

# WEST HEATH NEWS

April 2011

## COMMITTEE CHANGES

Derek Councill has stepped down from the committee after ten years as Club treasurer and our sincere thanks go to him for all his work over that time.

Taking over from Derek is Vandana Talwar. Richard Nightingale is also joining the committee and will help us with some of the issues we have with the clubhouse. Welcome to both Vandana and Richard.

## GRASS COURTS

Over the winter the courts have been scarified, weeded, cleared, levelled, fed and re-seeded and should be in very good condition. The net post bases are now concreted into place. Our new grounds man, Victor Macario, is working hard to open the courts around 5 May but we will confirm their opening date by e-mail. The courts will then be playable as follows, weather permitting:



2pm – 8pm	From 5 May
1pm – 8.30pm	From 23 May
12 noon – 9pm	From 30 May

Please *do not* play on the grass outside these times or if they are wet as this can damage them.

## SHALE COURTS

Again we have been thwarted in our attempts to get a supply of clinker for the shale courts. Until this can be sourced and we can renew the base of the courts we will continue to work on keeping them in as good condition as we can.

From the start of the season, the courts will be watered automatically at 5am and between 5.15pm & 5.45pm in dry weather. The coach will do additional watering as necessary. To keep the shale in good condition please brush/drag the courts after use.

## CLUB IMPROVEMENTS/DONATIONS

We have used our funds on a number of improvements in the last few years, including new fencing and a new watering system. However, last year we had a deficit of nearly £6,000 due to additional court expenditure and a reduction in membership numbers. We also had some unexpected expenses such as having to replace the shed and paying VAT on our lease payment. All this has affected our financial reserves to below the recommended level. We are therefore asking any members who would like to make a donation to help ensure we can continue to make the necessary improvements to the courts and clubhouse to please include this with their annual membership. Any contributions will be gratefully accepted.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are invited to the **102<sup>nd</sup> AGM** on **Thursday, 19 May, 2011 from 8pm to 9pm** in the clubhouse. Refreshments will be provided. Papers have been sent out by e-mail but can also be collected from the clubhouse.

## NEW MEMBERS

Anyone wishing to join can come along any weekend from **7 May – 12 June between 3pm and 4.30pm** for a play-in. Alternatively, ask them to call Marjan (8452 1455) or Moira (8458 1627) to arrange a time. The joining fee for new members is held at £55 (including the key deposit).

## VISITORS

Do invite your friends to come along and play for **free in May**. At other times our visitor fee is £3 – just enter this in the Visitor Book.

## WIMBLEDON TICKETS

Under a ruling from the LTA, the Club's allocation of tickets for The Championships, may only be sold to British Tennis members who are lucky in a ballot. Winners receive a pair of tickets and are asked to take another club member. Full details are in the clubhouse with the ballot entry list. Please add your name and BTM number. Jeff Fine will hold the **ballot on Saturday 14 May at 4pm** in the clubhouse so sign up before then.

## **COACHING**

Lessons with our coach Michal Forys cost £25 an hour. Call him on 07840 347730 to book.

## **DOUBLES COACHING**

Improve your doubles play by coming along to free coaching with Michal, on the **Tuesdays of 10, 17, 24 & 31 May from 7pm to 8.30pm.**

## **SOCIAL TENNIS - TEAS**

From 7 May social play is on **Saturdays and Sundays from 2.30pm to 6pm and Tuesday evenings from 6pm.** Please



make everyone welcome and invite those who have been sitting out the longest to play before those who have just come off court. If any courts are not needed on Tuesdays arranged games may be played on the far grass court and the shale. Please keep our weekend teas tradition going by taking your turn – the rota is on the notice board.

## **"AMERICAN" TOURNAMENTS**

The "American" tournaments allow you to play with a variety of players in a fun, competitive environment. A small charge is made to cover tea and prizes and provide a small profit to the Club or a donation to charity. Please arrive promptly at **2.30pm on 30 May, 18 June and 29 August** to take part. **Saturday, 18 June** is our charity tournament, organised by Paul O'Flynn in aid of the UCH Head and Neck Cancer Charity.

## **TENNIS LADDER**

The singles ladder is still in operation and it is up to you to arrange and play your matches. To join the ladder please e-mail [marjan\\_denis@hotmail.com](mailto:marjan_denis@hotmail.com)

## **TEAM TENNIS**

Sultan Gangji & Ros Norkett are the 1<sup>st</sup> team captains and Paul O'Flynn & Julia Abbot captain the 2<sup>nd</sup> teams. Our match fixture list is attached. Supporters at home matches are always very welcome.

## **ST MARGARET'S SCHOOL**

The school will be using the shale courts at the following times: *Mon* 9 May – 11 July 3.15 – 5.15, *Tues* 3 May – 12 July 2-3, *Wed* 27 April – 25 May 9 – 12, *Wed* 27 April – 6 July

3.15 – 5.15, *Thurs* 28 April – 7 July 9 – 10.15; *Fri* 6 May – 8 July 9 – 10.15 & 1.15 – 2.30.

## **COURT CLOTHING**

Remember proper tennis shoes and appropriate sports clothing must be worn. **Euro Sports** in Finchley Road (Swiss Cottage end) gives members 10% discount on clothing and 15% on racquets.

## **POLO SHIRTS-WEST HEATH LOGO**

Our short-sleeved, white cotton polo shirts costing just £15 can be ordered and paid for on your renewal form. Shirts can be collected from Moira at the Club or delivered.

## **CLUB TOURNAMENT**

The real highlight of the summer is always the **Club Tournament** from **7 – 23 July** and all members are urged to take part. Sign the list in the clubhouse from the end of June. The draw is posted on the web site and in the clubhouse.

Sultan Gangji organises the '**Gourmet Dinners**' held in the second week. Watch the later stage matches before enjoying a delicious meal in good company. Add your name to the lists in the clubhouse during the first week of the tournament.

**Finals day** is on **Saturday, 23 July** and everyone is invited to come along and enjoy the matches plus a slap-up **tea and evening BBQ**. Volunteers to act as line judges and make cakes, sandwiches, salads or desserts are always needed.

## **CLUB WEB SITE**

Peter Davies maintains the web site at [www.westheathlhc.co.uk](http://www.westheathlhc.co.uk) and during the tournament it is updated nightly.

## **PLANTS WANTED**

Lesley South is working on the flowerbed beside the path and any offers of spare plants would be welcome. Please speak to Lesley if you can help.

## **MANY HANDS ...**

Many hands really do make light work and if everyone does a little no-one has to do a lot so *please* always leave the Club as you would wish to find it.

## **THANK YOU**

A big thank you to the committee and to the additional volunteers who have helped in many different ways over the past year.

***Have a great season!***