Amison-Smith	7	8/8
Mixed A	Brian Mitchell	1	3/8
Mixed B	Bev Woodcock	3	2/7
Mixed C	Gail Viney	5	4/8
Mixed D	David Howard	5	6/9

8 Club Knockout Tournament Final

Entries to the club summer tournaments were again up on the previous year. We fluked another sunny Finals Day this year amongst the otherwise wet summer. Play started with a Mixed Doubles final that was impossible to call with Dawn Torgersen and Jason Oliver coming back from a set and 2-0 down, then 5-2 down in the third and saving three match points to eventually retain our title. Katheryn Schutterlin at least got her revenge on Dawn by next retaining her Ladies Doubles title with Helen Crofts (now Green).

Dave Soanes and Jeremy Wood reinforced the gap between them and the rest of the field in the Mens Singles by losing just six games between them in the five played matches it took them to reach the final (including incredibly dropping only one game between them in their four semi-final sets). Dave clinched his umpteenth consecutive title winning 6-3 6-4.

The Mens Under 21 final was a very well fought affair with Dave Spencer overcoming Will Cullen in three. The competition concluded with another final whose winner was difficult to predict with Dave Soanes and Ole Andersen beating Anders Markvardsen and Ben Soanes also in three sets. Having now won the event with at least four different partners perhaps it's almost becoming fair to say that the club's best mens pair is Dave plus anyone else!

Full results including those not played on Finals Day are as follows:

ALTC 2008 Club Tournament Winners and Runners-up			
Event	Winner	Runner-up	Score
Ladies Singles	Kathryn Schutterlin	Antonia Cox	6-1, 6-1
Mens Singles	David Soanes	Jeremy Wood	6-3, 6-4
Under 21 Mens Singles	Dave Spencer	Will Cullen	6-2, 5-7 6-2
Under 21 Ladies Singles	Jess Cox	Hattie Cox	6-1, 6-0
Ladies Doubles	Kathryn Schutterlin & Helen Crofts	Dawn Torgesen & Pam Gordon	6-0, 6-2
Mens Doubles	David Soanes & Ole Andersen	Anders Markvardsen & Ben Soanes	4-6, 6-1, 6-4
Mixed Doubles	Jason Oliver & Dawn Torgesen	Richard Smart & Kathryn Schutterlin	5-7, 6-2, 7-5
Handicap Mixed Doubles	Linda Boston & Craig Amison-Smith	Isla Smith & Tim Ramirez	6-3, 6-3

Special thanks to those who cleared leaves off the courts on Finals Day morning with the club's new garden vacuum and to this year's barbecuer Bev.

Jason Oliver

9 Social Tournaments in 2008

Captains Day The weather was fine and we had a good turn out - 13 ladies and 11 men, so Toni Cox agreed to play as a man giving us the perfect numbers for 6 courts of mixed doubles. We played 8 games in each round, swapping partners after 4 games, and had 3 rounds during the evening. The standard of tennis was good and the competition tight, but when the scores were added up we had clear winners for both men and ladies. Sue Aldington and Craig Amison-Smith were presented with the crystal trophy (and chocolates!)

Sally Cullen

President's Tournament David Howard was again the organiser of this tournament. Unfortunately the event was cancelled because of weather.

Croquet Cup The Croquet Cup had been scheduled for 21 September, but was cancelled this year.

John Reissland Cup The John Reissland Trophy was held on Tuesday 14 Oct and the winners were Graham Hensby and Gail Viney.

Nicolette Colborne and Mike Barter Cups The final clubnight before Christmas was on 16 Dec and there was a good turnout of 26 players, most in fancy dress. The Trophy presented in honour of 2 past members, Mike Barter and Nicolette Colborne, was presented to Jason Oliver and Norma Queralt, and Bev Woodcock won the prize for best fancy dress, although anyone who thought he was a wise man had obviously had too much mulled wine!

10 Club Break-in

Most members will be aware of the break-in and theft of a considerable amount of club property earlier in the year. Our insurance is paying up for most of the losses and damage and we now have a substantially more secure door. However, it is worth pointing out that members are still not ensuring that the clubhouse door is properly closed when they leave, that all the net straps are in and that the door to the courts is locked.

Thanks to Craig for being “on the case” and pursuing this doggedly with the insurers.

11 Leaf Sweeper

The problem of increased tree debris being blow onto the courts following the pruning of the trees this year led the committee to decide to purchase a leaf vacuum cleaner that is very simple to operate. If anyone wishes to volunteer to hold a key to the lock-up so they may use it once in a while, please contact Bev Woodcock.

12 British Tennis and Wimbledon Tickets

The LTA has introduced a new scheme to increase affiliation to the OLTA and therefore to the LTA. Allocation of Wimbledon tickets, which had been based on paid-up club membership, is now dependent on the number of members signed-up to the new British Tennis (BT) scheme. Thus far we have about 50 members, which means our allocation will be very small. Only BT members will be allowed in the draw for the few tickets we will be allocated.

Membership of BT is free up until 2012, so if you want to improve your chance of winning the opportunity to purchase Wimbledon tickets next year, please sign up for BT! To do this go to the web page <http://www.lta.org.uk/BritishTennisMembership>.

13 2009 Club Calendar

The 2009 calendar is yet to be finalised, but so far we have the **Clean-up day scheduled for Sunday 29th March**. The committee expect to see **ALL** able-bodied members on that day to help get the clubhouse and grounds in shape for the coming year's play.

The OLTA Summer League is being finalised shortly, and details of that will be circulated with the next newsletter.

Tournament	day	date	time
Captain's Day	Weds	1st April	7 pm
Veterans Tournament		TBD	
Preston Bowl		TBD	
Junior Open	Mon-Sat	10-15 August	9 am-5 pm
Club Finals		TBD	
Croquet Cup		TBD	
President's Tournament		TBD	
John Reissland		TBD	
Christmas Social	Tues	22nd December	7 pm

14 Coaching

David Smith is available for Junior Coaching, Adult Improver Groups and Individual coaching sessions. At present he is running

- Weekly classes for 6-11 year old, Wednesday 4-5 pm
- Weekly classes for 12+ year old, Wednesday 5-6 pm
- Weekly classes for Adults, Wednesday 6-7 pm
- Weekly classes for Adults, Monday 9.30-10.30 am
- individual coaching by arrangement

For details, costs and bookings, please contact David by telephone 01235 768204 (Mob: 07790 813710) or email coaching@abingdontennisclub.com.

Jeremy Wood and Bev Woodcock can offer advanced one-on-one coaching to club members. If you are interested, then contact Jeremy by email on jeremy@abingdontennisclub.com or Bev, Tel: 01235-530904, email bev@abingdontennisclub.com.

14.1 Junior Supervised Play on Saturdays

On Saturday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon, Craig Amison-Smith runs an open court session, mainly geared towards getting juniors playing tennis. There is no formal coaching, but Craig is currently working towards the level 2 coaching award. This means there is guidance on hand to hopefully improve general play, whilst actually playing tennis.

Saturday mornings are not exclusively for juniors, so it is good to see anyone who wants to play down at the club. Two years ago when these sessions started, it was very quiet. However, we now regularly have 6 or more juniors playing every Saturday. Ages range from 6 to 16. It would be great to see more juniors, so if you know of any youngsters who would like to play, please encourage them to come along. There must be many juniors in Abingdon who have tried tennis at the Leisure Centre, and would like to play more often than the Centre allows, so please talk about tennis, and ALTC whenever possible.

Craig Amison-Smith

14.2 Easter Junior Tennis Camp

David Smith will be running five day (Mon-Fri inclusive) Easter Tennis camps for juniors at Easter. Dates and timings are yet to be finalised, but when they are they will be displayed on the coaching pages of the club web-site. The courses are open to both members and non-members. Each course will have a minimum of 4 and maximum of 8 players.

For bookings, please contact David (see above for contact information).

14.3 Coaching for Beginners and Returnees

Bev Woodcock Tel:01235-530904, email: bev@abingdontennisclub.com is planning to run a further coaching course for potential new adult members this spring. These 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.

15 TVWTL Latest Results

The Abingdon two-pair teams have had mixed success so far in the Thames Valley Winter Tennis League. The Mens A and B teams has the best results so far. The Ladies A team lost some ground recently when they were surprisingly defeated by the Ladies B team.

The team positions as of the 7th February are as follows:

Division	Team	Current Position	No in League
Ladies Div 2	A	4th	14
Ladies Div 2	B	9th	14
Ladies Div 3	C	9th	14
Ladies Div 4	D	8th	13
Mens Premier	A	2th	13
Mens Div 1	B	2nd	12
Mens Div 3	C	7th	11
Mens Div 4	D	12th	14
Mens Div 5	E	3th	11

If you want full up to date results for the Thames Valley Winter Tennis League, then visit its web-site <http://www.thamesvalleywtl.net>.

16 OLTA Summer League 2009

The struggle to find team captains has meant that we have had to reduce the number of teams to be fielded for the summer. This will inevitably mean that some members who want to play in a team will be unable to do so, as there are now fewer places. Being team captain occasionally should be seen as a necessary duty if you want to play in the teams. Only 11 teams have been entered this year, all two pair: 4 mens teams, 3 ladies teams and 4 mixed teams.

If you want to play, contact one of the team captains (see below) or the match secretary, Jeremy Coles.

Team	Captain
Mens A	David Soanes
Mens B	Ole Andersen
Mens C	Stewart Pether
Mens D	Craig Amison-Smith
Ladies A	Kathyn Schutterlin
Ladies B	Joy Browning
Ladies C	Sally Cullen
Mixed A	Paul Cox
Mixed B	Bev Woodcock
Mixed C	Gail Viney
Mixed D	David Howard

The fixtures for the 2009 season will be available shortly. Once finalised they will be displayed on the clubhouse noticeboard.

Jeremy Coles