



LYTHAM TENNIS CLUB
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2020 Newsletter and welcome to the 2020/21 season Chairman's Editorial

The Newsletter

Each year we have some members claiming that they didn't know about something to do with the Club despite it having made clear in the Newsletter. For that reason I would ask that you do read all the information that follows.

The Air Dome

This year promises to be an exciting one for Lytham Tennis Club with an air dome covering 2 courts scheduled to be installed at the end of September. An update is included with the Newsletter on page 11.

Social Tennis

For some time the Committee have been concerned about the apparent lack of enthusiasm by a large number of members for mixing in during scheduled designated 'social times' on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. For many years these times were very well attended and enhanced the atmosphere within the Club. A sub-committee has been set up to consider how we can resurrect social play so that all the courts are used and players mix in according to ability. Full details of the results of these deliberations will be available well before the start of the grass court season but if you have any ideas then please have a word with one of the Committee.

Social events

We have a great social committee who organise a number of events during the year. Some are for a specific charity and some are to raise funds for the Tennis Club. This year in particular with the extra air dome costs, we do need your help so please support the events - they are all great fun, value for money and help to foster a great atmosphere within the Club. The next event is the Beatles evening on Saturday 21st March and tickets are still available so why not give a go. Full details are on the web site. And if you have any ideas about fund raising then please let us know.

Club policies

On the website and in the Tennis Pavilion you will find details of our policies regarding safeguarding, equality, inclusion and diversity and health and safety. These are important and I would encourage you to read them.

Clubhouse and changing rooms

The development of the Clubhouse and Changing Rooms has been on the agenda for some considerable time and revised plans are being produced in the hope that something positive may happen in the not too distant future. No concrete decisions have yet been made but as soon as anything is confirmed then the information will be passed on.

Tennis Clothing

Various items of tennis clothing with the Lytham Tennis Club logo can now be purchased on line from Lytham Embroidery. Just follow the link on the tennis web site

The Courts

We welcome Tom Wells as our new Groundsman. If you do have any comments or suggestions about the courts and surrounds then please pass them on to either Brian Cackett or myself and will then discuss with Tom.

Membership

As I write this our waiting list is open and we do have vacancies for some new members so if you do know of anyone who wants to join then please ask them to follow the application process as outlined on the website. If we continue to have vacancies then it is our intention to have an Open Day on Sunday 17th May to attract new members. This will be part of the Nature Valley Big Tennis Weekend initiative sponsored by the LTA. More details nearer the time.

Subscriptions

These are due on the 1st of April and we have applied a modest increase of less than 3% to Senior subscriptions. With invoices for the dome deposit, the floodlighting conversion and ground works needing to be paid in March it would be a great help if those who are able, could pay their subscriptions asap.

Tournaments

Each year our 'Open' and 'Handicap' tournaments are well supported and having the opportunity to play competitively with and against fellow members is always enjoyable.

However, on a regular basis individuals and pairings have to be scratched from events because they do not play their matches in time. If you are going to enter the tournaments, and we hope you will, then please ensure that you do not leave playing matches until the last possible date and that you will be around for the Finals.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to play tennis at the Club provided that they are introduced by Senior members. The visitors fee remains at £5 for each visitor introduced and the fee should be left behind the bar in the envelopes provided. If the bar is closed then please don't forget to leave it next time you are there.

Just to avoid confusion each Senior member may introduce visitors on 6 occasions during the year but any individual can only be introduced a maximum of 4 times regardless of who makes the introduction.

And finally

The Committee will continue to work hard to ensure that we provide the best possible tennis facilities for all our members and also that we have a Club where members can enjoy not only tennis but also the social opportunities which are available. It is possible that we will be unable to satisfy everyone all the time so if you do have any issues then please bring them to the attention of a Committee member and we will do everything possible to resolve any problems.

Fingers crossed for a glorious summer !

Bernard
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 Tuesday and Wednesday starting at 6.00pm commencing on 1 April. Men's team practice evenings will be on Monday from 6.30p.m. and Thursday from 6.30pm onwards starting on Thursday 2 April.

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

Again this year we are entering two teams. These are mixed teams comprising 4 ladies and 4 men. As with the Fylde League practice evenings will commence Wednesday 1 April so those who have expressed an interest please come along. Look out for more information both by email and on the website.

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.

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 Artificial All- Weather Courts (see court availability at the end of this Newsletter – for guidance)

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.

Junior Play

During the summer season please note that 2 or 3 of the all-weather courts are reserved for Junior Team Coaching on Monday evenings between 4.30pm and 7.30pm.

Two to 3 courts are also reserved for junior teams to play their matches on Saturdays from 5.00pm to 7.30pm and on Sundays from 10.00am – 1.00pm and 4:00pm – 7:00pm.

With effect from 26 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

As previously noted the Committee is currently looking at various options to see if we can increase the numbers who partake in social tennis when members mix in.

No decisions have been made yet about how this can be done but we feel that one important factor to encourage participants is to ensure that members are able for the majority of the time, to play with and against other members of similar standard.

Whatever is decided will be publicised well in advance of the grass court season.

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.

Visitors A Senior member may introduce visitors on 6 occasions during the membership year but any individual can only be introduced a maximum of 4 times regardless of who makes the introduction. Thereafter that guest/visitor must apply for full membership if available. There is a visitor's fee of £5.00 each time in advance of playing. Envelopes are available behind the bar.

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.

Simon and Roy 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.

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.

This year the presentation of the Michael Waite Memorial trophies to a lady and gent who the organisers feel are most deserving based on results, matches played and who contributed most to the competition will be at the Open Day Lunch (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 12 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'.

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.

Opening Day Lunch – Sunday 26 April 2020

Places are limited so to avoid disappointment please return this form asap, and not later than Monday 13 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 contact Pam French or return this form to 9 Larchwood Close, Lytham, FY8 4RF

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Dates for Your Diary 2020



Saturday 21 March	Pre-season social (Beatles theme)
Wednesday 1 / Tuesday 7 April	Fylde Ladies' Team Practice begins
Thursday 2 / Monday 6 April	Fylde Men's Team Practice begins
Wednesday 1 April	Ribble League Practice begins
Sunday 26 April	Opening Day Lunch (12.00 noon) followed by an American Tournament.
Sunday 10 and 24 May	American Tournament (Other dates to follow)
Monday 11 May	Open Tournament begins
Monday 8 June	Handicap Tournament begins
27 – 28 June	Lytham Club Day Weekend
Sunday 12 July	Open Finals Day
Friday 17 July	Keith Cartmell Trophy in aid of MND Green Drive Golf Club (Dinner/ Presentations in the Clubhouse)
Saturday 5 September	Junior Tournament
Sunday 6 September	Junior Tournament Finals in the morning and Handicap Finals in the afternoon
Saturday 12 September	End of Season Dinner Dance
Wednesday 25 November	Tennis AGM
Friday 27 November	Sportsman's Lunch, Clifton Arms

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 Coach's Newsletter for details of all the Junior tennis.

Tennis Committee Members 2020

Chairman	Bernard Crosby	07831 894788
Secretary	Frank Murphy	01253 794734 07846 202429
Treasurer	Bernard Crosby	07831 894788
Ladies' Captain	Pam French	01253 737065 07736 325270
Ladies' Vice Captain	Judith Cooper	736948 07811 682541
Men's -Captain	Simon Whitehead	07880 738499
Men's Vice Captain	Roy Lunio	07854 377393
Subscription Secretary	Linda Clayton	01253 737710 07930 628096
Ground Representative	Brian Cackett	07585 069789
Social Secretary and Child Welfare Officer	Helen Rowe	01253 795780 07950 006923
Club Coach	Greg Porter	07738 495914
Parent of Juniors	Julie Knowles	01253 732335 07743 270363

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'.



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Court Availability – from 26 April 2020 to end of grass season.

Would all members please be aware of the following times when the carpet courts are unavailable for general use. Please also note the guidelines regarding singles play.

Sunday

Coaching on 1 court	9:00 am - 13:00 am (rarely)
Junior matches 2-3 courts	10:00 am- 1:00 pm
Club afternoon (social tennis ('mix-in') only)	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Courts 5 and 6 for Junior play	2:00 pm- 4:00 pm
Junior matches 2-3 courts	4:00 pm- 7:00 pm

Monday

Coaching on 1 court	3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Junior coaching on 2-3 courts	4:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Coaching 1 court	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday

Coaching on 1 court	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Coaching on 2 courts	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Coaching on 1 court	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Club evening (social tennis ('mix-in') only)	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Coaching on 2 courts	8:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Wednesday

Coaching on 1 court	9:00 am - 10:00 am
Coaching on 2 courts	10:00 am - 11:00 am
Coaching on 1 court	11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Coaching on 2 court	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Coaching on 1 court	6:00 pm – 9:15 pm
Ribble League 2 courts	6:30 pm - 9:30pm

Thursday

Coaching on 1 court	12:30 pm - 9:30 pm
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Friday

Coaching on 1 court	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Coaching on 2 courts	11:00am - 12:00 noon
Coaching on 1 court	12:00 noon - 4:30 pm
Coaching on 2 courts	4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Coaching on 1 court	6:00 pm - 8 00pm

Saturday

Coaching on 2 courts	8:30am - 6:00 pm
Junior matches on 2-3 courts	5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Visitors A Senior member may introduce visitors on 6 occasions during the membership year but any individual can only be introduced a maximum of 4 times regardless of who makes the introduction. Thereafter that guest/visitor must apply for full membership if available. There is a visitor's fee of £5.00 each time in advance of playing. Envelopes are available behind the bar.

Court Etiquette

Singles - The Club does not discourage singles play but if members are waiting to play doubles you must finish your set and make way for them.

Hitting Wall – Play should be restricted to 10 minutes if others are waiting to use the Wall. Singles and Doubles play have preference on court and must be respected so please therefore make way.

Please observe courtesy to other members and note courts cannot be reserved, all players must be present!

Dome update

The floodlights have now been converted to LED lamps which means that there is no waiting time between the lights going off and switching on again. Our electricity costs will also be reduced as a consequence of the change.

Work continues on creating a concrete beam around the courts and building hard standing areas for the storage shed, the fans and the entrance gate. This is likely to be ongoing for a few weeks depending upon the weather conditions. New surround netting will then be installed.

Over the last 4 weeks a small number of members have been looking at the booking parameters that they think appropriate for the use of the air dome and their recommendations have now been endorsed by the Committee. A brief summary follows but it is important to repeat that they are based on our best expectations of how the dome will be used and are **subject to review in March 2021 or earlier if the Committee think it necessary**. The basic principles have been to maximise the amount of indoor tennis, whilst making it easy to book and at a cost which is estimated to recoup the running costs and allow a relevant amount to be put aside in a Sinking Fund for future expenses.

1* The cost will be £10 per hour plus the normal floodlighting costs of £4 per hour if required.

2* Up until 5pm the courts can be booked in multiples of 30 minutes but from 5.30 they must be booked for 90 minutes.

3* Booking can be made on line via a computer, tablet or phone and payment must be made at the time of booking with a debit card and possibly PayPal. Once the payment has been made a one-time code will be issued which will allow access to the courts via a key pad.

4* Block bookings for up to 3 months will be allowed and later in the Summer members will be asked to register their requirements. These will be assessed prior to the bookings being confirmed subject to duplications etc. It is likely that those who have block booked for 3 months will have priority for the next 3 months.

We appreciate that it is possible that this will not suit everyone but it is the Committee's belief that this will provide the best way to achieve the principles outlined above.

There are a number of operating systems which will allow us to have a booking/payment/entry system as described and at present a group of IT savvy members are assessing the best option which at this early stage appears to be LTA Clubspark.