

HIGHBURY TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER



No. 2. September 2013

Welcome to Highbury Tennis Club Newsletter No. 2!

NEWS FROM THE TEAMS

HTC entered 4 women's teams and 2 men's teams in the Summer 2013 Middlesex Slazenger League and the good news is that all teams are moving up or staying put – no one is dropping down a division.

Ladies 1 *Capt. Susannah Oxley (retired)*

The women's 1st team enjoyed a reasonable season, coming fifth. The team stays in Division 4. Susannah captained very ably, and corralled the squad over the 7 matches. Sadly, we were short of a couple of our stronger players for many of the fixtures - some years are like that. We welcomed Poonam Lloyd Williams and Karen Forbes into the squad. So girls, onwards and upwards. Another huge thanks again to Susannah.

Wendy

Ladies 2 *Capt. Sarah Mulligan*

We had some very enjoyable matches this summer; some wins, some losses, some draws. Having moved up twice in the last two years we are probably currently at the right level – it's good to consolidate before moving up again! We finished 6th out of 8 but there was little to choose from the middle 4 teams so overall I felt we did well. Many thanks to Susannah, Caroline, Anne and Dee who all played for us when we were short and did a sterling job. Many thanks to Viren for his patience and expertise, and mega thanks to the team – you are all stars!

Ladies 3 *Capt. Caroline Griffiths*

We had a very jolly summer season and finished 4th out of 7 clubs in Division 9 but were much closer to the top position than this suggests. Our ratio of sets won was roughly double last year's so we've made great progress. All of our squad had at least one match and there were some excellent individual performances. We suffered availability problems and sadly some injuries so are indebted to 1st, 2nd & 4th team players for helping us out. We were delighted to welcome some new players into the squad which is good news for Team III and the club. Special thanks to Wendy for her tireless coaching and constructive help.

Ladies 4 *Capt. Jenny James*

This was the inaugural season for the 4th team. Our objectives were to gain match experience, enjoy playing competitive tennis and if we were to win a few sets or a match that would be a bonus! I think we achieved our first two objectives but didn't do so well on the third one, failing to win any matches and coming bottom of the division. Nonetheless, although disappointing in terms of results, we now have a foundation on which to build next year and can take some positives out of the season – not least the enthusiasm, co-operation and great team spirit of everyone in the squad. We had a small squad but everyone was keen to play so we had few problems making up a team. We are grateful to Olivia (1sts) and Judith (3rds) who each helped us out on one occasion and thank you to Wendy for her coaching, advice and encouragement.

Men's 1 *Capt. Simon Moore*

The first team finished the season with a win against Hackney 20-4. We finished second, having won all our matches except the one against Pavilion which we lost by one set. A fantastic performance by all and thanks to all players who played and those who turned up on Saturdays for practice. Two highlights for me: smashing Coolhurst again, and that wonderful backhand passing shot of mine so sweetly struck from an impossible angle ... Hope that enjoyment, mental training, physical exertion and comradeship were found by all.

Men's 2 *Capt. Henry Horton*

The summer league has concluded with us finishing in 3rd place. We seemed to be playing catch up throughout the season due to the two losses right at the beginning to Mayfield and Georgians. Thanks to all those involved in the campaign, we'll give it another shot next season.

Club Social Evening

Wednesday 16th October

Venue: Highbury Arts Club – Simon Moore's sparkling new Tapas Bar for Highbury (opposite St Joan of Arc School)

Cost: £10 per head which includes a chilled drink, Tapas and entertainment.

Tennis on courts 1 and 2 beforehand from 6 to 8 p.m. for those that want a hit - £3.

Tickets from Wendy Proudfoot and Caroline Griffiths. Email to book and purchase. wendyproudfoot@hotmail.com or caroline.griffiths@intextmedia.com

Club Sundays

HTC is trialling Club Sunday sessions, 5 to 7 p.m. open to both the men's and women's teams. The first session was on Sunday 1st September and was attended by 6 players, men and women from various different teams, and good fun was had by all. Club Sundays are subsidised by the Club, making the cost around £3 per person for 2 hours. We will book 2 x 2 courts so numbers will be limited to 8 players. Please email Henry Horton to book a place hh.horton@gmail.com. If the session is already full you will be given first refusal on the next session. If demand is high and feedback positive then it may become weekly. **Next session is Sunday 15th September and Henry is taking bookings now!**

Another opportunity for the Women

This winter, to gain more match experience but without the demands of the Floodlit League, the Ladies Team III is carrying out a series of 2 hour matches between different pairs in the squad. Results will be collated by the captain. This is designed to test out new pairings and to apply a bit of match-style pressure as part of our winter training. If players from other teams would like to have the occasional 2 hour match at Highbury Fields against a Team III pair, please contact Caroline Griffiths on caroline.griffiths@intextmedia.com or 07753 579 867. Times and days can be flexible to suit players but we've been thinking of a regular slot on Thursday nights from 7.00pm-9.00pm. We'd love to play against some different opponents!

Highbury Tennis Club ladder

Hmmm. What to say. Three months ago 16 pairs enthusiastically signed up, tennisengine.com sent out the login details, and since then 3 matches have taken place! It seems carrots and/or sticks are needed if this is going to go any further. One bit of feedback is that there aren't enough pairs entered so it limits the number of opponents who are of a similar standard, so perhaps if more people signed up it is more likely to take off.

The ladder is a very easy way of encouraging you to play more competitive doubles tennis, as and when you can fit it in. If you'd like to join, find a same-sex partner, email your names and contact details to highburytennis@gmail.com and you will be joined to the ladder and put in touch with everyone else on the ladder. It is then up to you to challenge other pairs and fix up your matches. There is no time limit, best of 3 sets, winner enters the results. Simple as that. The more matches you win the higher up the ladder you go.

HTC Summer Tournament 2013

Thanks to everyone who played and helped to make it such a success. We look forward to another great day of tennis in 2014.

Here are the winners:

Family Doubles Winners

Jack and Scott Matthews



Men's Singles Winner

Alexander el-Nemer



Women's Doubles Winners

Melissa Hardinge and Susannah Oxley



Or, another, possibly more worthwhile and professionally run ladder is the **new Middlesex Tennis Doubles League** which starts on **16th September** and ends 31st December. This has been set up by the LTA and they say:

“the objective of the league is to give you the opportunity to play competitive matches which are not too serious against doubles pairs from neighbouring clubs. You will be placed in boxes of 5 so you will have 2 matches at home and 2 away. Players arrange matches on dates and at times that are mutually convenient.

*This new Doubles League will be powered by Tennis Jeannie as this will make it much easier for you to arrange your games and monitor the league’s progress. The best news is that this first Season is completely **Free of Charge**. To enter you must first register at the Tennis Jeannie – Middlesex Tennis Doubles League – Adults at www.tennisjeannie.com. Once registered logon and follow the onscreen instructions to complete the online entry form. In the first instance we are inviting those players who participated in the Summer Slazenger League although entry is not restricted to these players. “*

If you are interested in joining this league please note it **starts on 16th September** so you don’t have much time to find yourself a partner and sign up.

Highbury Tennis Club Treasurer’s Report

The club’s finances are looking good. Our income comes from individual membership fees (£10 per person), 50% of the summer tournament surplus and a margin on club merchandise sales. Our regular outgoings are the £200 annual membership fee to the LTA which allows us to enter tournaments and gives our paid-up members eligibility for the Wimbledon ticket ballot. The club also pays the entry fees for all our teams entering tournaments - the Middlesex Slazenger League and Floodlit Leagues – and the club will subsidise the new “Club Sundays” social tennis.

If any member would like copies of the club or tournament accounts, or of the letter thanking us for this year’s tournament charity donation, please contact me by email: caroline.griffiths@intextmedia.com.

Home Match nights

Thursday nights are proving to be popular for things other than tennis (although how anything can be more popular than tennis I fail to understand) so some team members are often not available for home matches. With this in mind we have switched match night to Tuesdays in the hope that more players are able to play, with the occasional Thursday night when necessary. Away matches can be any night.

Club Hoodies etc...

See the attached page for ideas for club merchandising. It would be great to see some of our teams kitted out in matching tops or T shirts this winter!

Mixed Doubles Winners

Kalsang Youdon and Darren Turpin



Resources

*** Racquet stringing**

Two of the coaches at Highbury fields do racquet stringing:

Viren Soma 07973 179580

Hitesh Soma 07973 188143

*** Tennis Balls**

For cheap tennis balls, free delivery, go to sportsdirect.com – Slazenger Wimbledon ultra viz £3 per can of 4.

Other useful info

***Over 60s** can now play for free at Highbury Fields during the day, Monday to Friday, all year round, and get a discounted rate at the Islington Tennis Centre. If this applies to you, get yourself an over-60s izz card and don’t forget your younger friends when looking for a tennis partner!

No more early closing on Sundays. The courts are now open, and floodlit, until 9 o’clock, 7 days a week.

And finally....

If anyone has any skills they think would be useful to us, or would like to get involved in any aspect of running the club, administering the tennis ladder, website design, being on the committee, etc, now or in the future, please let us know!

GOOD LUCK everybody in the forthcoming Floodlit league matches!

Highburytennisclub@gmail.com

<http://www.tennisonhighburyfields.co.uk/content/highbury-tennis-club>