

Editorial

A wonderfully sunny summer has allowed tennis to thrive at Manor Park. Thanks to Bill Fleming and Dave Smith the grass courts have been revolutionised and enjoyed by many and with plans for the next year already in action they should be even better. We really are so lucky having so many dedicated members who give up their time to make the club the unique place we know it is. Steve Lewis continues to keep both the Astro and the Clay Courts in excellent condition on a regular basis. (We know he enjoys working the new machine!)

Social tennis thrives both on Tuesdays and Saturdays and again thanks to the enthusiasm and regular commitment shown by Cleland Newton and Dianah Marlow and not forgetting the cake rota so ably organised by Lesley Lowndes. Regular rotas also take place for men and women and are very successfully set up by Rob Redman, Helene Garnett and many others.

On the competitive side our women’s teams have surpassed themselves and with strength in depth our Ladies Teams have won every division in the H&W County League in which they competed – four winning teams! Well done to all the captains and to Penny Smith for taking on the role of overall Ladies Captain.

We look forward to a successful autumn and winter season.

H & W County League Results

The Ladies teams have excelled themselves this summer. The Ladies A team are county champions for a second successive year, with congratulations due to A team captain Katy Lewin. Ladies’ teams B, C and D won respectively Divisions 2, 4 East and 6 East. Men’s teams have stayed mid-division except for lowest team F who finished bottom of Division 6 East. Mixed teams A, B and C, all in the top division, had amazing results, finishing contrary-wise in positions 3, 1 and 5. Mixed D were top of Division 6 East and mixed E top of division 4 East – note the anomaly that Team E are in a higher division than Team D. So, the Ladies and Mixed teams won every division they competed in, seven in all.

Annual Tennis Section Open Meeting
Wednesday 16th November at 7.45 pm

As last year, tennis section members are invited to an Open Meeting of the Tennis Committee to see how the committee operates and to express their views on current issues. For instance, to provide more all-weather courts there is a choice to be made between resurfacing the grass courts or the acrylic courts. With more play than ever, concerns have been raised about priorities on the advance block booking of courts. The way that the indoor courts are being integrated into Manor Park is a topic of interest for tennis members.

Racketlon World Champion



In August I travelled to Vienna in Austria to represent Great Britain in the Racketlon World Championships. Racketlon is a sport where you play a game of table tennis, followed by a game of badminton, a game of squash and finally a game of tennis. Each sport is played to 21 points and the player with the most points at the end wins the match.

I won the U18 Girls Singles, U16 Girls Doubles and was runner up in the U18 Mixed Doubles meaning I am a double World Champion! My matches involved playing against players from other countries such as Germany, Austria and India. I really enjoyed standing on the podium whilst the National Anthem was played! Being part of Team GB was amazing, everybody was very friendly and supportive and we definitely had the loudest team!
Beth Pye

‘Play your Way to Wimbledon’

In August I took part in the 14U ‘Play Your Way to Wimbledon’ National Finals. I was in a box with three other county winners from across the country and over three days we competed against each other on the Aorangi courts. I beat two boys and lost one match (to the boy who ended up winning overall). I was able to progress from the group stages to the last 24 boys in the knockout main draw. Unfortunately, I lost my next match therefore ending my 4-day Wimbledon experience. It was fun being at Wimbledon, the grass was amazing, everyone was really nice. It was a great experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.
Ollie Ruddick

Indoor Tennis at Manor Park MACIT is ours

On 1st January 2023 the ownership of the indoor courts will be transferred to Manor Park Club. Instead of being a separate organisation shared with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire LTA, MACIT will become a seventh section of the Club supervised by the Manor Park Management Committee. Tennis members will not see immediate changes to court availability because existing arrangements with the county are being maintained. All club tennis members are members of MACIT. Membership is available at a modest subscription for others who only wish to play tennis indoors.

MACIT history

Some 30 years ago, following a National LTA indoor tennis initiative, the County LTA chose the Manor Park Club to site their new indoor tennis hall. The County LTA took a 15-year loan from the National LTA to build MACIT (Malvern and County Indoor Tennis). An agreement was made between the Manor Park Club and the County LTA covering a 28-year period for the County to have an allocation of free court time and for the tennis hall to be staffed by volunteers from the Manor Park Club tennis membership, after which time the hall was to revert to the Manor Park Club ownership. The tennis hall was opened in autumn 1994 and within 10 years, due to its financial success and popularity, MACIT decided to build a third indoor court over tarmac court 13, using a 10-year National LTA loan to be repaid by MACIT, and this was achieved by 2021. The loan also enabled the conversion of the tarmac courts 14 and 15 to clay carpet. At the end of 2022 the indoor hall becomes a section of the Manor Park Club tennis facility.

Booking indoor courts

The booking system for the indoor courts was originally done on paper in MACIT. Several years ago, MACIT joined the Club tennis court booking system, enabling members to book courts on-line. To offset the considerable costs of building and maintaining indoor courts a court fee was instigated. Payment of the court fee has been by putting coins into envelopes posted down a tube into an underground safe.

The task of counting and banking large volumes of coins has become excessive, and a means of on-line payment has been sought. This has been in trial use since July and is now likely to become permanent. Only organised rotas retain the previous payment method.

Indoor courts can be booked on a smart phone using the 'Booker' app. To obtain the app put 'Booker app' into a browser and download it. Once installed with a password it can be called up and used to book an indoor session, paid for on-line with a credit or debit card. Alternatively go to 'Tennis' on the club website and 'Book an indoor court'. A booking can be cancelled with refund if it is more than 24 hours in the future.

A change to the operation is that court lights are always now available for use, subject to the switch being on and motion being detected. To pay for this availability of daytime lighting the off-peak charge has been increased. Indoor court fees are now: peak time (Monday to Friday after 5.30 pm and all-day Saturday and Sunday): £6.50 per half hour. Off-peak time: £5 per half hour. In each case a booking must be for a minimum of an hour.

Club Charity Doubles Tournament

held on Thursday 23rd June 2022

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People was the chosen charity for this annual event with 25 pairs competing. An excellent lunch was provided by Anna Paisley, Jane Bain brought her clothing display and the event raised £700 for the Charity. The winning pairs were as follows: Bob Mannion & Phil Mifflin, Sue Rowsell & Amy Wells, Derek & Sam Cooke, Nila More and Carol Cole, Anne Turley & Jackie Surplis. All received an hour's free coaching donated by each Coach within the Manor Park Team.

Save the Children Charity Event

held on Wednesday 7th September 2022

Sixteen pairs were competing in four leagues in sunny weather when at 12.15 pm, with the last matches on court, there was a cloudburst. Luckily it passed, the games were completed and there was bright sunshine for the photo of the winners: Emma Fleming & Jill Piner, Vicki Advani & Janet Murray, Sue Allman & Susanna Michael, Jean Markwort & Gill Munro. An excellent lunch was laid on by helpers of Save the Children. The total sum raised was just over £600. The organisers were Cleland Newton and Georgie Linford.

Battle of the Sexes

held on Saturday 14th May 2022

It was an awesome day with 40 players locking horns and the whole match result hinging on the very last rubber. Scores were 21-19 to the men with the double point match to finish the day off. Sam L and Sam E edged the win over Ellie and Regi to bring overall victory home for the men. A fantastic day, weather was perfect and the bbq was scrummy. Special mention for Phil Mifflin for winning MVP and having the only 100% record of the day.

Tennis Committee 2021-2022

Chairman:	Jane Poynder
Hon. Secretary:	Elaine Fleming
Membership Secretary:	Cleland Newton
Hon. Treasurer:	Geoff Titmuss
Grounds Controller:	Sam Mackenzie
Fixtures Secretary:	Joel Talcott Club
Coach:	Chris Skinner
Club Welfare and Safeguarding Officer:	Ali Tuck
Committee Members:	Pete Clarke, Anna Laidler, Steve Lewis, Jo Marks, Dianah Marlow, Joe Riley

Benjamin Cup

held on Saturday 16th July 2022

It was an amazing day's tennis at this year's Benjamin Cup with The Professors retaining their title for the second year on the trot. The winning team consisted of Chris Skinner, Rachel Prudden, John Clarke, Davide Compagno, Reece Taylor-Locke, Nicky Browne, Ollie Ruddick, Penny Smith & David James. They battled through the group stages and with the final vs 'The Albatrosses' hanging at 2-2 after 4 rubbers, Chris Skinner & Nicky Browne won a nail-biting final rubber with a tie break shoot-out victory in front of a packed crowd on the bank. The wonderful 'Tacos Bandits' served up burritos to everyone afterwards, all washed down with plenty of drinks. A perfect summer's day at Manor Park.

Background to the Benjamin Cup

Mike Benjamin joined Manor Park in 2012 having recently moved into the area following his retirement as Professor of Bio Science at Cardiff University. During his time as a member here, Mike made many friends and was greatly admired for his consistent performance and athleticism which at times belied his age. His long upper limbs made him a formidable presence particularly at the net and this huge wingspan earned him the nickname 'The Albatross' of which he was very proud. More importantly, Mike was well known throughout the club as just the loveliest man you could hope to meet, often described as a perfect gentleman, he was incredibly bright, self-effacing, always cheerful and easy company. Mike never had a bad word to say about anyone and nobody had a bad word to say about him. Sadly, Mike was diagnosed with cancer in January 2017 and after a short but courageous battle with the disease passed away on 8th August 2017. Mike's family subsequently expressed a wish to donate a trophy to Manor Park which could be presented to the winners of an annual event and the idea of The Annual Benjamin Cup event in Mike's memory was born.

6th Annual Grand Slam Tournament (RobFest)

held on Saturday 25th July 2022

The event was another great success with our biggest entry yet of 70 players (35 pairs) from Manor Park and beyond competing for 5 prestigious titles. The winners were:

Wimbledon - Chris Marlow & Roch Mirski
US Open - CBH & George Elias
French Open - Jack & Derrick Pewtner
Australian Open - Miles Meager & Neil Ruddick
World Tour Finals - Karen Pewtner & Stu Green

This year's event was kindly sponsored by Malvern Law (Roger Kennell)

7th Annual England vs The RoW Event

held on Saturday 13th August 2022

The Club held its England vs The Rest of the World Ladies & Gentlemen's Doubles Event on a very warm Saturday – 35°C!! 56 players took part in this fun and hugely popular event. For the fourth successive year the match was won by England overcoming a strong Rest of the World Team by 283 games to 220 games to go ahead in the series for the first time 4-3. This year's winners' drinks were again kindly sponsored by John Milton. After the match players enjoyed a delicious bbq prepared by Jill Holmwood and her helpers. Big thanks are also due to the event organisers Rob Redman & Ruth Jones.

Ripple Cup

held on Saturday 1st October 2022

What a top day's tennis! Brilliant entertainment, gorgeous Greek street food from Mr. Gyro and lots of drinks sunk to celebrate. After battling through six matches, the nail-biting final was fought out between Mike Marks & Nicky Browne vs John Clarke & Mark Davies, with Mike & Nicky saving match points to win 9-7 in the final set tie break. Di Marlow & Katy Lewin won the plate, edging past Kevin Wilkins & Stu Ramsey in the final. A big thank you to Jos and Wye Valley Brewery for sponsoring the event. The 1985 lager went down a treat!



The winners of the Ripple Cup 2022

Junior News

Our juniors continue to make strides on the competitive front and both our 8U and 9U junior teams were undefeated in the H&W league – a good sign for the future. It was tremendous that Ollie Ruddick won his place in the newly named 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon' competition. Sam Laidler did well in winning the 16U Boys Singles in the Grade 3 Malvern Open and Andrew Marlow took the 8U title. The event was sponsored for the first time by A Plan Insurance and we much appreciate their support.

There has been county representation for both Luca Mainini and Ruby Taylor in the 9U Inter County Event and both have been selected to attend an LTA National Performance Regional Camp. Oliver Stevens and Ayrton Little both represented the county in the 12U Inter County Event. In the 12U Girls Event Leila Meager was undefeated in her singles matches and the team won the Division and now go forward to the final in Nottingham. Beth Pye and Holly Stephens played in the successful 18U winning team back in March. Sam Cassidy, Sam Laidler, Roch Mirski and Sam Lea competed in the 18U County Team.

In the H&W County Championships Ruby Taylor won the 9U Event, Zoe Walsh won the 10U Event, Maddie Walsh won the 14U Event. Harry Mifflin was r/u in the 8U Event, Andrew Marlow r/u in the 9U Event, Sam Laidler r/u in the 16U Event. There was success in the doubles events with Sam Cassidy and Sam Laidler winning the 16U Doubles and Sam Laidler winning the 18U Doubles with Joe Hart.

A final mention should go to our excellent team of coaches – Chris Skinner, Chris Marlow, Matt Tully and Katy Lewin who have all contributed to our junior success. Full details of all the results can be found on the H&W website.

Coaching Programme

Sessions begin as from Monday 12 September

Adult Coaching Groups – Indoor Acrylic

Tuesday 9.00 – 10.30 am

Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30 pm

Junior Outdoor Groups Older

Tennis 14 – 18 years

Monday 7.30 – 8.30 pm

Green to Young Teens 11 – 14 years

Monday and Thursday 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Orange/Green 9 – 10 years

Monday and Thursday 5.30 – 6.30 pm

Saturday 10.00 – 11.00 am

Red Mini Tennis 4– 8 years indoors

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4.30 – 5.30 pm

Saturday 9.00 – 10.00 am

Club Tournament Results: Adults

Main events

Men's Singles: Charlie Titmuss

r/u Matt Tully

Ladies' Singles: Katy Lewin

r/u Ellie Fleming

Men's Doubles: Sam Laidler & Charlie Titmuss

r/u Paul Burgess & Chris Skinner

Ladies' Doubles: Ellie Fleming & Katy Lewin

r/u Beth Pye & Regi Ristic-North

Mixed Doubles: Paul Burgess & Katy Lewin

r/u Charlie Titmuss & Regi Ristic-North

Men's Singles 60+: Rory Guilding

r/u Geoff Smith

Men's Doubles 60+: Geoff Smith & Barry Tuck

r/u Rory Guilding & Pete Moore

Ladies' Doubles 60+: Lorraine Ristic & Penny Smith

r/u Jenny Poole & Sarah Connell

Mixed Doubles 50+: Rory Guilding & Alice Davey

r/u Geoff & Penny Smith

Family Doubles: Neil & Ollie Ruddick

r/u Ayrton Little & Carl Varney

Plate events

Men's Singles: Matt Baum

r/u Ayrton Little

Ladies' Singles: Simona Armstrong

r/u Cattleya Petchsingh

Men's Doubles: Alfie Mills & Ollie Ruddick

r/u James Green & John Milton

Ladies' Doubles: Penny McKechnie & Pia Michelsen

r/u Simona Armstrong & Cattleya Petchsingh

Mixed Doubles: Grant & Jade Hume

r/u Geoff & Sarah Titmuss

Men's Singles 60+: Dave Fraser

r/u Steve Pennant

Ladies' Doubles 60+: Penny McKechnie & Sarah

Titmuss, r/u Linda Horniblow & Jane Smallwood

Mixed Doubles 50+: Bob Mannion & Paula Daniel

r/u Geoff & Sarah Titmuss

Family Doubles: Grant & Owen Hume

r/u Joe & Lewis Parker

Club Tournament Results: Juniors

Singles

U8: Andrew Marlow Group A, James Marlow Group B

U9: Ruby Taylor, r/u Luca Mainini

U10 Boys: Lewis Parker, r/u George Orgee

U10 Girls: Ruby Taylor, r/u Zoe Walsh

U12 Boys: Oli Stevens, r/u Ayrton Little

U12 Girls: Leila Meager, r/u Haile Lees-Howell

U14 Boys: Ollie Ruddick, r/u Oli Stevens

U14 Girls: Daisy Williams, r/u Leila Meager