2018 Newsletter and Welcome to the 2018/19 season

As I write this the new courts have just been declared fit for play although there are still a few refinements to be completed. This project has cost us £176k and is a major landmark for the Club. We have also spent another £57k re-carpetting our existing all weather courts and both of these amounts have been paid for with no outside finance - an incredible achievement! That means that we now have facilities second to none in the region.

Unfortunately the weather played havoc with the construction of the courts which took a little longer than planned and also made a little more mess than anticipated and this of course impacted on all members of Lytham Cricket & Sports Club. For that reason we are having a clearing up working party of Tennis members on Saturday 24 February when we hope to see as many as possible, old and young, lending a hand to tidy up the surrounds to the courts and Clubhouse.

It would be easy to sit back and reflect on a job well done but that is not the nature of the Tennis Committee and so we are now looking at our next development which we hope will involve covering 2 courts with an air dome during the winter months. Of course we do not have too much in the bank at present and so we are investigating whether we can get any monies from the LTA. We will also need planning permission and you will remember how long that took for the new courts. But that is our aspiration and we will be working hard to achieve it as soon as we can.

The new courts will enable us to offer more coaching and to take in some new members, although our membership has grown quite considerably already on the basis that we were getting new courts so if you know anyone who would like to join then they should apply asap as it is likely that the waiting list will be re-introduced in the not too distant future. Because of the high number of members the Committee feel that the Juniors have been neglected to a certain degree and so we are entering two more Junior teams in the League and also giving the Juniors priority use of the two new courts on Sunday afternoons from the end of April.

We also hope to enter a team in the Ribble League and play home matches on the carpet courts every other week during the season. There is more information about this in the Newsletter.

Membership has grown enormously since the first 4 carpet courts were built and we now have almost 100 more Senior members than in 2006. There is a danger that this increase in membership might change the identity of the Club which is cherished by practically everyone. It is important that we continue to be an all embracing Club, allowing old and new members to join in and giving everyone equal opportunities to play, whether socially for fun or competitively, also for fun. A club has been defined as a collection of like-minded people and all of us are responsible for ensuring the continued success of our Club.

Please read the entire Newsletter and enjoy your tennis

Bernard Crosby
Chairman
Teams

This year we will be running 6 Ladies and 5 Men's teams in the Fylde League. We must nominate the teams before the end of April, so if you want to be considered for selection, it is important that you attend the team practice evenings. We will be holding 2 practice evenings per week for both men's and ladies' teams. Ladies' team practice evenings will be on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 6.30pm commencing on 26 March. Men's team practice evenings will be on Tuesdays from 6.30p.m. and Thursdays from 6.30pm onwards starting on 27 March.

Fylde League Matches

The league matches will continue to be played on the grass courts and only transferred to the all-weather courts in special circumstances. This is to continue the arrangements agreed with the Fylde League.

The Ladies will continue to play a Championship Tie-Break in lieu of a third set in each rubber. The Men will play a full set as in previous years.

Ribble League

This year we have approached the Ribble League to enter a mixed team comprising 4 ladies and 4 men. Once our entry is completed and confirmed an invitation will be extended to those who would be interested in playing. The format will be explained on an evening to be arranged and open to non-Fylde League players only. Look out for more details!

The Artificial All-Weather Courts

Within reason, these courts should be playable in all weather conditions. However, resilient as the playing surface is, we should make every effort to keep the courts free from mud, grass, stones and other debris.

Please make sure that your footwear is clean before using the courts and it is every member's responsibility to brush the courts on a regular basis and use the drag nets after play - as necessary - to remove twigs, leaves and other detritus. It only takes a couple of minutes!

Floodlight tokens can be purchased behind the bar for £2 each, giving 30 minutes light per token. The floodlights automatically switch off at 10.30pm each evening.

Some common sense about suitable footwear and not playing on the courts when they are wet on, or just under the surface, will help keep them in good condition. Underfoot conditions can vary from court to court, so please do not assume your court is fit for play if another court is in use.

Finally, please respect the request of any Committee member for you not to play (or for you to suspend play) if they feel conditions are not suitable.

The Grass Courts

As usual, the two centre courts will be reserved for league matches, but the other 4 courts will be available throughout the summer season.
Junior Play

During the summer season please note that 4 of the all-weather courts are reserved for Junior Team Coaching on Monday evenings between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Two courts are also reserved for junior teams to play their matches on Saturdays from 5.00pm to 7.30pm and on Sundays from 10.30am – 12.30pm and 5:00pm – 7:00pm.

With effect from 29 April, all-weather courts 5 and 6 will be reserved on Sunday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm for junior play and juniors must take priority.

Social Tennis

Our recognised days for social tennis continue to be on Tuesday evenings from 6pm (during the summer months 1 May – 11 September) and Sunday afternoons from 2pm throughout the year. This is an especially good opportunity for members old and new to get to know each other. If there is a large number of players waiting on these days then the 'peg board' will be brought into operation by a senior member.

We do have a limited number of League matches being played on Tuesdays and we ask that Club tournament games are not played on this day or before 4.30pm on Sundays. On other evenings members may play as they please. Fridays are particularly popular when many members prepare for the weekend with some tennis and a few drinks on the verandah.

We would hope that everyone makes an effort to promote social harmony and in particular make any new members feel welcome.

Simple Court Rules and Courtesy

There are a number of simple tips of etiquette for players based on common sense and good manners;

Do not walk behind the court when games are being played. As well as being a distraction it can be dangerous.

Wind down the net at the end of play. This helps to extend the life of the net and the post.

Do not use the courts, for any reason, unless you are wearing tennis clothes and footwear. When non-members see this being done, they will assume that it is acceptable for them as well.

Respect Club times on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons when ALL members must join in and tournament matches should not be played.

Dress Code

The days of all white tennis attire are gone but we do ask that you (and your guests) wear tennis clothing.

We do not expect football shirts and non-sportswear to be worn on court. Also, please ensure that you and your guests have the correct footwear.

Visitors

Members can bring playing guests to the Club by paying the appropriate fee.

Senior members can introduce guests at a rate of £5 per session and can introduce the same guest a maximum of 3 times a year.

This should be done by filling in the details on the special envelopes which can now be found behind the bar and by leaving the correct fee in the envelope. To avoid confusion payment should be made before playing, or if the bar is closed, then as soon as possible after play.

Regrettably, junior members cannot invite visitors to the Club without the prior agreement of a Committee member.
Please note that members of other sport sections have no preferential rights to play as visitors and must be introduced by tennis members in the normal way.

Demand for court time is ever increasing and so to protect our members interests it is incumbent on all members to approach unfamiliar players as to their status unless they have been properly vouched-for, prior to play.

**Tournaments**

Entry lists for both the Level (Open) and Handicap tournaments will be put on the notice boards on the Grass Court Opening Day.

**By the very nature of the Handicap tournament the potential is for all who enter to be finalists, with that in mind please enter only if you are available for the final. Also applies to the Open Tournament.**

There is no fee to enter any senior club tournament.

Marc and Simon hope to organise two American tournaments in May (please see Dates for Diary later in the Newsletter). This is a great way for members of all standards to compete and socialise in the space of an afternoon.

**NB** In order to permit general club play, tournament matches should not be played on Tuesday evenings or before 4:30 pm on Sundays.

The Generation Game will continue under the direction of Marc Holdsworth, the Men’s Club Captain and Peter Kennedy.

**Family Walking Days**

Adam Beeby and Helen Rowe will continue to arrange walking trips and will keep you all updated on the dates. Check the website for details.

**Adult Coaching**

Greg Porter will be available to seniors for individual or group coaching by arrangement directly with him every day except Sundays. See website for details.

**Just for the Ladies!**

Greg runs ladies only sessions catering for all abilities and details can be found on the website or alternatively you can contact Greg direct (contact details at the end of this Newsletter). All members (and registered adults) are very welcome to join in.

**Social and Fund Raising Events**

Helen Rowe will continue as Social Secretary ably assisted by Gill Totty and Liz Le Cardiet and we hope that all members will support the social events during the year.

The first event of the year will be a Daffodil Disco evening on Friday 13 April which will include a presentation of the Michael Waite Memorial trophies to be given to a lady and gent who the organisers feel are most deserving based on results, matches played and who contributed most to the competition (look out for more news on this and other events through e-mails and the website).

We are always interested in raising funds from Sponsorship so if you, or your company or anyone you know, would be interested in sponsoring various events then please contact Bernard Crosby (all contact details listed further on in this Newsletter).

**The End of Season Dinner will be on Saturday 22 September.**

Please try to support our events. They are always great fun, are very reasonably priced and of course help to raise much needed funds for the Club. All tennis and social events are listed later under ‘Dates for your Diary’.
Opening Day Lunch – Sunday 29 April 2018

Places are limited so to avoid disappointment please return this form asap, and not later than Monday 16 April together with your cheque (payable to Lytham Tennis Club):

Name:
Tel:

Please reserve the following places for Open Day Lunch

_______ Seniors @ £7 per head

_______ Juniors @ £3 per head

Total Cheque enclosed: £ ____________________

It is customary for members to contribute food for the Open Day lunch. The Club captains or vice-captains will contact you about this nearer the time.

Please return to Janet Wroe, 20 Millers Close Cypress Point, Lytham St Annes, FY8 5UJ

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Dates for Your Diary 2018

Monday 26 March / Wed 28 March
Ladies’ Team Practice begins

Tuesday 27 March / Thurs 29 March
Men’s Team Practice begins

Friday 13 April
Daffodil Disco

Sunday 29 April
Opening Day Lunch (12.00 noon)
followed by an American Tournament.

Monday 14 May
Open Tournament begins

Sunday 13 and 27 May
American Tournament (Other dates to follow)

Monday 11 June
Handicap Tournament begins

Sunday 1 and 8 July
Junior Finals

Sunday 8 July
Open Finals Day

Friday 13 July
Keith Cartmell Trophy in aid of MND Green
Drive Golf Club (Dinner/ Presentations in the
Clubhouse)

Monday 17 July
Handicap Tournament begins

Sunday 9 September
Handicap Finals

Saturday 22 September
End of Season Dinner Dance

Please note that some dates may change and additional events may be planned. Check the notice board/website (lythamtennisclub.com) and/or give us your e-mail address to stay informed.

Please see the Coaches the newsletter for details of all the Junior tennis.
To avoid any confusion, we would like to point out to all members, that no other persons with tennis coaching qualifications at any level, shall practice with or knock up with any other individual members, other than family members, whether for reward or otherwise, without the prior agreement of the Club Coach.

This does not prohibit qualified coaches from becoming members of the Club, entering Club tournaments, playing in teams or joining in general Club play'.