

Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club

Newsletter – Autumn 2006



www.abingdontennisclub.com

Contents

1	Welcome from the Committee	2
2	Court Allocation	3
3	Abingdon Open and Preston Bowl	3
4	Preston Bowl	4
5	Croquet Cup	5
6	Club Tournament Final	5
7	Wednesday Friendly Match Final Results	6
8	Winter 2006-7 Teams	7
9	President's Tournament	7
10	Winter Intra-Club League	7
11	OLTA Summer League Final Results for 2006	8
12	Mens National Club League Results	8
13	Barn Dance – 7:00 pm, Friday 24th November 2006	8
14	John Reissland Cup – 7:00 pm, Tuesday 5th December	9
15	Tennis at Christmas – 6:30 pm, Tuesday 19th December	9
16	AGM - 7:15 pm Thursday 22nd February 2007	9
17	Thames Valley Winter Tennis League Fixtures	9
18	Coaching	12
19	EGM and Clubhouse Plans	12

1 Welcome from the Committee

Welcome from the committee to the Autumn 2006 newsletter. In this issue, we have items to bring you up to date with club events, with the team results, with the schedule of activities in the coming months.

The 2006/7 Committee

Officer	Name	Telephone	email address
President	David Howard	01235-526275	davidh@abingdontennisclub.com
Chairman	Linda Boston	01235-535193	linda@abingdontennisclub.com
Secretary	Kay Hunneyball	01235-525903	kay@abingdontennisclub.com
Match Secretary	Jeremy Coles	01235-520483	“I’m going to get a computer!”
Membership Secretary	Isla Smith	01235-531552	isla@abingdontennisclub.com
Treasurer	Carol Mitchell	01865-731001	carol@abingdontennisclub.com
Webmaster	James Eastwood	01235-848360	jim@abingdontennisclub.com
Members	Craig Amison-Smith	01235-534039	craig@abingdontennisclub.com
	Helen Asbury	01235-523635	helen@abingdontennisclub.com
	Jason Oliver	01235-526279	jason@abingdontennisclub.com
	Bev Woodcock	01235-530904	bev@abingdontennisclub.com

As a club we continue to flourish. Membership numbers remain good, which bucks the general trend in the county. Social tennis is probably our greatest strength and since the last newsletter we have had several closely fought intra-club competitions, plus the first round of the Wednesday evening team fixtures.

Some of you may have heard about the changes that are happening in British Tennis at the moment, with Roger Draper, the new Chairman of the LTA, striving to produce more homebred champions. Resources will be targeted at Performance Clubs, which means that we will need to watch current trends and perhaps change the profile of our club to ensure that we do not miss out on LTA support. As a committee, we are still working hard to find a new coach and at present are negotiating to share a licensed coach with two other Oxfordshire clubs.

Progress is also being made with the proposed clubhouse alterations – see item 19 on page 12.

Activities continue throughout the winter, with TVWTL matches (see item 17 on page 9), the barn dance, the Christmas social, the winter intra-club league, club night and social tennis.

Linda Boston

2 Court Allocation

Saturday	9am - 12.30 pm 1 - 5 pm	Juniors Matches	Coaching and play - up to 6 courts See notice board for details - most courts will be available for general play from 4 pm onwards.
Sunday	Up to 12.30 pm 1-5 pm	Unrestricted Matches	Courts on a first come basis See notice board for details - most courts will be available for general play from 4 pm onwards.
Monday	6.30 - 8.15 pm 8.15 - 10 pm	Match Practice Match Practice	Ladies - up to 5 courts Men - up to 5 courts
Tuesday	6.30 - 10 pm	Clubnight	up to 6 courts - First Tuesday of each month a social competition for all levels of play
Wednesday	9.30am - noon 6.30 - 10 pm	Ladies group Intra-club league	3 courts 6 courts
Thursday	6.00 - 7.45 pm 7.45 - 8.45 pm 6.30 - 10 pm	Coaching Coaching Clubnight	Juniors up to 3 courts Adult up to 2 courts remaining courts
Friday	7.30 - 9 pm	Adult Improvers	Coaching/play - up to 3 courts

Please note that the allocation given above is for priorities. If, as is often the case, not all the courts are in use for the priority activity, then club members are free to use any available courts.

The teams get priority on Saturday and Sunday afternoons (see item 17 on page 9 for fixtures), but when matches are not being played¹ or have been completed, the court are available for general use.

3 Abingdon Open and Preston Bowl

The Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club 2006 Open Tournament was a Grade 4 event for Under 8 to Under 18 played on six hard (tarmac) courts. It took place from Sunday 13th to Saturday 19th August, and followed last year's format. Overall entries were about the same as last year's, but the number of girls was down a little. The weather forecasters threatened dire conditions. In the end the rain disruptions were less than feared, with their effects being mainly on the family doubles competition. We were particularly fortunate to have sunshine on Finals Day, with lots of nearby showers and thunder storms just missing us!

¹Details of match schedules can be found on the notice boards in the clubhouse.



Despite the uncertain weather, the Junior Open was again a great success. Julia Freeman, fresh from her show court duties at Wimbledon, did a brilliant job keeping the tournament running smoothly, despite the weather. We were honoured again to have the Mayor of Abingdon (this year - Peter Green) attend and present the trophies. He is pictured to the left with the club Chairman, Linda Boston, and Tournament Referee, Julia Freeman, during the Presentation Ceremony.

To find more details, the full results and pictures of the finalists, go to the ALTC web page <http://www.abingdontennisclub.com/open2006>.

4 Preston Bowl

It is now 72 years since the first Preston Bowl Competition. The weather looked very unpromising at the start of the Sunday 13th August, but the rain held off for the tournament. Ten pairs entered, but one pair scratched because of injury. This year, there was the extra incentive of a cash prize for the winners from the sponsors, Tonks Brothers. The winners (pictured to the right) were the brother and sister duo Ben and Kate Calnan and the runners-up were Jonathan Maskens and Emma Tolson.



The final was neck and neck right up to the last game. At five games all, Kate was serving for the match. It was 30-all, and the spectators were on the edge of their seats. Kate and Ben won the next two points and the match was theirs

Tom Barrett said "The food made the day worthwhile, even though we lost out in the semis". Thanks from everyone for superb food from Helen Asbury

Full results and pictures of the Preston Bowl can be found by going to the ALTC web page <http://www.abingdontennisclub.com/open2006/preston.html>.

5 Croquet Cup



Croquet cup finalists

On the warm but cloudy afternoon of August 20th, Val Casemore ran a most enjoyable tennis afternoon for 14 keen and representative members of the club – team players, old and new as well as a new weekday member.

It led to an outstanding climax with Kate Plumtree and her partner – the recently retired and outstandingly fit Stewart Pether holding their service after being down 0- 40 during a critical game in the deciding set. Their rivals William Lawrence - Jones and Toni Cox fought hard with William urging the crowd to get behind them; but it was not to be their day. The sight of Kate not only winning the first competition of her life but hugging her partner and holding up the valuable silver cup was a sight to behold and a memory for all present to treasure – it was a potent reminder about what the club is all about!

David Howard

6 Club Knockout Tournament Final

Jason's excellent organisation led to the rounds of the tournament being played more or less on time this year, despite a late start to the competitions. This paved the way for the Club tournament finals on Sunday 17th September.

The final was well attended, with a barbeque to accompany the finals matches. Thanks to Jason and his wife for providing the food for the finals day, and to Jason's three year old son for the cakes. Thanks also to Craig Amison-Smith for manning the barbecue, and to Helen Asbury for providing the barbecue.

Everyone agreed that Jason did a fine job. His proven organisational skills make him the prime candidate for repeating his magic next year, and maybe even running the Open Tournament as well!

Listed below are all the final results.

ALTC 2006 Club Tournament Winners and Runners-up			
Event	Winner	Runner-up	Score
Ladies Singles	Kathryn Schutterlin	Sylvie Casanova	6-2, 6-3
Mens Singles	David Soanes	Roberto Liddi	6-3, 6-0
Under 21 Mens Singles	Tom McLarty	Will Cullen	6-0, 6-7(7), 6-2
Under 21 Ladies Singles	Alison Boston	Jess Cox	6-2, 6-3
Ladies Doubles	Kathryn Schutterlin & Helen Crofts	Dawn Torgersen & Pam Gordon	6-3, 6-3
Mens Doubles	David Soanes & Jason Oliver	Ben Soanes & Anders Markvardsen	6-2, 7-6
Mixed Doubles	Ben Soanes & Helen Crofts	Jason Oliver & Dawn Torgersen	7-5, 6-1
Handicap Mixed Doubles	Gail Viney & Stewart Pether	Marie Jose Moor & Jeremy Coles	6-3, 6-3

7 Wednesday Friendly Matches

It has been a long season this year with 20 matches organised: 3 were rained off, we won 9 and lost 8.

It has been another enjoyable season, meeting and playing with old and new friends from the neighbouring clubs. Like many of the league matches this season, it was difficult playing in the extreme heat. Some evenings were very hot, but we managed to play some very enjoyable tennis.

I would like to thank all who took part, especially when matches were cancelled at short notice. Special thanks to the poacher and wine provider.

Best wishes go to Eileen, who broke her wrist halfway through the season. We are looking forward to seeing her on court again soon.

Next season I will be looking for people to organise a few of the games once the fixture list is in place—volunteers welcome!

Mary Hensby

*Friendly matches are a good way to gain some match experience, and we are keen to introduce further Club players into the friendlies squad. If you would like to take part next year, then get in touch with **Mary** (Tel: 01235 200098).*

8 Winter 2006-7 Teams

We have entered five mens and five ladies teams in the Thames Valley Winter Tennis League for the Winter 2006-2007 season. There is still room in the squads for further players, so if you would like to play a few winter matches, then let one of the team captains (see item 17 on page 9) or the match secretary (Jeremy Coles) know. The winter teams are two-pair, and matches happen at roughly fortnightly intervals throughout winter.

9 President's Tournament



President's Tournament Winners

The President's Tournament was initially scheduled for 5th October, but bad weather led to its postponement. Sixteen players participated in the rescheduled tournament on the evening of Tuesday 17th October. The round-robin tournament led to four pairs deciding the final result by playing tie-breakers. The two winning pairs were Craig Amison-Smith and Anne-Marie Dunn, and Stewart Pether and Angela Tyreman. Yes, Stewart was again one of the winners! Clearly retirement is having a beneficial effect on his tennis.

10 Winter Intra-Club League

The Winter Intra-Club League Fixtures began on the evening of Wednesday 6th October. The teams and fixtures have been posted in the clubhouse. If you would like to be added to the list of reserves, or would like to put your name down early for the new year section of the Intra-club league, then please contact Dennis Gordon.

11 OLTA Summer League Final Results for 2006

The final positions of the Abingdon OLTA Summer League teams is listed below. Again there is a mixed bag of results. The ladies three pair team had a good summer, but the mens three pair did not. Two of the two pair teams – ladies B and mens B – came top of their respective divisions.

A summary of the final positions is given below. Full results are posted on the clubhouse notice board.

OLTA Three-pair Summer 2006 League			
Team	Captain	Division	Position
Ladies	Helen Asbury	2	3/8
Mens	David Soanes	1	7/9
Mixed	John Clancy	2	4/5
OLTA Two-pair Summer 2006 League			
Team	Captain	Division	Position
Ladies A	Val Casemore	1	8/8
Ladies B	Sally Cullen	5	1/7
Ladies C	Carol Mitchell	6	3/7
Mens A	Brian Mitchell	2	3/8
Mens B	Stewart Pether	6	1/8
Mens C	Craig Amison-Smith	7	3/9
Mixed A	Brian Mitchell	1	6/8
Mixed B	Bev Woodcock	3	4/9
Mixed C	Dennis Gordon	3	9/9
Mixed D	David Howard	4	6/8

12 Mens National Club League

The Abingdon Mens National Club League team won promotion last year. This year the team, led by Pete Druett, won one match, lost two, and two were not played. Abingdon finished 5th out of 6 which is sufficient to avoid relegation.

We will be fielding a team again next year. For more information contact Pete Druett.

13 Barn Dance

We are having a follow-up to last year's charity (joint John Mason and ALTC) Barn Dance. Richard Smart is again the organiser, and all profits going to the Ibanda Integrated School in

Uganda. It is your opportunity to have a good time and help a good cause simultaneously. Plan to come, and ask your friends along!

The event will be held in the John Mason school hall on Friday 24th November, starting at 7.00 pm. Tickets are £10 per head. The band will be Greenwillow. Bring and share food and drinks. For more information and tickets, contact Richard on 01235-523324 or Jim on 07879-881282.

We hope to beat last year's fund raising effort. Our aim is to raise £500, a sum that will feed the orphans at the school for a year!

14 John Reissland Cup

The John Reissland Cup tournament was originally scheduled for October 3rd, but was postponed because of fixture congestion at the end of the summer season. It is now scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5th December at 7 pm. Just turn up and join in!

15 Tennis at Christmas

Our Christmas social club night this year will be held on Tuesday 19th December, beginning at 7:00 pm; give that Santa Suit an early airing! Fancy dress is optional, with a prize for the best Christmas-themed outfit. Watch out for details on the notice-board.

16 Annual General Meeting

Another date for your diary is Thursday 22nd February 2007. This is the date of the ALTC Annual General Meeting. Plan to be there.

17 Thames Valley Winter Tennis League Fixtures

The Thames Valley Winter Tennis League is now under way, but teams are always looking for new blood for their squads. If you would like a go, contact one of the Team Captains.

All matches start at 1 pm unless otherwise stated.

Mens team fixtures

WINTER FIXTURES 2006 – 2007 1pm Start unless otherwise shown

Team Division Captain	Abingdon A Men Premier David Soanes 07718730470	Abingdon B Men Div 3 Tim Hannon 553923	Abingdon C Men Div 3 Jim Eastwood 848360	Abingdon D Men Div 4 Craig A Smith 534039	Abingdon E Men Div 5 David Howard 526275	Team Division Captain
23-Sep 24-Sep 30-Sep 01-Oct 07-Oct 08-Oct 14-Oct 15-Oct 21-Oct 22-Oct 28-Oct 29-Oct	Ox City A h		Phy Court A a		Faringdon C a	23-Sep 24-Sep 30-Sep 01-Oct 07-Oct 08-Oct 14-Oct 15-Oct 21-Oct 22-Oct 28-Oct 29-Oct
04-Nov 05-Nov 11-Nov 12-Nov 18-Nov 19-Nov 25-Nov 26-Nov	Bicester A a (10am)	Phy Court A h		Ox City D h	N Gds C h	04-Nov 05-Nov 11-Nov 12-Nov 18-Nov 19-Nov 25-Nov 26-Nov
02-Dec 03-Dec 09-Dec 10-Dec 16-Dec 17-Dec	N Ox A h	Cholsey A a	Shiplake A a	Kingston B A h	Bledlow R A h	02-Dec 03-Dec 09-Dec 10-Dec 16-Dec 17-Dec
06-Jan 07-Jan 13-Jan 14-Jan 20-Jan 21-Jan 27-Jan 28-Jan	N Ox B a	Ox Spts C h	Esporta B a	Henley A a	Ox Spts D a Benson C a	06-Jan 07-Jan 13-Jan 14-Jan 20-Jan 21-Jan 27-Jan 28-Jan
03-Feb 04-Feb 10-Feb 11-Feb 17-Feb 18-Feb 24-Feb 25-Feb	Ox Spts A a	Abingdon C a	Abingdon B h	Goring C h	Wantage C h	03-Feb 04-Feb 10-Feb 11-Feb 17-Feb 18-Feb 24-Feb 25-Feb
03-Mar 04-Mar 10-Mar 11-Mar 17-Mar 18-Mar 24-Mar 25-Mar 31-Mar	Witney h	Witney D h	Wantage B a	Banbury WE A a	Southfield A h	03-Mar 04-Mar 10-Mar 11-Mar 17-Mar 18-Mar 24-Mar 25-Mar 31-Mar
	Goring a		N Gds B a	Bicester C a	O U P A a	
	Ox City A a	N Gds B h	N Ox D h	N Ox E a		
	Bicester A h	Shiplake A h	Faringdon B h	Wheatley A h		
	N Ox A a	Faringdon B a	Witney D a		Appleton A h	
	N Ox B h	N Ox D h		Henley B a	D Lloyd A a	
	Ox Spts A h		Cholsey A h	Bicester D a (10am)	Witney E a	
	Goring A h		Ox Spts C h	P Risb A h		
	Witney A a	Wantage B a		Benson B a	Hanney B h	

Ladies team fixtures

WINTER FIXTURES 2006 – 2007 1pm Start unless otherwise shown

Team Division Captain	Abingdon 2 Ladies Div 1 Helen Crofts 760987	Abingdon 1 Ladies Div 2 Pam Gordon 520320	Abingdon 3 Ladies Div 3 Buzz Brown 520278	Abingdon 4 Ladies Div 4 Sue Aldington 01865 391883	Abingdon 5 Ladies Div 5 Carol Mitchell 01865 731001	Team Division Captain					
23-Sep	Kingston B 1 a	Brackley 1 a	Goring 2 h	Goring 3 a	Watlington 2 h	23-Sep					
24-Sep						24-Sep					
30-Sep						30-Sep					
01-Oct						01-Oct					
07-Oct	Bicester 1 a	Benson 1 h	Banbury WE 1 a	Faringdon 2 a	Benson 3 h	07-Oct					
08-Oct						08-Oct					
14-Oct						14-Oct					
15-Oct						15-Oct					
21-Oct	Marlow 1 h	N Ox 4 a	Thame 1 h	Shiplake 1 h	Blewbury 2 h	21-Oct					
22-Oct						22-Oct					
28-Oct						28-Oct					
29-Oct						29-Oct					
04-Nov	Wantage 1 a	N Ox 3 a	Chinnor 1 a	P Risborough 1 a	Ox City 3 h	04-Nov					
05-Nov						05-Nov					
11-Nov						11-Nov					
12-Nov						12-Nov					
18-Nov	Blewbury 1 h	Woodstock 2 a	Kings S 2 h	Wychwood 1 a	David L 1 a	18-Nov					
19-Nov						19-Nov					
25-Nov						25-Nov					
26-Nov						26-Nov					
02-Dec	Portcullis 1 a	Faringdon 1 h	Kings S 2 h	Southfield 1 h	Woodstock 3 h	02-Dec					
03-Dec						03-Dec					
09-Dec						09-Dec					
10-Dec						10-Dec					
16-Dec	Cholsey 1 h	Ox Spts 2 h	Watlington 1 a	Mapledurham 3 a	Mapledurham 3 a	16-Dec					
17-Dec						17-Dec					
06-Jan						06-Jan					
07-Jan						07-Jan					
13-Jan	Ox Spts 1 a	N Ox 2 a	Ox City 2 a	Benson 2 a	Mapledurham 3 a	13-Jan					
14-Jan						14-Jan					
20-Jan						20-Jan					
21-Jan						21-Jan					
27-Jan	N Ox 1 h	Ox Spts 3 h	Mapled'ham 2 h	Haddenham 1 a	Mapledurham 3 a	27-Jan					
28-Jan						28-Jan					
03-Feb						03-Feb					
04-Feb						04-Feb					
10-Feb	Ox City 1 h	Cholsey 2 a	Bicester 2 h	Portcullis 3 h	Southfield 2 a	10-Feb					
11-Feb						11-Feb					
17-Feb						17-Feb					
18-Feb						18-Feb					
24-Feb	Portcullis 2 h	Wantage 2 h	Wantage 2 h	Esporta 1 h	Witney 3 a	24-Feb					
25-Feb						25-Feb					
03-Mar						Goring 1 a	Mapled'ham 1 h	Witney 2 a	Ox Spts 4 h	Colston 1 h	03-Mar
04-Mar											04-Mar
10-Mar	10-Mar										
11-Mar	11-Mar										
17-Mar	Woodstock 1 h	Kings S 1 a	Marlow 2 a (10am)	Cholsey 3 h	Henley 1 a	17-Mar					
18-Mar						18-Mar					
24-Mar						24-Mar					
25-Mar						25-Mar					
31-Mar	Witney 1 h				Bledlow R 1 h	31-Mar					

18 Coaching

The committee thought they had managed to get our junior coaching programme off the ground this autumn, with the appointment of Chris Hagan as the main club coach. Unfortunately for us, Chris has been offered the post of head coach as the David Lloyd Centre in Oxford, and has decided to give us up in favour of what is for him an attractive career move. We wish him the best in his new career.

Currently Bev Woodcock is limiting his commitments for personal reasons, but Jeremy Wood remains available for more advanced individual coaching.

The committee are currently looking to restart the junior coaching. We have a new candidate for the coaching post, and further information will be posted when progress is made.

19 EGM and Clubhouse Plans

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on Wednesday 27 September 2006 to consider Clubhouse improvements.

Over 20 people squeezed into the clubhouse at 7.00 pm to discuss the proposals. Jason presented plans to open the changing room corridors into the main space and replace the current front wall with a series of glass doors along the front of the verandah with automatic shutters.

There was general discussion on other possibilities including a second storey. The second storey option was rejected, but there was some support for the suggestion of making extra space by extending to the side.

Jason agreed to look at an alternative proposal to relocate the current changing rooms to a new side extension. This would free up the existing building and might enable the current verandah to be retained, with the addition of larger windows in the present front wall.

There was unanimous support for the Committee to continue to seek costing quotes, consider any necessary planning approval and look at avenues for funding.

It was agreed that any planned expenditure should not leave us with insufficient reserve funds for renewal of the playing surfaces when that becomes necessary.

This further information will be presented to all club members at the Annual General meeting in February 2007, when a vote can be taken as to whether to proceed.