

The Backhand

Autumn 2009

The Newsletter of Worcester Lawn Tennis Club

Events Calendar 2009

9TH OCT
13/14/15 NOV
WEEKEND

LTA DINNER
OKEHAMPTON

26TH NOV CLUB AGM

19TH DEC
1ST JAN 10

XMAS PARTY
NEW YEAR'S DAY
TOURNAMENT &
BUFFET



Worcester Lawn Tennis Club has held a fund raising week in aid of St Richard's Hospice, which has raised the pleasing sum of £380.00

Club members were invited to buy cakes and raffle tickets in support of this good cause, while taking part in tennis sessions and a tournament.

The following local friends and businesses were kind enough to donate raffle and auction prizes, along with many donations from Club members :

Tunnells Opticians, Fredrix hair and beauty, Skellerns Motorcycles, Knowles Sports, Birties, Anstey's Cheese, Worcester Academy of Tennis Coaching, The K Club Gym, Gwilliams Farm Shop, Huntingdon Hall, The Art House Café and The Kukri Shop at Worcester Warriors.

Grateful thanks to all those who helped to make the events so successful and such fun!

Nicky Wilson



Chairman Address

To grow or not to grow, that is the question: whether 'tis nobler to stay as you are or to seek to be bigger.

(This is a question about tennis clubs, not plastic surgery or medical issues!)

It was one of the questions put to me (and other clubs) at the club forum organised by the county LTA on 29 April.

There are two sides to this argument as there are indeed to most issues. My first responsibility is to our existing members both senior and junior, social and team players who all want to play tennis when they come to the club. If they are all happy with their club now: why change?

However, there are some occasions when there are no courts available and I ask myself: have we got too many members, too many matches, too much coaching, do they all want to play at the same time, do we need more courts?

Can every tennis club increase its membership by 5% every year? Can every business keep on increasing its turnover every year?

The LTA would like to see "more players, better players" particularly juniors at the grass roots, and we do support the LTA as much as we can; so what are we doing?

Well, we are clearing the ground at the back of the clubhouse, expanding the car park, and making space for another court.

I have a dream for it to be a "junior zone" with a big practice wall, mini-tennis markings, a suitable surface and other equipment for our younger players. You' gotta have a dream, if you don't have a dream, how' you gonna have a dream come true?

On a personal note; I haven't been able to play much for about a year, so the social side of the club has been an enormous help to me. To those of you who are suffering from illness or injury I hope you recover soon and can enjoy your tennis (and everything else) again.

I would also like to say thank you to all the members who have supported me over the many years I have been on the committee and especially during my last role as Chairman. It was a hard decision to decide to stand down, as it has been a great experience and full of lots of good memories. I wish the committee and the new Chairman the very best for the future.

Ray Needham

The Backhand

Page 2

Fundraising 2009.

As a club this year we have raised in excess of £1,000 for St Richard's Hospice and we thank all of you who have supported our attempts to raise money for this worthy cause.

A Marathon Effort!

Saturday 8th August

Wonderful summer weather (at last!!!) brought out a good crowd to witness Chris Langford and Ali Reece undertake a 12 hour Tennis Marathon in aid of St Richard's Hospice. Play began at 9am and continued throughout the day as a selection of Members and visitors from other clubs paid to spend an hour on court with the tireless duo.

As part of the peripheral activities, around two dozen diners enjoyed an alfresco buffet lunch and then went out on court themselves to join in the normal Saturday afternoon social session --- small wonder some of the tennis was a bit stodgy after what they'd consumed!!!

Other events and competitions were also organised to keep the spectators amused and keep the money dropping into the collection buckets, but, as the afternoon sunshine gradually faded into a balmy evening, the Bar was opened, the BBQ lit and even the table tennis fell silent as everyone gradually settled down into relax mode.



When the assembled crowd had counted down the final ten seconds of the Marathon 12 hours,



two exhausted players made their way to the net and shook hands for the last time that day. Meanwhile, Chris and Ali, (looking almost as fresh as they had done at the start of the day) returned the handshakes and hurried off to demolish a few dozen **hot dogs** and **cold beers**.



They'd played a total of 202 games and, despite the rather unsportsmanlike tactics employed by certain pitiless opponents, who first tried drop-shotting and then, (can you believe it?) even resorted to **lobbing** our young heroes, the pair had remained undefeated as a team throughout the twelve hours of play. It is rumoured that, as a result, at least one top ATP coach is after the recipe for the Tuna Pasta Bake they had for lunch!

The whole event turned into a wonderful "club day" and we should be justly proud of both the two lads themselves and everyone else who contributed in any way to make the day such a success. And now for the most important result Although an accurate final figure is not yet available, over £300 was pledged in sponsorship before the event and a further £125 was raised through the "Pay to Play" system. The Lunch, BBQ and other activities on the day raised another £100 and a further £140 was given in memory of Ali's grandmother, Ena Reece, who died recently. It looks likely the grand total will be in the region of £670. A terrific effort, well done Chris and Ali and well done WLTC!!

The Backhand

Page 3

Junior News

We're delighted to report that a number of Worcester Lawn Tennis Club's juniors excelled recently at the annual Junior County Closed Tennis Championships held at Manor Park in Malvern.

Ruth Horsburgh claimed the under 12s girls singles title and was on the winning team in the under 12s doubles.

Ruth just missed out on a hat-trick, finishing second in the under 14s mixed doubles with Ben Tolhurst. Kate Horsburgh claimed the title in the under nines girls tournament.

Kirsten Campbell-Ferguson won the under eights girls singles, Georgi Cupper finished third in the under nines girls section and Josh Wares was fourth in the under eights boys singles.

Katie Cupper made the quarter-finals of the under 12s girls singles.

Well done to all those that took part!



From left to right:
Ben Tolhurst, Josh Wares, Kate Horsburgh,
Katie Cupper, Georgi Cupper, Ruth Horsburgh

Coaching News

We are now taking bookings for our **Autumn Half Term Holiday Camps**.

We have courses for all ages and abilities taking place from **26th – 30th October 2009**.

How To Book / Reserve Your Place

All of our courses can be booked by either completing an application form and posting to the relevant address with the associated payment. Application forms for all of our courses are available to download by clicking the following web link:

www.worcestertennis.co.uk/downloads

Alternatively, all of our courses can be booked online, via our website payment system.

ONLINE BOOKING DISCOUNT !!!

As with our Summer Holiday Courses, a discount of £5 per course is available on all "full week" holiday courses booked via our website. To go directly to the course booking section of our website, please follow the link below:

www.worcestertennis.co.uk/shop

PLEASE NOTE! Places on the half term holiday camps are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis – so please be quick to secure your place!!

The Backhand

Page 4

Le Vesinet, Paris visit June 2009

Our visit coincided with the Worcester Twinning association trip by coach where families in Le Vesinet hosted not only our visitors but also guests from Germany, Spain and Canada.

We flew from East Midlands staying in a hotel near the Le Vesinet Tennis Club. A car was provided by, driven by Florence and we were picked up on Friday at 9.15am for breakfast at the club followed by tennis with the ladies section organised by the club coach.

The club has four clay courts and we occupied three of them playing a mini tournament. At 12.30pm lunch was provided with far too much wine and cassis.

The clubhouse is situated in a beautiful park surrounded by a lake and wonderful gardens.

Using RER which was nearby we caught a train and spent the afternoon in Paris.

Saturday Phil and Mitch played a fixed man's four while Chris played a singles. Bev did the sitting enjoying the sun duty.

Our opponents on both days included UK ex pats working in Paris which helped a lot with translations.

Saturday lunch was after the twinning ceremony, an open war ensued to get at the buffet followed by a boat trip on the Seine, then that evening again Flo Le Taxi got us to a formal dinner at a school hall in Le Vesinet, carrying on until the early hours. Our host Anne Marie excelled with her Spanish, English and German translations.

Sunday was the picnic in the park, where about 50 barbecues were lit up for anyone to use, and dozens of large tables were provided for families to sit. We met up with the Worcester group and many of the French Jumelage Society.

Conclusions.

Great fun, good tennis, good weather, met many new friends and now intend to progress this to invite the French to Worcester next year and ask our members to accommodate them.

A return visit I suggest should occur, the Twinning Society are looking for new members to take part and visit next June for more of the same.

There is another larger tennis club nearby that is a French National tennis centre with 800 members and we could also play there as some of Le Vesinet twinning society are members there also.

Mitch

Are you interested in either visiting or hosting or both, let Mitch know.

01905 452267 mcpmitchell@tiscali.co.uk

