

**MANOR PARK TRUST
Centenary Newsletter
Spring 2007**

History of the Club 1907- 2007

It is appropriate on the occasion of the club's centenary to look back to see how we came to be where we are. According to the Malvern Gazette of 11 January 1907 "the meadow formerly known as the Hollow Meadow will be known as the Manor Park... Steady progress is being made with the conversion of meadow into archery, croquet and tennis grounds". The ground was leased from Sir Henry and Lady Grey and was formally opened in the summer of 1907. Following the death of Sir Henry, Lady Grey generously made a gift of the land in Trust to Manor Park in 1921 in memory of her late husband. The Trust deed states that Manor Park is to be used to provide sport and leisure facilities for the people of Malvern.

At first the grounds were hired out to individuals and local clubs. Financial difficulties were endemic and guarantors were regularly called on for contributions. In 1934 Manor Park became a members' club, organised in sections and financed by subscriptions. Finances remained precarious and the club relied as before on the generosity of a few wealthy patrons. Croquet was in terminal decline and bowls suffered from too many rival greens.

Through the forethought and generosity of Major Kendall it became possible in 1967 to build two squash courts. Squash was the sport of the day and soon there were two hundred members for the two courts and a waiting list. The increase in membership and enthusiasm which squash brought enabled the club steadily to improve its facilities to become the envy of visiting teams which it is today.

This retrospective should encourage present day members to do more than just cash in on what we have. The club needs to continue to invest in its facilities. We need an improved driveway and better parking. Plans are in hand for a third indoor tennis court and floodlights on two more tennis courts. This investment is on top of the regular renewal of playing surfaces and surrounds. Members are urged to support the club's fund raising initiatives such as the Centenary Concert, the '100 Club' organised by the tennis section and social events arranged by individual sections.

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**Centenary Day
Sunday 20 May**

The Club celebrates its centenary with a Day of Sport and a Pig Roast on Sunday 20 May. All members are invited together with their friends and the general public. There will be an opportunity to try out the sports on offer and to watch exhibitions by expert players. The programme for the day is:

- 10.00 - 1.00 Outdoor Bowling Competition**
- 10.00 - 12.00 Fun Family Tennis Tournament**
- 11.00 - 1.00 Squash Activities**
- 12.00 Commencement of National Club League Men's & Ladies' Matches**
- 12.30 - 2.30 Pig Roast**
- 2.30 - 4.30 Archery - Have a go**
- 2.30 - 4.30 Indoor Bowls - Have a go**

**Manor Park Centenary Concert
Saturday 9 June 2007 at 7.30 pm**

Last summer a fantastic picnic party was held on the archery field. Those who missed it have a fresh opportunity to join in this year. There will be a band, bar and loos on the archery field. Tickets are £10 each or £25 for a family. Last year £1000 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Relief and £1000 for Manor Park. This year the proceeds will be shared between St Richards Hospice and Manor Park and we hope to do better still. Get your tickets at the Club Office, from a Concert Committee Member or by using the application form on page 3.

Junior corner

Here are some of the riddles which formed part of the recent tennis-bowls quiz.

1. What wobbles and flies?
2. How does King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
3. Why did the chocolate button go to school?
4. How did young dinosaurs pass their examinations?
5. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were cold. They lit a fire and it sank, proving what?
6. Where did Sir Lancelot study?

Answers over the page.

Contributions from Club Sections

Tennis

Tennis facilities at Manor Park comprise 15 outdoor courts, four of which are equipped with floodlights. There are a further two indoor courts, shared with Herefordshire & Worcestershire Lawn Tennis Association (H&WLTA). Tennis membership stands at 320 adults and 280 juniors. New members receive a membership pack giving full information concerning tennis section activities on and off court. New members joining in the spring are given a free six week course of one hour group coaching sessions.

Organised tennis for adults (men's, ladies and mixed) is arranged at several proficiency levels in weekly sessions. For competitive play, the club enters teams in the H&WLTA leagues, the men currently being champions in both summer and winter leagues. Six men's and six ladies' teams cover the full range from first to lowest divisions. A club tournament is organised, including a family doubles event, with Finals Day on 7 July.

At the junior level, the club is very fortunate to be recognised as an LTA Performance and LTA Accredited Mini Tennis Club. A wide range of Junior Performance Squads are held for selected junior members, mainly on the indoor courts. Several of our junior players are ranked in the top 100 players in the country in their age group. Two boys now train with players at the Bath National Academy on a regular basis.

A comprehensive coaching programme for all ages takes place at the club, ranging from Tiny Tennis for 3 year olds, Red and Orange Mini Tennis, Green and Teens Tennis. Four day junior camps are held on designated weeks during the Easter and Summer Holidays. A Tennis Clinic focussing on doubles play for adult members will be held on Friday 15 June. There are also coaching groups for adults.

It is now five years since the Cliff Richard Trail launched our coaching visits to schools. We have continued with the initiative ever since, visiting ten local primary schools per summer to provide two hours per week of curriculum time tennis. We are also involved in after schools clubs at 18 primary schools in a three year scheme.

Several social events are held at the club each year. A New Year Dinner is held at the end of January and we are fortunate that the food is prepared by culinary expert Anna Paisley. Other events include a Presentation Evening, a Bowls Evening, a quiz and a pizza tasting. Contact Jane Poynder on 01684 574435 for more details.

Malvern Hills Indoor Bowls

The development of indoor bowls at Manor Park was first discussed in the late 1970s when the only facility in the area was a rather run down ex-industrial building in Worcester, reasonably adapted, but which nevertheless had served its purpose.

By the early 1980s the Manor Park Management Committee was convinced that the first purpose-built indoor bowls hall in the area would stand a good chance of survival and, after undertaking a more detailed business study, local outdoor clubs were visited to gain their support. By 1985 the Trustees of Manor Park had given their consent and construction started that December for completion in September 1986 at a cost of £210,000. This was funded by a grant of £60,000 from the West Midlands Sports Council and a £25,000 loan from the Malvern Hills District Council, with the balance provided by bowls club members, some 670 in the initial year, in the shape of loans, life and term memberships, and a bank overdraft.

From the outset the entire running of the Malvern Hills Indoor Bowls Club at Manor Park was undertaken by volunteer members right up until 2004 when a manager of the Manor Park complex was appointed. However the club still has a committee that administers its bowls activities, with a separate ladies' committee who organise their own matches and competitions. In the winter season, September to April, on weekdays there is a programme of daily leagues with some social bowling in between. At weekends 29 friendly fixtures are played. Members also play in knockout competitions at club, county and national level. Disabled bowlers are able to play using special wide-wheeled chairs provided by the club.

The club regularly hosts county games and has also hosted some international games. There have been and still are many international players in the club which illustrates the high standard within its current membership of 520.

During the summer, whilst many members revert to their outdoor clubs, there is still an active core of members who prefer to remain playing indoors with leagues, knockout competitions, friendly fixtures and social bowling. For further information on membership please visit the club on a weekday morning or contact the Club Chairman, Michael Pain on 01684 ??????

Riddles - 1 a jellycopter, 2 deep pan crisp and even, 3 it wanted to become a smartie, 4 with extinction, 5 you can't have your kayak and heat it, 6 knight school

Outdoor bowls

The outdoor bowls club is a friendly club of about 70 members. Our opening day for 2007 is 21st April. During the summer we shall be playing a total of 35 friendly matches (10 ladies', 24 mixed and 1 men's against a touring side). We have three teams in the Davies Brook Triples League of three divisions and we are entered in various men's and ladies' county competitions. We run three club competition days for trophies and various singles and pairs competitions culminating in Finals being played on 8th and 9th September. We hold social evenings with a roll up and supper on twelve Fridays enabling new and old members to enjoy a fun evening. On the last Friday in July we entertain the Tennis Section to a social bowling evening followed by a supper. For more information please contact Ray Benton on 01684 ???????

Squash Section

Manor Park Squash Club has 4 squash courts, one with a glass back with balcony viewing on all courts. We are a silver accreditation club and a member club of England Squash. Three men's teams compete in the Worcestershire league. The 1st team plays in Division 1 and finished in 5th position last season. The 2nd team plays in division 3 and the fourth team in Division 4. The Ladies' team plays in the Worcestershire league Division 1 and finished in mid table last season. The club have the use of the County Coach Rob Alger during the year, and he assists with the Junior Squash coaching on Sunday evenings. This is from 6pm to 8pm and is free of charge to junior members. Coaching is also available from a number of members who have completed their coaching qualifications. There is a club shop

Centenary Concert Details

Date: Saturday 9 June 2007
Location: Manor Park Club Archery Field
Field opens: 6.00 p.m.
Concert starts: 7.00 p.m.
Enjoy the sound of Med Snookes & the Good Scratch and other acts
Charity supported: St Richards Hospice
Bring your own picnic

Ticket application form

Please supply
.... tickets @ £10 £.....
..... tickets @ £25 £.....
Total £.....

which sells rackets, footwear, clothes, balls etc, and also offers a racket restringing service. For more information please contact the section Chairman John Oakley on 07710 441063.

Archery Section

"Malvern Archers" was founded in 1905 and later became part of the Manor Park Club. The Section is active at all levels of the sport and regularly has members shooting for the County of Worcestershire. 2006 was a particularly good year, as the Club won both the Worcester Cup and the Worcestershire summer league, and members won numerous individual awards at open tournaments around the County and further afield.

At present, membership stands at 20 juniors and 27 seniors, and the club meets regularly during the summer on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and often at weekends. During the winter we have arranged indoor shooting at the Malvern St James School "Edinburgh Dome", but can also shoot outdoors when the weather permits. We run one or two courses for beginners each year, providing all necessary equipment. We are a friendly club and always welcome new members. For more information please contact the Secretary, Allan South, on 01684 563 495.

The club runs a large number of teams in the county doubles leagues, catering for a wide variety of levels of play. All club matches are listed on the Fixtures Card, together with contact details for all team captains. If you are interested in playing in a team, talk to team members at Men's Night or Ladies' Night or contact a team captain.

Please make cheques payable to **Manor Park Tennis** enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope and send ticket applications to:
Centenary Concert Organiser
Manor Park Club
Albert Road North
Malvern
Worcs WR14 2TL

for the Centenary Concert

Send to:
Name:
Address:
.....
.....
Postcode:

Racketball

Manor Park Racketball Club has regular mixings on Tuesday evenings, 8pm and Friday mornings, 10.30am. There are about 20 racketball players who attend these sessions, playing mostly doubles. If any squash players would like to try, singles or doubles, please contact Ginny Lee (07989 439117). Manor Park in conjunction with Malvern Hills College has organised a five week beginners' course starting 25 April at a cost of about £40 (to include a racket). If interested please contact the College or Manor Park.

Table tennis

The main room of the old clubhouse forms the home base during the winter season for nine teams of three members each who play in the Malvern table tennis leagues. These teams comprise about a third of the total complement of the Malvern leagues. For more information please contact Ray Page on 01684 567463.

Other users of the Club

The old clubhouse changing rooms have been converted into office accommodation and are hired out to the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Lawn Tennis Association. This keeps the club fully informed of LTA policy.

The Vaughan Hall is used on Friday nights by Malvern Chess Society. Other users include ballet and tap lessons on Saturday mornings (contact Aimee Harborne on 01684 574919), Foley Bridge Group (contact Peter Asquith on 01684 561033), French classes (contact Jean-Claude Fouque on 01886 880860), Pilates (contact Julie Ladd on 07903 901956) and a wide range of University of the Third Age (U3A) special interest groups including two bridge groups, a computer group, a churches and cathedrals group, a legal ease group, a local history/history through art group, a photoshop group and a play reading group.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MANOR PARK CLUB

Ultimate responsibility for the Club rests with the Manor Park Trustees. The Trustees have delegated the running of the Club to a Management Committee whose organisation is controlled by a Club Constitution. The Club Constitution qualifies the Club as a Community Amateur Sports Club eligible for mandatory 80% relief from business rates. MHDC currently allows 100% relief. According to the Club Constitution the Management Committee is composed of elected members and members appointed by the Trustees. Elected members are firstly the Club officers, namely President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Ground Committee Chairman and Bar Committee Chairman and secondly the non-office holders. The Trustee representatives are to constitute at least a quarter of the non-office holder members. Many non-office holder members are chosen by the sections, two each by the tennis, squash, indoor bowls and outdoor bowls sections and one each by the archery and table tennis sections. Remaining vacancies are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Management Committee delegates day to day organisation of the sports to the section committees but remains responsible for decisions which cross section boundaries and in particular for club finances. Since almost any major decision on club improvement involves expenditure, it is the Management Committee which needs to be convinced of the viability of the proposed scheme and lobbying becomes effective at this level.

Attendance at the Annual General Meeting is therefore the constitutional way for members to influence club policy. This year the Annual General Meeting takes place on Thursday 12 April at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend. Proposals for action by the Management Committee may be sent to the Hon. Gen. Sec., Pam Hall, to arrive a fortnight before the meeting. Please note that proposals made and carried under Any Other Business are automatically referred back to the Management Committee for further consideration. The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting includes Chairman's Report, Treasurer's Report, Bar Management Report, Section Reports, Elections and Any Other Business

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Proposal for action by the Manor Park Management Committee:

Proposed by Seconded by
Nomination(s) for the 2007/8 Management Committee (with consent of the nominee):

Proposed by Seconded by
To be returned by not later than March 29th to the Hon. Sec. c/o Manor Park Club