



Lympstone Tennis Club

VOLLEY

Tennis for Lympstone

From the Chairman

Welcome to the latest Newsletter for members of Lympstone Tennis Club. I am pleased to report that we have had a very successful season again this year, with all of our teams doing well. We have also had a good mix of club tennis and social tennis with tournaments and barbeques, and both junior and senior coaching programmes have been well supported and successful. We have also raised money via bridge evenings to contribute to the Village Hall redevelopment. Our annual dance was the highlight of our social calendar, where James Isaacs took the biscuit with his intriguing costume and funky dancing.

I should like to thank all the members of the Committee for their unwavering efforts to make things happen and keep the Club in good order and in good heart, and all those members who have helped with court maintenance, ball monitoring, social functions etc through the year. May I wish you well with your tennis, and thank you for supporting our Village Club.

Being Christmas, I have been inclined to pen a few words of verse for your amusement (hopefully).

Adrian (276 922)

'Tis the season of joy and Christmas cheer,
A good time to reflect upon our year,
The Winter filled the courts with snow and ice,
It was really cold and not very nice.

Then came the Annual General Meeting,
Our subscription fees still take some beating,
We set our rates at fifty pounds,
We are by far the best around.

Springtime came and our teams got started,
We had some new members and others departed,
The coaching sessions were well attended,
Flaws were tweaked and bad habits mended.

The Summer arrived and the club is swinging,
B.B.Q.s, Tournaments and racket re-stringing,
The Committee planned out the fund raising bash,
We have a great time and raise a bit of cash.

The teams fight hard in their respective leagues,
Some show signs of battle fatigue,
All our players do incredibly well,
And our trophy cabinet swells.

Autumn's here and the nights draw in,
The leaves on the courts are gathering,
In between rallies and top spin lobs,
Members sweep up and make a good job.

The backhand slices and the dodgy calls,
The over sensitivity about the balls,
There's something for everyone at our friendly club,
Our Christmas activities are a real hub,

So when you're pinning up your Yule-tide Holly,
Take time to read your festive Volley,
Good will to all members at this time of year,
See you at The Swan where you can buy me a beer.



Season Match Report

The Men's A team had another successful year gaining promotion as Champions for the third year in a row. A mixture of 'young guns' and older experienced hands proved the right blend to bring home the silverware. The success of all teams last season was fantastic for the Club. 'Mr Tennis' (Adrian) can now relax after a season of checking every club's score, every day, making sure how many points were needed in the next game for our teams to remain at the top - only until next season of course! – *Barrie*

The Men's B Team had a slow start to the season with some very average results. We were around mid table for the first third but then we began to grind out some good results and by the last third of the season we dared think about the possibility of promotion. As our momentum grew, so did our determination and we became difficult to beat. Our last match of the season was a good natured encounter against our old friends Kingsteignton. We needed 4 points to gain promotion and 6 points to become Champions. In the end we managed 7 points and were very satisfied with our season having scored more points than any other team in the men's league (including our Men's A). – *Adrian*

Having gained promotion in 2009, **the Ladies** found the challenge of playing in a higher division initially rather daunting. Our early results did not do us justice (we felt), but we managed to keep our focus and stay just ahead of the bottom two clubs. Some excellent results at the end of the season saw us move safely clear of the relegation zone and we look forward to next year with enthusiasm! – *Jill*

The Lymstone Mixed Team had a very successful season ending up towards the top of the division and they are now having some enjoyable, albeit, cold matches in the Winter League. – *Ann*

Our **Junior teams** performed well again this year in the East Devon Lawn Tennis League. We entered an under 13 Boys team, an under 13 Girls team and an under 16 Girls team. For the first time in many years we were unable to field an under 16 Boys team. Both Girls teams won their leagues! Well done to Christy Moxham, Harriet Handford and Millie Dart for the U 13 and to Helena Anthony, Georgia Reece, Georgia Anthony, Heidi Collings, Laura Allen, Rachel Strickland, Natalie Hayes and Millie Dart for the U 16. The boys Matthew Farmer, Freddie House and Harry Michelmore tried hard in division 1, but Budleigh Salterton was too strong for them. It is a shame that some of the matches were cancelled when opponents couldn't raise teams. – *Marleen*

Seniors Coaching

The enthusiasm of Lymstone Tennis Club has amazed me yet again. The resilience of the coaching group to the harsh and unpredictable British weather has caught me out. On one occasion I thought the cold, miserable wind and rain was a step too far, and I went to put a notice up at the Club to say that tennis was cancelled. To my amazement, when I arrived at the club with the 'CANCELLED' notice, Judith Carter and Jim Morris were standing there rackets in hand! Judith was fairly quick to agree that it would be better to go back to the warm and dry and wait till next week. Jim appeared astonished at why nobody else wanted to play tennis in the driving rain!

This enthusiasm and commitment is the reason that so many players have improved. The two groups have made steady progress and have had good attendance. The less experienced group (the more well-dressed of the two groups!) have continued improve in all areas and develop some more confident match play which has made the games at the end of the session much fun to watch for the arriving advanced group. The advanced group are becoming more skilled and are playing with more technical shots. Both groups has also been well attended and with a good camaraderie. The sessions have been really enjoyable for me to coach, and I look forward to meeting up again when the weather improves in 2011. – *Jon Duplock, Seniors Coach*

Juniors Coaching

The juniors at Lypstone continue to improve and punch above their weight in competitive events. All of the juniors have made real strides and are playing at a level that is the envy of many, much larger clubs. We probably have more juniors through our programme on Summer Saturday mornings than any other club in Devon. Which is a remarkable testament everyone; players, parents, club members and coaches. It also reflects the support that the committee continue to give to the junior programme.

Above all the juniors conduct themselves impeccably and are great ambassadors for the club.

It is also worth pointing out that our some of our home grown juniors are now playing representative matches for our senior teams. And winning what's more!

Next year we will be organising a special trip to Wimbledon for our juniors, provisionally planned for the first Monday of the Championships. This will be a fantastic opportunity for juniors and parents alike to visit the World's premier tennis event. More details will follow in the New Year. – *James Isaacs, Juniors Coach*

Senior / Junior Tournament

The second Senior/Junior Tournament for 2010 took place in October. Eleven adults and five juniors took part, with a high standard of play from everyone. The afternoon was arranged so that players kept with the same partner and, with an on-going handicap, this meant there were some close results. The tournament ended with a thrilling final and the eventual winners were Cameron and Adrian with Harry and James as runners up. This is proving to be a popular event, one to look out for next year. – *Wendy*

Social Tennis

Social tennis at the Club revolves around the Club Sessions on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, when chatting is a valued activity and much tea is consumed together with the odd biscuit or even cake ! The player rotation system is most ingenious involving as it does named clothes pegs and a peg board, but nonetheless it fulfils an essential function. By this means, a fair rotation of players is assured and good players and less experienced players are routinely drawn together. This gives the latter a chance to play with better players and to test themselves in that environment. There is sometimes an inclination for the better players to want to play together, especially when an important match is coming up, and that is quite understandable. Occasionally this is sanctioned, but for the most part, the mixing up rule prevails. This is important for the Club as it defines the type of club that we are – welcoming, friendly and keen to help new starters and players wanting to improve.

Members of the groups who play on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings may be past their peak of physical agility (at the Cliff Richard end of the age spectrum ?), but having been a stand in from time to time in these groups, I can vouch for the fact that tennis skills never go. The legs may be weak, but the volleys remain deadly ! Keith's service remains testing, John's spinners baffle even the wary, Bobby's forehand is as solid as ever, and Margaret's cross court volleys are unstoppable ! (Apologies for not mentioning everyone). As well as an enjoyable form of exercise which is very important in itself, the best part of such matches is the social discourse which takes place between the sets. Points of etiquette are revisited (e.g. don't return a fault service) and many a good story is related. It sometimes even gets in the way of the tennis, but so what, it's the stuff of which villages such as our's thrive ! - *Ron*

Village Hall Update

Since I took over from Barrie Bissett the whole set up of the Committee has changed and instead of having six meetings a year we divided up into four sub-groups and I elected to go on the fundraising sub-

committee. The village hall is a charity and as your representative I am also one of the 12 Trustees of the Hall with all the legalities this involves. If you have any concerns, comments (bad or hopefully good), or queries you may contact me in the first instance.

As you know the condition of the hall had slowly deteriorated over the years and in particular the roof had become a grave cause for concern. The renovation is being tackled in three stages and the first two – including new bar and roof - have now been completed to a very high standard. The amount spent so far is £107,000 and has included items such as a new 3-phase electrical supply which are not immediately obvious. I am very pleased to report that these two projects have been completed under budget and in particular although the work on the roof was inconvenient it was carried out with less disruption to our tennis than I anticipated.

£ 46,500 has been obtained through grants and a donation from Lympstone Parish Council. The grants were dependent on fundraising for a substantial amount of the cost and this is where my group was involved. So far we have raised just under £35,000. The balance has come from the Hall's own reserves and income. The next project will be the total renovation of the kitchen which will cost in the region of £30,000. This will be undertaken in the summer of 2011. Although this seems a very large sum there will be substantial building works with the re-siting of a wall and door, new floor and ventilation as well as all the commercial grade kitchen appliances, storage and work surfaces.

In our fundraising account we have in the region of £7,000 towards the new kitchen and have expectation of more. It is for this reason that we are asking the various organisations in the village to stage one more event for the Hall. It would be really helpful if someone in the tennis club has a good idea for this. For example a member of the Sailing Club held a 'Line Dance Party' which raised £500. The Village Hall is free for fund raising events and the fundraising committee are always on hand to lend help. With regard to help we have a really good team of helpers (not on the committee) and are always happy to have more. We have great fun at the various events, so if you would like to join us please phone me. – *Suki 269989*.

Club Champions 2010



From the Cracker . . .

- To err is human. To put the blame on someone else is . . . doubles.
- Q: What do you serve but not eat? A: A Tennis Ball.
- Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible? A. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Happy Christmas to One and All !

For further information, visit our website: www.lympstonetc.co.uk

Chairman – Adrian Barton 276922; Secretary – Jill Dixon 224774; Treasurer – Andrew Lorenc 263068

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