



England v the Rest of the World Event 2018 - photo John Rees

### Club Social Calendar

Mixed Doubles	Sunday 30 September
H & W LTA Dinner	Saturday 13 October
Tennis Section AGM	Wednesday 21 November
Christmas Party	Friday 21 December
Club New Year Dinner	Saturday 9 February 2019
New Season Evening	Tuesday 2 April 2019
Wimbledon Ballot	April 2019
Tournament Finals	September 2019

### Editorial

What a difference sunshine makes! The tennis season flourished in the good weather and thanks to the energies particularly of Rob Redman and Chris Barr-Hamilton the additional competitive events at the club have re-energised internal competitive play with much on going socialising after the events. Long may it continue! Despite flirting with the idea of croquet on the grass courts in fact there has been quite regular grass court tennis this summer and whilst the aim is now to keep the courts in good condition for tennis next summer there is still a desire to try and find funds to change at least two of the grass courts into a synthetic surface. So additional funding is being sought. Watch this space.

### Charity Doubles

Twenty-one pairs competed in the 2018 Charity Tournament held on July 21st. Again the sun shone, a wonderful lunch was provided by Anna Paisley, tennis clothing was on sale from Jane at Ask Sal and a total of £562 was raised for the Rowan Suite at the Worcestershire Royal Hospital. The four winning pairs received a free lesson with one of the Malvern Tennis Academy coaches.

### The Ripple Cup

Thirty-two players took part in the third year of this popular competition which was won by Jamie Marks and Andy Bond. The event is sponsored by James Mackenzie who also helps to fund the junior performance programme and his support is very much appreciated.

### RobFest

Manor Park hosted its third Annual Grand Slam Tennis Doubles Tournament (RobFest) at the club on Saturday 23rd June. 48 players from Manor Park and a number of clubs in South Wales took part in this hugely successful and enjoyable event which was followed by a super Grand Slam Evening Party in the Cafe Bar. The results were:

Wimbledon Winners: Tobie & Seb Timmermans  
 r/u Jamie Marks & Ellie Fleming  
 US Open Winners: Ben Westwood & Chris Barr-Hamilton; r/u John & Pete Clarke  
 French Open Winners: Al Cooper & Lee Smith  
 r/u Pat Brazil & Dave Hunt  
 Australian Open Winners: Geoff & Penny Smith  
 r/u Jock Punter & Andy Siczko

### England v The Rest of the World Event 2018

The third England vs The Rest of the World Ladies & Gentlemen's Doubles Tennis Match sponsored by Advanced Heating & Solar Solutions, Ltd of Colwall took place with 56 competitors from both Manor Park and a number of clubs in South Wales. The brain child of Rob Redman, for the third successive year the match was won by the Rest of the World by 330 games to 285. The event was followed by a sumptuous BBQ for players, family & friends with live music in the busy Cafe Bar which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

### **Grade 3 Malvern Junior Open Championships**

**Sponsor: Knight Frank Supporter: Ian Powell**

Attracting 333 entries from players across 22 counties, events were held in age groups ranging from under nines to the Men's and Ladies Open with a high standard of tennis played throughout the week. Local players competed well and Sam Laidler and Sam Cassidy reached the semi-finals of the Boys 12U Doubles and Sally Lewin with Pershore partner Lucie Palmer were runners up in the Girls Doubles.

### **Winter social tennis**

Some members play more winter tennis than summer tennis, partly because of fewer distractions and partly because with fewer courts in use, play is on a rota/invitation basis. 'Doodle' is being used increasingly to arrange doubles games. Members are urged to get proactive, set up their own Doodle list and arrange a weekly game for which a reserved court booking can be made indoors or outdoors.

Various organised winter sessions are running. Tuesday evening indoor social tennis comprises mixed sessions at 5.30 pm, 6.45 pm and 8.00 pm. Members can be added to this rota for sessions to start on October 13. Friday Ladies Morning has indoor sessions at 9.30 am and 11.00 am. Members can be added to this rota for sessions to start next January. Men play floodlit tennis on Wednesday evenings for sessions at 6.45 pm and 8.00 pm. Members can be added to this rota to start on October 14. Year round outdoor roll-ups are for men on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, for ladies on Wednesday afternoons and for mixed sessions on Monday mornings. There are organised groups for men on Monday and Friday daytimes and for ladies and mixed tennis on Friday evenings.

For further details on any of the above schemes, including names of possible members to be invited to join Doodle lists, please contact Cleland Newton (07800 892796 or con@garnerdaniel.co.uk).

### **Wednesday evening darts**

Due to popular demand Wednesday Winter Darts returns on Wednesday 3rd October in the Café Bar. If you are an experienced player or merely an enthusiastic beginner and interested in taking part in this fun social activity during the cold winter months please register your interest by emailing Rob Redman robredma@gmail.com (no 'n' before @). You do not need to own your own darts as we have a collection of sets available for use free of charge behind the bar.

### **Inaugural Benjamin Cup**

Six teams comprising eight fine players per team competed in this new competitive and fun event on a beautiful sunny September day and a great time was had by all. This year's winning team were the Olympians (Jamie Marks, Barry Tuck, Pete Moore, Pat Brazil, Graham Upton, Geoff Arlott, Xac Timmermans, Alba Cusworth). Individual best lady and best gentleman player prizes were awarded to Alison Earp and Geoff Arlott. Big thanks to Chris Barr-Hamilton for superb organising, Jill Holmwood for the lovely supper, Jenny Hallam for providing the great live music, Mike Benjamin's family for donating the lovely trophy, Sue Benjamin (Mike's wife) for presenting the trophy and prizes and John Milton and Rob McCarthy for kindly donating the great individual prizes (bottles of bubbly and lovely BE Water containers respectively).

### **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 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.

### **Gladys Lewis and Sheila Sumner**

Members will be sad to hear of the passing earlier this year of two long-standing members. Gladys Lewis was a key member of the Ladies' teams and organiser of social events. Sheila Sumner was tennis treasurer and membership secretary for many years. Both were active in the period 1960 to 2000.

## H&W Summer Leagues

In the summer 2018 season the Men's A team won their key last game against Worcester A and are back as summer league champions. The other Men's teams retain their positions. The Ladies teams did less well with the B and C teams being relegated. In the Mixed the A team had a vital fixtures clash with the Men's A team and had to settle for second place in Division 1. The Mixed D team won their division in curious circumstances. At the last match not involving Manor Park, either of two other teams could have won the division by beating the other but a draw left the D team top, above the C team in the same division.

Manor Park teams were very successful in the winter leagues for the 2017-18 season. The Men's A team repeated their winter success of 2016-17 by again being league champions. The Men's B team were top of Division 2, the Men's C, D and G teams were top of their divisions, with the E and F teams retaining their positions. The Ladies A team won promotion to Division 1, the C team were top of their division but the D team suffered relegation. In the Mixed, the A team were league champions and the B and D teams were top of their divisions but the C team withdrew.

A deduction is that men's tennis is thriving. It is spearheaded by eight or nine youngsters who have come up from junior tennis. There is also strength in depth which includes recent recruits. Ladies tennis still needs further encouragement. Overall membership is increasing.

### Tennis Section AGM on 21 November at 7.30 pm Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 08/11/2017
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Any other Business

## Tennis Coaching

Sessions begin as from Saturday 15 September.

### Adult Coaching Groups – Indoor Acrylic

Tuesday 9.00 – 10.30 am

Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30 p.m.

### Junior Outdoor Groups

#### Older Tennis 14 – 18 years

Monday 7.30 – 8.30 p.m.

#### 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 a.m.

#### Red Mini Tennis 3– 8 years indoors

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4.30 – 5.30 pm

Saturday 9.00 – 10.00 am

## Coaching Team News

We are pleased to welcome Chris Marlow who is joining the Malvern Tennis Academy Team of Coaches. Chris is a level 5 Master Club Coach and was formerly Head Coach at the Lensbury Club in Teddington. He has relocated with his family to Malvern. Congratulations to Lucy Sanders who has recently gained the LTA Level 4 Senior Coach Award. Well done Lucy.

### New Sessions

A Drills Session with Lucy Sanders on Wednesdays from 7.00 - 8.00 pm. and a Ladies Coaching Session outdoors on Thursdays from 7.30 - 8.30 pm. Ring Jane Poynder for details: 01684 574435.

## Tennis Committee 2017-2018

Chairman:	Jane Poynder
Hon. Treasurer:	Geoff Titmuss
Membership Secretary:	Cleland Newton
Hon. Secretary:	Elaine Fleming
Grounds Controller:	Sam Mackenzie
Fixtures Secretary:	Joel Talcott
Club Coach:	Chris Skinner
Child Protection:	Ali Tuck
Committee Members:	Cathy Clements, Rob Davies Steve Lewis Pia Michelsen
	Anna Laidler Jo Marks Joe Riley

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Proposals for **action** may be sent to the Hon Secretary, Elaine Fleming. Please note that proposals made and carried under **Any Other Business** are automatically referred back to the Tennis Committee for further consideration.

Proposal for action by the Tennis Committee: .....

Proposed by ..... Seconded by .....

Nomination(s) for the 2017-2018 Season Committee (with consent of nominee):

Proposed by ..... Seconded by ..... To be returned by not later than November 7th to the Tennis Secretary, 7 Carlton Road, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 1HH

## Club Tournament

Club tournament finals day was a resounding success. With all earlier rounds completed there was a full schedule of events arranged for play on the four synthetic grass courts. Better still several of the finals turned out to be epic three set matches. This overall success was in spite of a dreary day with intermittent drizzle until mid-afternoon. The café/bar came properly into its own, providing the ideal viewing platform for the crowd of players, members, family and friends. There was a social atmosphere which would not have been matched on a sunny day.

Honours go to Katy Lewin who won the ladies singles, and with partners the ladies doubles and the mixed doubles. Two of these wins went to three sets and Jilly Witcombe was the unlucky loser in both by the narrow margin of 7-5 in the third set. Simon Wikeley retained the men's singles title with some fierce hitting. Junior events were an integral part of the spectacle, with the advantage going to boys called Sam. The club is indebted to Tracy Morgan and Anna Laidler for their excellent organisation.

## Club tournament results: Adults

### Main events

**Men's Singles:** Simon Wikeley

r/u Paul Burgess 6-4 6-4

**Ladies' Singles:** Katy Lewin

r/u Jilly Witcombe 6-3 3-6 7-5

**Men's Doubles:** Paul Burgess & Chris Skinner

r/u Mike Marks & Seb Timmermans 4-6 6-4 6-2

**Ladies' Doubles:** Katy & Sally Lewin

r/u Jilly Witcombe & Hannah Griffiths 5-7 7-6 7-5

**Mixed Doubles:** Katy Lewin & Paul Burgess

r/u Sally Lewin & Chris Skinner 6-3 6-3

**Mixed 55+ Doubles:** Penny & Geoff Smith

r/u Jenny Poole & Rory Guilding 6-1 7-6

**Family Doubles:** Paul & Lois Burgess

r/u Jon & Sam Clements 6-4 6-4

### Plate events

**Men's Singles:** Grant Hume

r/u Jean-Louis Duprey 6-0 6-1

**Men's Doubles:** Xac Timmermans & Kevin Wilkins

r/u Mark Davies & Colin Boyne 6-2 3-6+-1

**Ladies' Doubles:** Paula Daniel & Tracy Morgan

r/u Sarah Titmuss & Penny McKechnie 2-6 7-5 6-3

**Mixed Doubles:** Lucy Richardson & Grant Hume

r/u Victoria Barber & Geoff Titmuss 6-3 6-1

**Mixed 55+ Doubles:** Sarah & Geoff Titmuss

r/u Penny McKechnie & Neil Johnson 7-6 6-2

**Family Doubles:** James & Tom Laidler

r/u Chris & Scarlett Barr-Hamilton 6-1

## Club tournament results: Juniors

**U12 Boys:** Sam Laidler

r/u Sam Clements 7-5

**U12 Girls:** Beth Pye

r/u Lilia Mico 6-0

**U13 Boys Doubles:** Tom Laidler & Jaimie Willetts

r/u Sam Laidler & Tristan Dawes 4-1 2-4 (10-7)

**U15 Boys:** Sam Cassidy

r/u Charlie Cassidy 6-1 6-1

**U15 Boys Doubles:** Sam Laidler & Sam Cassidy

r/u Charlie Cassidy & George Holden 6-2

**U15 Mixed Doubles:** Beth Pye & Sam Cassidy

r/u Sally Lewin & Charlie Cassidy 6-4 6-4

## Junior competitive highlights

It's been a busy summer season for our junior members at manor park. Prior to the summer holidays, a few of our members represented our county cup teams for H&W: Daisy Williams, Bethany Pye, Sam Laidler, Sam Clements, Sally and Katy Lewin. The girls under 12's (Beth) won their group to get to the national finals in Bolton and the boys u12s (Sam and Sam) lost in the group final beaten by Staffs.

Our team tennis has been a success with the boys 14u winning Div 1. Well done Charlie and Sam Cassidy and Thomas and Sam Laidler and also Sam Clements who helped us in our win over Hereford. Lois Burgess and Beth Pye have been playing regularly in the ladies teams and Lois was named most improved player winning herself (or her mum) a bottle of prosecco!! Sam Cassidy won the Malvern g5 14u beating his brother Charlie in a close 3 set match. There have been grade 4 wins for Lilia Mico and Daisy Williams at Evesham and Droitwich, Sam Laidler and Sam Cassidy in 14u doubles at Redditch .

More recently in our summer G3 tournaments Beth Pye won 12u and 14u doubles and Lilia Mico won the 12u singles. Last week saw the county closed tournament held at Manor Park. A fantastic week of high-level tennis, sunshine and a lovely opportunity to mix with players coaches and parents from across the county. Daisy Williams won the 9U girls, Sam Laidler was runner up in the 12u boys singles and 12u doubles with his partner Sam Cassidy. Beth Pye was runner up in the 12u girls singles and doubles narrowly missing out with partner Lois Burgess in an 11-9 tiebreak, but to top it won the 14u girls doubles. Thank you to all our fantastic coaches and for all the opportunities our children at Manor Park have. Here's to a successful winter season,