



**highbury
tennis
club**

HIGHBURY TENNIS CLUB

Highbury Tennis Club Newsletter

ISSUE 4

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WIMBLEDON BALLOT

The club has 6 lucky members who are entitled each to a pair of tickets. These are:-

Helen Nuki
 Paul Knipe
 Fraser Matthews
 Scott Matthews
 Ana Corvalan
 Angela Marks

GLL REPLACES AQUATERRA

GLL has taken over the management of Islington Council's sports facilities. See the Contacts page of our website for information. If you have problems, the **Islington Tennis Centre on 020 7700 1370** is very helpful.

www.better.org.uk/book

The club encourages social and competitive tennis at Highbury Fields. We have six adult doubles teams playing competitively as well as many members playing regular social tennis. All newcomers of all ages are welcome. Please email us for information.

CLUB WEBSITE LAUNCHED

We have launched a website to help members keep track of all club news with links to the leagues we compete in so you can easily see how our teams are doing.

Team captains can direct opponents to the "Contacts Page" for information on playing our home matches. You can also direct potential club members to the site to find out more about us.

Please look at the site and tell us what you think.
www.highburytennisclub.com



WINTER FLOODLIT LEAGUE

Congratulations to all our teams who took part in the Winter Floodlit League. Our Men's Team came top of Division 8 and will be promoted next season. Ladies 1 came third and the Ladies 2nd team came sixth in Division 5.

See Page 2 for detailed reports and photos.

TENNIS MUM

We find out what it is like supporting a tennis protégé. See Page 3.



If you have a story about your own early tennis career or any interesting tennis anecdotes please let us know.

Welcome to new club member, Jeremy Wickremer, who has joined our M2 squad.

HIGHBURY TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Sunday 15th June 2014 is the provisional date but we need GLL to confirm. We'll run the following events: Men's and Juniors Singles; Mixed, Family, Ladies' and Junior Doubles. For application forms and details for registering please go to our website and select the "News & Club Info" tab:-
www.highburytennisclub.com

HIGHBURY FIELDS REVAMP

Islington Council has been successful in its application to the Mayor of London's Sports Facilities Fund and will be using the money to invest in and improve Highbury Fields tennis facilities.

Extra floodlit courts and new surfaces are promised and we'll bring you more details as soon as we hear.

SUMMER SEASON PREPARATIONS

We have two men's teams and four ladies teams in the Slazenger Middlesex League. Matches start in May and the last ones will be completed in July. We also have a men's team in the Aegon Team Championships running from April to June.

For some last minute tips and advice from the experts look at these short youtube clips. **GB Davis Cup doubles coach Louis Cayer, gives 3 useful tips:**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-MwdrSpjTs&list=PL6P9iGS4Ir9IIVDS8rDkZii8X3x5r-AIK>

British doubles player Dom Inglot gives his top 5 doubles tips here:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzW6stcvUE4&list=PL6P9iGS4Ir9IIVDS8rDkZii8X3x5r-AIK
 (Copy & paste links into your web browser)



NEWS FROM THE WINTER FLOODLIT LEAGUE

This winter we had one men's team and two ladies' teams taking part in the Middlesex Winter Floodlit League 2013-14.

Congratulations to our Men's Team who came top of Division 8. They faced tough opponents, particularly from Pavilion who were nipping at their heels all winter, but they didn't lose one match all season. It all came down to the final match which the Highbury men won in uncompromising fashion 16-0.

fielded ineligible players.

Captain Henry Horton says that their attention is now focused on the Aegon Middlesex 2014 tournament which started at the beginning of April. This will swiftly be followed by the launch of the Middlesex Slazenger League in May. However this great result from the Floodlit League means that the men are match fit, highly focused and ready for the new season.



They also had to contend with some scoring shenanigans that saw rivals Pavilion briefly move to the top of the league. Pavilion were awarded extra points for a match when their opponents

FROM LEFT: Simon, Adam, Geoff, Paul, Henry, Archie, Andrew, Claudio

Standings of Mens Doubles - East Division 8						
	Points Played	Rubbers	Sets	Sets %	Games	Games %
1 Highbury Tennis	98	7	98-14	48-8	85.7%	318-143
2 Pavilion II	96	7	96-16	43-13	76.6%	301-102
3 Totteridge IV	66	7	66-46	33-23	58.9%	245-205
4 Conway IV	50	7	50-62	25-31	44.6%	241-255
5 Winchmore Hill III	45	7	45-67	22-34	39.3%	215-280
6 Ravens III	28	6	28-68	20-28	41.7%	195-232
7 Fortis Green	18	6	18-78	9-39	18.8%	148-269
8 Our Lady of Muswell III	15	5	15-65	8-32	20.0%	122-219

We had **two Ladies' teams** in Division 5 facing very strong opponents. Our Ladies 1 team narrowly missed promotion, ending up 3rd in the division while our Second team came 6th. Both teams will remain in Division 5 next winter. This is a very competitive division and both teams have had to work their way up from Division 8 to be here so these are very respectable results.



FROM RIGHT L1 players Susannah, Melissa, Vicky & Poonam about to play Mayfield III who they beat 12-4.

Standings of Ladies Doubles - Division 5 East						
	Points Played	Rubbers	Sets	Sets %	Games	Games %
1 Enfield I	77	7	77-35	39-17	69.6%	283-191
2 Finchley I	75	7	75-37	35-16	68.6%	250-197
3 Highbury Tennis I	62	7	62-50	28-22	56.0%	239-211
4 Barnet II	52	7	52-60	26-29	47.3%	245-257
5 Mayfield III	50	7	50-62	25-31	44.6%	241-248
6 Highbury Tennis II	39	7	39-57	18-28	39.1%	175-226
7 Stormont III	39	7	39-73	18-35	34.0%	221-276
8 Vicars Moor II	38	7	38-58	18-29	38.3%	180-228

AEGON MIDDLESEX 2014

Our Men are competing in this league for the first time. They lost their first match against very strong opposition. However they are up-

beat and readying themselves for the next match at the start of May.



Henry (2nd from left), Lauron (far right) with their prizes

HENRY HORTON & LAURON SHAW

Henry Horton (M2) and Lauron Shaw (former M1 player) have been busy recently. They were runners up in the Bush Hill Park Winter Series doubles tournament that took place in March in a close match. The final score was 7-6 (10-8), 6-1.

Henry is also competing in the 35+ Men's

SUMMER MATCHES

Help your captain by keeping as many of your team's match dates free and let your captain know ASAP if you are going to be unavailable.

Singles in the Middlesex Winter Postal competition and is currently through to the Semi Finals after winning a close Quarter Finals with a tie break. He recommends these events to others, saying that it helps with fitness and provides lots of variety.

Henry is captaining our Men's team in the Aegon Team Tennis competition.



Email: highburytennis@gmail.com

www.tennisonhighburyfields.co.uk/content/highbury-tennis-club

Find out how one youngster discovered his passion for tennis thanks to Highbury Fields and Wendy Proudfoot.

BEING A TENNIS MUM

Highbury Tennis Club's Yvonne Bennett is proud mother to Ivan, a performance tennis player, who started tennis thanks to Club Coach Wendy Proudfoot. Wendy took Ivan on when he was just 4 and nurtured him till he was ready to join Hackney City Tennis Club's renowned youth programme. Ivan is now 14 and studying hard for his GCSEs but, across the years, has seen many tennis successes.



That winning feeling (aged 9)

Yvonne says that encouraging a young child to pursue a sport seriously is a commitment for the whole family. Driving to and from coaching sessions and competitions is very time consuming. Also as a parent you must be supportive but not pushy.

Watching him compete can be difficult too: when he plays with determination it is uplifting but when he is downcast following defeat it is emotionally draining for the parents too.

Yvonne recommends a good balance in life: Ivan has stayed at normal school, not a tennis academy, and has always played school sports too so knows the pleasure of team games.

The upsides of his tennis life are many: he is highly organised and self-disciplined with maturity beyond his years but, as Yvonne says, "the maturity comes from a lot of losing along the way".



How long Ivan keeps playing seriously is down to him but the skills he has acquired will be invaluable whatever he chooses to do in life.



Early lessons (aged 6)

RECYCLING OLD TENNIS BALLS

At last we have the answer to what to do with old tennis balls.

Wendy Proudfoot is setting up a scheme whereby our old tennis balls are collected from a central point and we are given £25 for every 250 we gather. Balls will be contributed by all Highbury Fields users so we are keen to use the money to benefit everyone. One idea is to purchase a defibrillator for the courts. We might also support local charities. If you have ideas please let us know.

Final practicalities are still being finalised but look out for news at the tennis hut explaining where the collection points are or speak to Wendy.

The club website will be updated with info too.



Ivan (aged 14) meeting Tim Henman, at the 2013 "Road to Wimbledon" finals.

See these links for Judy Murray's thoughts on how to encourage tennis youngsters.

www.set4sport.com/judy/

www.mumsnet.com/onlinechats/judy-murray