

### Bright Ideas Gala Day on 30th March

This fundraising day for the Manor Park Tennis Section is being led by ex GB International & Davis Cup player **Danny Sapsford** of the Charity 'Bright Ideas for Tennis'. Another GB player, **Luke Milligan**, will be assisting and the day will consist of on court clinics for all ages culminating in a Pro Am Match with **Chris Skinner & Jamie Marks**. A Dinner for 80 will follow together with a wonderful Auction of Promises. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of the 'promises' provided so check out the Prize List in the clubhouse as sealed bids will be accepted for a period prior to Auction Day and of course you can come to the Auction even if you are not dining! A French Farm House, 2 days of golf plus accommodation, a fancy car for the day, meals out, gym membership and many more are all promises on offer. Auctioneer & TV Celebrity **Philip Serrell** will be conducting the auction. All the funds raised will go towards our future tennis projects as outlined below.

Danny Sapsford



### Extra Floodlights

A year ago the tennis section gained a windfall. A contractor pointed out that the synthetic grass courts, though in poor condition, were not worn out. Cleaning was effected at a fraction of the cost of new carpeting. Annual cleaning should extend the carpet life by a further seven years. This makes funds available to go ahead with the renewal of the acrylic courts when scheduled and to install floodlights on the synthetic clay courts. The need for more floodlighting is shown by the difficulty in booking floodlit all weather courts on winter evenings. A subsequent aim is to convert the grass courts to synthetic grass.

### Recycling tennis balls

Clean old tennis balls can contribute to our tennis facilities at the rate of 20 p per ball. Please leave used balls in the black bin in MACIT for despatch for recycling.

### CLUB SUMMER CALENDAR

<b>Racket Testing</b>	<b>Friday 5 April</b>
<b>MP Club AGM</b>	<b>Thursday 10 April</b>
<b>Wimbledon Draw</b>	<b>Sunday 28 April</b>
<b>14U County Cup</b>	<b>4-6 May</b>
<b>Ripple Cup</b>	<b>Saturday 11 May</b>
<b>GBTW Open Afternoon</b>	<b>Saturday 18 May</b>
<b>Member/Non-Member</b>	
<b>Tournament</b>	<b>Sunday 9 June</b>
<b>County Mixed Event</b>	<b>Saturday 15 June</b>
<b>Charity Doubles</b>	<b>Thursday 20 June</b>
<b>Grand Slam Event</b>	<b>Saturday 29 June</b>
<b>12U County Cup</b>	<b>Sat/Sun 29/30 June</b>
<b>American Evening</b>	<b>Tuesday 16 July</b>
<b>Benjamin Cup</b>	<b>Saturday 20 July</b>
<b>Junior Open</b>	<b>21-27 July</b>
<b>Rest of World Event</b>	<b>Saturday 17 August</b>
<b>County Champs</b>	<b>24 – 30 August</b>
<b>Club Finals Day</b>	<b>Saturday 7 September</b>
<b>Charity Tournament</b>	<b>Wednesday 11 Sept</b>
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>Sunday 30 September</b>

### ClubSpark Development

ClubSpark is the LTA sponsored system used by the Tennis Section as its membership database. A new facility this year introduces the rolling collection of club subscriptions. Members using the direct debit scheme will be informed twice in advance about the approach of the end of their subscription year and unless a reply is received to the contrary will then be automatically re-enrolled. This saves considerable effort for club management and for themselves and brings back twelve payments per annum.

### New Website for the Club

Tennis members are encouraged to access the new Manor Park website which went live during December. A feature of the new website is a Members' Area, containing information about the Club which it is not appropriate to show to the public. Access to the Members' Area is obtained with username and password. These have been issued to existing members and will be distributed to new members as they join.

### Squash and Racketball Bonanza

Manor Park, as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), stands to benefit from the closure of Malvern Squash Club (The Hornyold), which is also a CASC, because assets are normally transferred between CASCs engaged in the same sport. The Squash and Racketball Section would become the direct beneficiary, with the expressed primary aim of bringing one squash court up to exhibition match standard.

## Club Night Extra for April

To encourage club night players to play on into the evening at the start of the season, floodlighting will be free up to 9.00 pm on Tuesday evenings in April.

### Arranged tennis at Manor Park

The Club's aim is to enable members to play as much tennis as suits them. Arranged tennis provides opportunities for members to meet other compatible members and if they so wish play at times of their own choice on courts which can be booked in advance. All members are encouraged to obtain court keys and gain familiarity with the tennis court booking system.

**Club Tennis Night:** Tuesdays starting on April 2. Play is organised from 5.30 pm on courts where available. The courts are allocated for Club Tennis from 6.30 pm. All standards of play are catered for and members may come and go as convenient. The summer season ends on September 24. Please contact Cleland Newton on [con@garnerdaniel.co.uk](mailto:con@garnerdaniel.co.uk) if you wish to join the winter indoor mixed rota starting October 1.

**Men's Morning:** Wednesdays, a roll-up session with courts booked from 10 am to 12.30 pm running throughout the year. Men's groups also play on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays in the day and on Wednesday evenings. Please contact Cleland Newton as above.

**Ladies' Afternoon:** Wednesdays, a roll-up session with courts booked from 1 pm to 4 pm running throughout the year and mainly suited to those who do not aspire to match play.

**Mixed Morning:** Mondays, a roll-up session with courts booked from 9 am to 11 am running throughout the year and mainly suited for those who do not aspire to match play.

**Ladies' Doubles Morning:** Fridays on a rota basis from 9.30 am to 11 am starting in April. For inclusion on the summer rota please contact Cleland Newton on [con@garnerdaniel.co.uk](mailto:con@garnerdaniel.co.uk). Ladies Doubles Morning moves to the indoor courts in September.

**Men's Match Practice Night:** Wednesdays from 6.30 pm starting on April 4.

**Ladies' Match Practice Night:** Thursdays from 6.30 pm starting on April 5

## Competitive Opportunities

### Club Teams

Three men's team have been entered in the national team tennis competition. Six men's teams, four ladies' teams and four mixed teams compete at various levels in the county leagues. 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. All summer club matches are listed on the Fixtures Card, together with contact details for team captains. In 2017/18 Manor Park teams won nine county divisions.

### Club Tournament

Members are encouraged to use the club tournament form supplied by email to enter as many events as desired, singles and doubles. Entry is £5 per player which covers all events entered. The playback style plate system ensures that all entrants get two matches in each event entered, so even if the first match is one-sided the second can be close. Ring round to find doubles partners now. Trophies will be presented on the evening of Finals Day.

Closing day for entries: April 28.

Finals Day: Saturday September 7.

### Ripple Cup

Saturday May 11, a men's doubles event organised by Chris Skinner and sponsored by James Mackenzie.

### Grand Slam Event

Saturday June 29, a men's doubles event organised by Rob Redman.

### Charity Tournament and Lunch

Thursday June 20 from 9.00 am – 1.00 pm followed by an excellent lunch. There are graded leagues and mixed teams are allowed. The event is open to non-members and the charity chosen this year is St Richards Hospice. Clothing will also be on sale

### Club American Evening

Tuesday July 16 at 6.45 pm. This is a mixed doubles event with entry as individuals and winning men and ladies moving to an adjacent court in opposite directions. No advance booking

### UK v Rest of the World

Saturday August 17 a doubles event organised by Rob Redman.

### Save the Children Ladies Tournament

A ladies' doubles event will be held on Wednesday September 11 from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm with lunch included. For further details: please email [con@garnerdaniel.co.uk](mailto:con@garnerdaniel.co.uk)

### **Wimbledon Tickets Ballot**

The ballot will again be during Sunday lunchtime, on **Sunday 28 April**, with names going into the draw between 12.00 noon and 12.30 pm. At 12.30 pm names will be drawn to give a ticket choice order and the next round of the '100 Club' draw will be made. There will then be a period for members successful in the draw to choose their tickets in draw order. Please read the extra information about eligibility and other arrangements on the summer information sheet on the club website. The café/bar will be open with lunch snacks available.

### **Tennis Coaching Programme**

#### **Adult Group coaching**

Adult Groups – Acrylic Courts  
Tuesday 9.00 - 10.30 a.m.  
Wednesday 9.30 – 11.00 a.m.  
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.

**Tennis Drills Sessions** take place in MACIT on Wednesdays 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. and on Fridays from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m.

Application forms for all adult and junior coaching group sessions will be put on the notice boards in the Clubhouse and in the indoor tennis centre (MACIT). Alternatively ring Jane Poynder on 01684 574435 or send an email to [tennis@malverntennisacademy.com](mailto:tennis@malverntennisacademy.com).

#### **Individual coaching**

If you are interested in individual or shared lessons with one of the coaches, please ring Chris Skinner on 07813 071937 or Poynder Tennis on 01684 574435.

#### **Opportunities for New Members**

One of our Club Coaches will be involved in the Club night sessions in May to help to integrate new members into the social playing scene at the club. This will take the place of the previous Friday evening sessions where take up was disappointing.

#### **Easter & Summer Holiday Junior Camps**

1 – 4 April, 9 – 12 April, 15 – 18 April  
16 – 19 July, 29 July – 1 August, 5 – 8 August,  
12 – 15 August, 19 – 22 August  
4 – 7 years 10.30 – 11.30 a.m.  
8 – 16 years 11.30 – 4.30 p.m. daily

#### **Junior Coaching Programme**

All development and performance sessions begin week beginning 29 April

#### **Teens Tennis 13 years upward**

Monday 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.  
Thursday 6.30 – 7.30 p.m.

### **Junior Tennis Orange/ Green 9 – 12 years**

Monday and Thursday

5.30 – 6.30 p.m.

Saturday 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

#### **Red 8U Mini Tennis in MACIT**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

4.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Saturday 9.00 to 10.00 a.m.

#### **Junior Night**

The synthetic grass courts will be booked for the Monday evening Junior Coaching Sessions from 5.30 to 8.30 p.m. Adult members wishing to play between these times should book in advance to play on the clay courts 14 & 15 or the acrylic 9 – 12. Junior members can always book a court if they wish but should be supervised by their parents if under 14 years of age. More information about the junior activities is given in the Junior Newsletter. Parents are welcome to view junior play from the vantage point of the café bar in the Clubhouse.

#### **Junior Tournaments**

The tennis section supports junior tennis by hosting weekday open and county closed junior tournaments of a high level. Members are asked to bear with these visitors and to use the grass and clay courts on occasions when the synthetic grass and acrylic courts are allocated to these events

#### **Junior Holiday Camps**

Four day junior holiday camps will be held at the club during the following weeks, indoors and on the clay courts.

Red/Orange Minis 10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Orange/Green/Teens 11.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

3 – 6 April, 9 – 12 April

17 – 20 July 30 July – 2nd August,

6 - 9 August, 13 - 16 August,

20 - 23 August.

#### **Junior county achievements**

Congratulations to the following Manor Park Juniors who have been playing for the county during the autumn. Sam Cassidy, Katie Lewin, Sally Lewin, Sam Laidler, Bethany Pye, Maddie Welsh, Daisy Williams.

County Coaching is well represented by our Manor Park Team of Coaches with Chris Skinner heading up the H/W Performance Programme and Chris Marlow, Natalie O'Brien and Lucy Sanders all being involved working with county teams. We are so fortunate in having such a keen and well qualified coaching workforce at the club.

## Life as an expat: What is it like living abroad?

By Richard Tuck – Manor Park member.

In the winter of 2013 I had decided to trade my comfortable, if slightly tiring, life as a secondary teacher in Warminster for a new experience. As a teacher I had a luxury of being able to teach in nearly any country in the world, providing there was a vacancy, and with relatively little attachments to the United Kingdom I decided to look abroad. By December I had applications for jobs in Moscow, Kampala (that's in Uganda), Shanghai, Tokyo and also Madrid. Shanghai were the first to express an interest and after a surprisingly swift, nerve-racking phone call, several e-mails later I was bound for a job in Shanghai to begin life as an international school teacher. In hindsight I think it was probably the best of the options!

Since living abroad I am often asked two questions when I am home:

What is it like to live in Shanghai? And...

What is life like as an expat?

I will try and answer both of these questions together - as Shanghai has been the only place I have lived abroad I can only recall and use my own personal experience. Shanghai, in short, is a great city to live in. Vibrant, international and diverse, Shanghai brings a lot to the table. As China's showpiece city, the largest (23 million residents) and the financial capital, it can offer the sort of opportunities other cities cannot, and certainly not for the same cost of living. A typical Saturday from my first year might have started the morning off in a French café for breakfast, a football match against the Mexican expat team for afternoon exercise, followed by a Chinese banquet with my team-mates for dinner. Then depending on the levels of *Baijiu* in the bloodstream (a Chinese rice spirit that I do not recommend) a trip to a Korean Karaoke bar for poor renditions of hits from the 90's or if we were feeling more confident an attempt at Chinese pop, all for less than the cost of a one-way train ticket from Great Malvern to London. Living somewhere as far reaching as Shanghai also opened up travel opportunities that previously were not possible. Weekend trip to the Great Wall, check. Long weekend in Seoul, check. Flights to Japan for less than £100, yes please.

What are the cons? It is no surprise that when you live in China, air pollution is near the top of the list. However, Shanghai is less affected than Beijing. It will also be of no surprise that the language barrier is an obstacle and in the initial few months adjusting can be difficult, a familiar problem no matter where you reside outside of the United Kingdom. At work and with friends language never presents an issue, however when you are required to divert from the regular routine of work and socialising to deal with the less exciting jobs such as housing registration, bank transfers (I once spent 3 hours in a Chinese bank..... at least they had mints), housing contracts, you can feel your efficiency sinking ever closer towards 0%, no matter how slowly or clearly you speak. Readers of this article will realise the obvious solution - learn the language! And if you can't learn the language, at least make friends with people who are already fluent. Even better, make friends with your *language teacher*. My Chinese tutor had gone out of her way to help me out.... She has been very kind and helpful.

At the very top of the cons list? Distance from family and friends. Living so far away means not seeing so much of family and friends. It wasn't unusual to wake up to 100+ messages from friends having a great meet up back home, or much worse realising that your cousins' (yes, that is a plural, I have missed multiple!) wedding is during term-time and getting to and from in a weekend is nigh on impossible. That said, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, my family can still see me either in the early morning (when I'm half awake) or the evening (when I'm half asleep). All things considered, I would always recommend the move abroad to someone considering it, even for a year. The opportunities, experience and connections you can make have, for me anyway, far outweighed the difficulties in adjusting and the distance from home.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this,

Richard

