

Chilham Tennis Club 2011 – News

Dear Member(s)

Welcome to the 2011 season

This year's Spring Social is on Friday 6th May and will be held as usual in The Woolpack at 7.30pm. Please make an effort to come. This is an opportunity to meet other members of the club, pay your subscription and, if you are a British Tennis Member, qualify for the Wimbledon ticket draw, which also takes place on the night. It is also an opportunity to raise any issues or concerns you may have with committee members and make suggestions regarding the running of the club.

The recreation ground trust, who own our courts and charge the club an annual fee, have reviewed their fee structure to address a shortfall where income (mainly from the Sports Centre hire charges) has not covered expenditure. More details regarding the facilities offered at the Sports Centre can be obtained from the booking secretary on 01227 730693.

As a result our annual club fees have increased from £350 to £1000. To cover this increase we need to increase Membership subscriptions (which have not changed for 5 years). Adult membership will increase by £5 to £35, family membership by £10 to £70, while junior and senior citizen membership will remain at £20. However, these subscriptions are still very low compared to neighbouring clubs with similar facilities.

It remains club policy to keep membership fees as low as possible to encourage membership whilst providing sufficient funds to ensure the courts can be maintained to a satisfactory standard. Our decision just over 3 years ago not to resurface but to paint and bind the surface to extend the life of the courts has proved to be a good one. This expenditure (about £4k) was justified at the time on the basis that it would extend the life of our courts by 3 years. This has already been achieved and judging by the current condition of our courts we will not have to resurface for at least another 2 years.

Over recent years, club sessions (Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings) have been very poorly attended. The committee feels this is an opportunity wasted and is interested in hearing from members who would be interested getting these sessions going again. The committee have been considering erecting a small club house overlooking the courts next to the practice wall and renewed interest in club sessions would be an argument for taking this idea forward.

Danny will be organising coaching sessions for juniors aged 5 to 15 during the Easter holidays from Tuesday 12th April to Thursday 14th April. Contact Danny on 07947 403054 for more details and to book places.

Sadly, our membership secretary is retiring after nearly 7 years of sterling service in the job. We are sure all members will join the rest of the committee in thanking Sandra for the great job she has done during this period. But we now need to find a replacement before the end of the summer. ***This job is vital to the future of the club so any member who can spare a few hours to help out in this role is encouraged to contact Geoff Dear on 01227 752424.***

We hope that you continue to enjoy playing tennis at our club and look forward to meeting you at the Spring Social on 6th May at 730pm in The Woolpack.

With Best Wishes,

The Committee

(Roger Paler - Chairman; Sandra Lusted - Membership Secretary; Geoff Dear - Secretary and Treasurer)

Please note: Chilham Tennis Club cannot accept responsibility for accidents, or injuries which may occur to members, or non-members, whilst using the clubs facilities, or for loss or damage to private possessions. Playing on a damp/wet court can cause serious injury and is therefore not recommended.