

Summer Tennis

As members will see from the Summer Calendar much is being planned both on and off the court for the upcoming season. The addition of the floodlights on the two clay courts has already made a difference to tennis activity for both adults and juniors and the tennis committee is now looking at ways to improve all round play on the 2 floodlit acrylic courts which, although giving an excellent performance surface in good weather, can be challenging in these wet times.

We are grateful for the financial support we have received from the Audley Group with banners promoting them in both MACIT and on the outdoor netting, thus adding to the involvement we already have with The Downs Malvern College. These links do bring in additional funds to the club and although not substantial the more companies and organisations we can encourage to get involved the more the club can benefit.

Finally our Coaching Team have committed to helping Herefordshire & Worcestershire LTA in promoting tennis at The Three Counties Show on the 12/13/14 June. Again this will be an opportunity to promote tennis and Manor Park to a wider audience but we will need additional volunteers to come and help for a short period over the 3 days. Please let Chris Barr-Hamilton know if you would like to be involved! It would mean a free pass to the show!

Midsummer Party at Manor Park

The Club is holding a summer party on Saturday afternoon 27th June on the Archery Field. There will be music, refreshments and entertainment. Please keep the date free and watch this space.

Club Tournament

Last year there were over 100 entries competing for 16 Club Tournament Trophies. It would be good to have a still higher number of entries this year. 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. Entry is £5 per player which covers all events entered, so try singles and/or more than one doubles. Ring round to find doubles partners now. The entry form for the club tournament is supplied by email to members and is available for download from the club website. Trophies will be presented as finals matches are completed. Finals will be spread over two days with the main events, junior and senior, on the Sunday.

Closing day for entries: Friday 8 May

Finals Days: Saturday/Sunday 5/6 September

CLUB SUMMER CALENDAR

MP Club AGM	Wednesday 15 April
Awards Night	Friday 24 April
Wimbledon Draw	Sunday 26 April
14U County Cup	2-3 May
Ripple Cup	Saturday 16 May
GBTW Open Afternoon	Sunday 17 May
Racket Testing	Tuesday 19 May
10U County Cup	13-14 June
Charity Doubles	Thursday 18 June
Grand Slam Event	Saturday 20 June
Open Afternoon	Sunday 21 June
Midsummer Party	Saturday 27 June
County Mixed	Sunday 5 July
Road to Wimbledon	Saturday 11 July
American Evening	Tuesday 14 July
Benjamin Cup	Saturday 18 July
Junior Open	19-25 July
Rest of World Event	Saturday 15 August
Junior County Closed	23-29 August
Club Finals Day	5-6 September
Charity Tournament	Wednesday 9 Sept
Mixed Doubles	Sunday 27 September



New Club Manager

On the first of January 2020 Chris Barr-Hamilton took over as Club Manager in place of Andy Nichols. Andy had held the post for 18 years and his long service was rewarded at a presentation made by Alan Homfray on 22nd December. Chris has been a tennis member for several years and is captain of a men's team. He is a qualified bookkeeper and has been working at the club for over five years, looking after the accounts and the running of the bar. He is now responsible for day-to-day club management including the grounds and bar. This is distinct from section management which is the responsibility of section committees. Chris's office hours start at 8.45 am on weekdays and finish at 4 pm on Mondays, 3 pm on Tuesdays to Thursdays and 1.15 pm on Fridays. Please introduce yourself if you have not done so already.

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 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 sessions, as listed below, provide opportunities for members to meet other compatible members. Then if they so wish they can play at times of their own choice and may choose to book tennis courts 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 7. 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 29. Please contact Cleland Newton on con@garnerdaniel.co.uk if you wish to join the winter indoor mixed rota starting October 6.

Men's Morning: Wednesdays, a roll-up session with courts booked from 10 am to 12 noon 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. Ladies Doubles Morning moves to the indoor courts in September.

Men's Match Practice Night: Wednesdays from 6.30 pm starting on April 1.

Ladies' Match Practice Night: Thursdays from 6.30 pm starting on April 2. There will be team coaching days at the start of the season.

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.

Singles Box League

An internal singles box league has been set up with 8 divisions of 6 players. All standards are welcome – a great opportunity for new members to get involved and meet other players. Contact the Club Office if you would like to be included.

Ripple Cup

Saturday May 16, a men's doubles event organised by Chris Skinner and sponsored by James Mackenzie.

Charity Tournament and Lunch

Thursday June 18 from 9 am to 1 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 the Crohn's Disease Charity. Clothing will also be on sale

Grand Slam Event

Saturday June 20, a men's doubles event organised by Rob Redman.

Club American Evening

Tuesday July 14 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

England v Rest of the World

Saturday August 15, a doubles event organised by Rob Redman.

Save the Children Ladies Tournament

A ladies' doubles event will be held on Wednesday September 9 from 9.30 am to 1 pm with lunch included. For further details: please email con@garnerdaniel.co.uk

Racket testing

Come and meet the Head Racket Expert on Tuesday May 19 from 6 - 8 pm and see which model you should be playing with for best results. There will be special deals for members on the evening.

Wimbledon Tickets Ballot

The ballot will again be during Sunday lunchtime, on **Sunday 26 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.

Play by Visitors

Management wishes to remind members to ensure that all guests that they introduce pay the appropriate fees for play. The new fee for such a guest is £5 per tennis session for an adult and £2 for a junior. The guest's name is to be recorded in a new Visitor's Book in the Café/Bar. The fee is to be paid directly to bar or office staff or in their absence is to be placed in the letterbox outside the office window. A guest introduced by a member is the responsibility of the member at all times. Such a guest is limited to three visits per calendar year.

There is an arrangement with Malvern Hills District Council by which a member of the public may hire an acrylic court when it is not in use. Court hire can be arranged at the office, at the bar or by contacting a coach. The new court hire fee is £10 per court hour. There is no limit on the number of court hires by an individual.

Club Development

As mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, refurbishment of the acrylic courts is planned for the summer months when the grass courts are in play. This is an expensive job so it is pleasing to report that it can be afforded out of money accumulated in the tennis section sinking fund.

Following transfer of funds to Manor Park from the closed Hornyold Squash Club, significant improvements to the squash facility are due over the summer. The aim is to keep inconvenience to tennis members to a minimum.

Tennis Coaching Programme

Adult Group coaching

Adult Groups – Acrylic Courts

Tuesday 9.00 - 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday 9.30 – 11.00 a.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

Individual Coaching

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

Junior Coaching Programme

All development and performance sessions begin week beginning 20 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.

Court Bookings

Members are encouraged to check the on-line booking sheet to see which courts are available. Both Adult and Junior Members can book courts but players under the age of 14 must be supervised by an adult if not taking part in a coaching session.

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 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 9.30 to 10.30

Orange/Green/Teens 10.30 – 3.30.

31 March - 3 April, 6 - 9 April,

14 - 17 April

14 - 17 July, 27 - 30 July

3 - 6 August, 10 - 13 August,

17 - 20 August

Junior county achievements

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

Junior Team Success:

14U Boys A Team won H&W Division 1

9U Mixed Team won H&W Division 1

8U Mixed Team won H&W Division 1

Congratulations to Bethany Pye who won the County Division of the prestigious Road to Wimbledon Tournament held on the grounds of the All England Club

The Road to Wimbledon

My Road to Wimbledon experience started in June last year. Winning the Manor Park Club round meant I was one of twelve girls invited to play in the County finals, which were held at Manor Park in July. We played the rounds, including the semi-finals on the Saturday and then came back on the Sunday to play the final, which I won! This meant I was invited to play in the junior tournament at Wimbledon in August, with all the other County winners.

We could only play in white kit which was a problem as I didn't have any, so we quickly sorted out some white clothes and tennis shoes!

We travelled down to Wimbledon on the Monday morning. The Head Coach of Wimbledon, Dan Bloxham, met us as we arrived and showed us where we registered. We were given a special player's pass, a goodie bag and a plaque with my name on which was put on the scoreboard during my matches. The winner of each county was there plus some juniors from India, China and Japan, so there were lots of people! We were given some time to explore and I bumped into some girls I knew from other counties which made things feel a bit less scary.

All the players were allocated some time to have a practice hit on the grass courts. It felt really special going on them, but it also felt strange to start with as the ball didn't bounce a lot, but I soon got used to them.

We were put into groups, with the top player from each group going through to the main draw. Unfortunately I had a tough group so didn't get through my group. I paired up with a girl I knew for the doubles. We made it through to the quarter finals but lost out in a close match.

In between matches we had a tour round Wimbledon and were very lucky to see Tim Henman having a hit with some friends there. We also had a special players' party which was held in the Centre Court building.

I had an amazing week and it's an experience I will never forget!

Beth Pye
Aged 13

Opportunities through Tennis

After attending the Chase High School for five years from 2010-2015, I joined University of Bath at their High-Performance Centre. The program not only allowed me to play more tennis than I used to, but also enabled me to do my A - levels alongside my tennis. As well as my A-levels, I studied for the AASE qualification. This qualification, funded by the LTA, widened my knowledge in the technicalities of the sport and provided me with unforgettable opportunities to train abroad. As a 15/16-year-old living away from home, it was a challenging experience not only for the physical demands, but it was difficult to find a balance between academics, training and living away from home. My time down in Bath certainly put things into perspective, and I would not be where I am currently without it.

I'm currently studying an undergraduate degree in Sport Science and Journalism at the University of Stirling. University allows me to continue my tennis at a competitive level. I'm given the opportunity to train up to 5 times a week, each week having matches on Wednesday in the BUCS League. Matches are always a highlight of the week, not only do I get to travel and compete against other Universities in the UK, but it is entertaining socially. Stirling University, one of two national academies of tennis in the UK, brings in players of a high caliber, giving me opportunities to play with players much better than myself.

Tennis at Manor Park and Bath have allowed me to see Stirling as a second home, as I could meet people through the sport, create contacts and ultimately it has allowed me to settle. Hopefully, in the future I will continue to use tennis to create many more opportunities.

Paddy Hyde

Recycling used tennis balls

Here is a painless way to raise funds for the club. For every 250 used tennis balls sent off to Recycaball the club gets a payment of £50, which works out at 20p per ball. All balls need to be in reasonable 'used' condition. There is a ball collection point in MACIT in the form of a black dustbin under the stairs and there is a plastic container under the bench at the top of the stairs up to the bar. Both are marked as receptacles for used balls. Five sacks have been sent off during the past year for a total income of £250. So scour the cupboards and get recycling.