

Editorial

There has been a tremendous amount of tennis activity at the club throughout the summer season and reports and results on the many events both adult and senior are listed below. We are so fortunate in having so many tennis players who are not only keen to compete but in many instances are willing to undertake the running of these events as well.

Social tennis continues to thrive thanks to the organization by Cleland Newton and Di Marlow and successful rotas are set up by Rob Redman, Chris Barr-Hamilton, Geoff Titmuss and Helene Garnett. If any member is keen to play even more tennis or is not yet involved in any of these rotas or in house tournaments, then all you need to do is contact the Club Office and Chris Barr Hamilton will put you in touch with the most appropriate group.

The introduction of Pickleball sessions has been headed up by Maurice Nicholls and David Cornelius and without their enthusiasm to play this game Pickleball at Manor Park would never have got off the ground. If you haven't already tried Pickleball then give it a go on a Wednesday afternoon!

Demand for all our facilities continues to grow and as always, the Tennis Committee is mindful of the need to look to the future development of the club whether it be changing surfaces or bringing in another new popular sport in the form of Padel. All these options are being considered and all members will be canvassed for their views once realistic costings are obtained.

Junior Tennis

Manor Park's juniors continue to thrive with all the Mini Tennis Teams winning their matches in the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Inter Club Leagues at both Red, Orange and Green Levels. A good sign for the future. Our juniors also represented the county in their respective age groups.

'Play your Way to Wimbledon' (1)

In July, I won the county finals to take part in the 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon' 14U National Finals. There were 4 of us in a box where I won 2 out of my 3 matches which took me out of the box into the last 24. On Tuesday it rained all day, so my first-round match of the knockout draw was in the fantastic new indoor centre opened in May 2023. Unfortunately, I lost that match in a tie break (10-8). It was an amazing experience and one I will remember for the rest of my life. Such a privilege to play on the Aorangi courts and be treated like a professional player.
Maddie Walsh

'Play your Way to Wimbledon' (2)

Alfie Mills and Benedict Stanley successfully played their way to Wimbledon this year. In typical Wimbledon fashion, the first day was rained off, with the iconic grass courts covered. Wednesday brought sunshine and some excellent play by the boys. Well played guys, excellent stuff!



Pickleball

Pickleball has arrived at Manor Park. Equipment has been sourced and sessions are scheduled on indoor tennis Court A on Wednesday afternoons at 12.45, 1.30 and 2.15 pm at a cost of £2.50 per session for members and £5 for non-members. University of the Third Age (U3A) has hired Court A on Friday afternoons and is already over-subscribed. Pickleball is all the rage in the USA, and we hope it will also be popular with the club.

Pickleball (not to be confused with Padel) is played on a court the size of a badminton doubles court. One tennis court can easily accommodate two Pickleball courts. The Pickleball net is similar in height to a tennis net. Pickleball is played with plain wooden bats like giant table tennis bats. Pickleball balls, similar in size to tennis balls, are hollow and made of plastic. The picture shows a red ball in play.

The game resembles tennis except that service is underarm and volleying is only allowed if standing behind a line 7ft away from the net. The strategy seems to be to stand well up the court and return the ball a few inches above the net, thus keeping the opposition on the defensive. A full description of Pickleball, including a live video of a doubles game in progress, can be found on the internet at Pickleball / Wikipedia. To book go to Login at top: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/ManorPark/Coaching

Tennis Committee Summer 2023

Chairman:	Jane Poynder
Hon. Sec:	Elaine Fleming
Membership Secretary:	Cleland Newton
Hon. Treasurer	Geoff Titmuss
Fixtures Secretary:	Joel Talcott
Coach:	Chris Skinner
Club Welfare and Safeguarding Officer:	Ali Tuck
Committee Members:	Vicki Advani, Pete Clark, Caroline Forester-Smith, Anna Laidler, Steve Lewis, Jo Marks, Di Marlow

Annual Tennis Section Open Meeting

Tuesday 5th December at 7.30 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. Now that the repayment of tennis section loans has been achieved there is the opportunity to discuss project priorities such as changing two or more grass courts to provide more courts with an all-weather surface.

A journal of recent tennis events at the club

Battle of the Sexes

held on Saturday 13th May 2023

The Battle of the Sexes was an absolute belting tournament, with the guys beating the girls in 54 matches & 1 giant eliminator match. Amazing buzz round the courts, and even better fun in the bar! Special mention to Pat, for best dressed player of the day (three outfit changes on one afternoon puts Beyoncé to shame!).

The Chase High School v Ellesmere College

held on 18th May 2023

What a match! Chase played Ellesmere College at Manor Park in the Regional Schools Final, cheered on by a partisan crowd of Malvernites. Four singles matches were played, with Ollie R winning his game, and Emil, Sam C & Sam L narrowly getting defeated in their matches, Sam C especially close to winning. It was 3-1 down with 2 to play. In the doubles, the Sams, and Ollie & Emil both won their first sets, getting the crowd whipped up into a frenzy, ready for a big upset, but losing their second sets. In two nail biting championship tie breaks, the Ellesmere guys played awesomely well to edge both matches. All our players (including Monty as reserve), supported by Sam Ed as team coach, played some amazing tennis on the day and throughout their run to the final. Boys, everyone at Manor Park and The Chase are so proud of how well you've done and the fight you've shown. Brilliant stuff!

H&W County Senior Doubles

held on Sunday 23rd April 2023

Manor Park hosted players from around the two counties, with pairs battling it out in the 35's, 50's and 60's age group categories. Congratulations to Manor Park category winners: Ladies Over 35's Rachel Prudden & Jilly Witcomb; Men's Over 35's Paul Burgess & Chris Marlow; Men's Over 50's Jon Edmondson & Mike Marks; Men's Over 60's Barry Tuck & Geoff Smith.

Racketlon Tournament

held on Saturday 29th April 2023

Our first ever Racketlon Tournament. What a brilliant day had by everyone. A massive thank you to Julian for organising such a fab event. Some great matches in all four sports: squash, tennis, badminton and table tennis, up to 11 points in each set, points won added up. Sam Laidler overcame Jez Clarke in the final of A group - top skills on show by both guys. With Adam Hughes seeing off Kevin Wilkins in the final of the B Group, winning on a sudden death match point! Let's do it all again next year! Some might need to brush badminton skills up, though!

Social Tournament

held on Saturday 17th June 2023

There was a huge turnout on the day with 27 pairs taking part in a glorious day and many more rocking up for the BBQ afterwards. The five group winners were: Emil M & Isaac G, Lesley Lowndes & Eddie Poole, Nicky Browne & Chris B-H, Annie Meager & Ann Cadman, and the Bookham Bros. A massive thank you to everyone who entered, Rob Walker for doing the photography, Ant & James for cooking the BBQ, Jane Poynder for running

the tournament and everyone else who helped volunteer during the day and the bar staff for grafting all weekend, especially with the U10 County Cup on at the same time. An amazing weekend at Manor Park!

Macmillan Charity Tournament

held on Thursday 22nd June 2023

Another fab tournament was held at Manor Park, this year in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and raising over £500 for this brilliant charity. Congrats to the group winners: Flushing Meadows - Anne Turley & Jackie Surplus; Wimbledon - Paul Hammond & Eddie Poole; Melbourne Park - Ali Kirkwood & Alice Davey; Roland Garos - Ann Cadman & Matt Baum. Many thanks to Jane Poynder for running the event, Anna Paisley for the scrummy food and everyone who played.

Robfest

held on Saturday 24th June 2023

A massive thank you is due to Rob & Ruth for putting on a spectacular tennis festival (kindly sponsored by Malvern Law). Around 70 players took part from 10 am – 6 pm, in five different groups. A gorgeous lasagne lunch cooked by Sandie B-H and an awesomely scrummy BBQ in the evening by Jill, ably assisted by her BBQ chefs, Jonathan & Jerry! Big thanks to Rob Walker for his photography skills. Congrats to the winners: Wimbledon - Charlie T & Regi R-N; US Open - Grant Hume & Matt Baum; French Open - Miles M & Neil Ruddick; Aussie Open - Zac B & Emil M; ATP World Tour - Leila M & Alice S.

Benjamin Cup

held on Saturday 15th July 2023

What a fantastic day at the Benjamin Cup! Six teams of eight players battling it out through the rain, wind and occasional sunshine! Some top-quality play on all the courts, with the Olympians and the Red Dragons coming through the round robin stage to face off in the final. The Olympians winning all the rubbers in the final and bringing home the trophy, all in front of a packed bar. All finished off with some amazing burgers and hot dogs from **Dog Days Street Food** - thank you to everyone who played and came down to watch.

Malvern Open Junior Tournament

held over the week 16 – 22 July 2023

Some fab title victories at The Malvern Open. Sam Laidler in sensational form, beating the no 1 seed in the semis, and winning the U18 final, 7-5 7-6, even suffering an injury halfway through, and still pulling off victory. In an awesome quality 10U boys doubles final, George O & Andrew M beat Seb FS & Harry M. Ayrton L & Ollie G won their U14 boys doubles final, fighting back from a set & 2-0 down to clinch victory. Brilliant fighting spirit, boys! Huge congrats to Marina W & Emma M for winning the U18 girl's title. Leila also reached the U14 girls doubles final, losing out in a great match.

H&W County Closed Junior Tournament

held over the week 20 – 25 August 2023

Some amazing results for Manor Park members on the final Friday! There were too many champions to mention individually. Big mentions to Katy & Sally, Ollie & Alfie, Maddie, Zoe, Andrew M, Luna, Daisy & Marina, Sam C, Sam L, and Beth P for all their triumphs! Go Manor Park!

Club Final Day

held on Saturday 2nd September 2023
What a fantastic Club Finals Day! With 30 finals squeezed into one day, there was something for everyone, and no better day at Manor Park! The bank and bar were both rammed to watch some quality tennis with drama, brilliance and a bit of luck, on every court imaginable! Too many matches to talk about, but a huge win for Matt Tully, beating Charlie Titmuss, in a reverse from the 2022 final. Katy Lewin won her 6th ladies singles title in 7 years, defeating Beth Pye. The ladies' doubles was won by Regi & Beth, the men's doubles by Chris Marlow & Matt Tully (who ended up the day very happy!). The mixed was a classic, with Beth Pye & Sam Laidler edging a tense championship tie break to beat Paul Burgess & Katy Lewin. And special mention to Ollie Ruddick for winning 4 titles, and most importantly, to the Old Dough Hook for serving scrummy pizzas all day!

Save the Children Charity Tournament

held on Wednesday 6th September 2023

On a glorious sunny morning (arguably one of the best of the summer), 25 pairs competed in five leagues. For the first time the event was open not only to ladies but also to mixed and men's pairs, which was very well received. The last matches were finished in time for an excellent lunch laid on by helpers of STC. Winners of each group were Nick and Nicky Jones, Susan Lole and Wendy Griffiths, Jonathan Bailey and Sarah Barrie, Julie Robb and Rachel Pike, and Kay and Richard Beach. This event was a great success with nearly £900 raised for STC. Congratulations must go to the winner of the marrow in the raffle! Susanna Michael organised it under handover guidance from Cleland Newton and on the day thanks to Vicki Advani for keeping the scores and moving play along. Put the date in your diary for 2024!



End-of-Summer Social Tournament

held on Saturday 30th September 2023

A fantastic end-of-season mixed tournament took place at the club. With 25 pairs playing in 5 different groups, it catered for absolutely everyone. The rain held off, some epic matches were played and we finished with five deserving champions and plenty of pizza! The winners were: Group 1: Katy Lewin & John Clarke, Group 2 Nicky Connell & Carl Varney, Group 3 Rachel Renaud & Phil Houlbrooke, Group 4 Sue Rowatt & Pat Brownnett, Group 5 Kate Ruddick & Paul Sykes

Winter Leagues 2022/23 - Results

Congratulations to the Men's A Team and the Ladies' A Team who were both winter league champions. The Mixed A Team narrowly lost to Worcester A and had to settle for second place in Mixed Division 1. Men's B gained promotion to Division 1 but Men's G finished bottom of Division 5 West and expect to be relegated. The other Men's teams held their own. Ladies' B were promoted to Division 1 and Ladies' C, D and E all topped their divisions. Mixed B and C finished third and fifth in Division 1 and Mixed D and E gained promotion. All round it was an especially strong performance by lady team players in both Ladies' and Mixed divisions.

Summer Leagues 2023 - Results

This was another excellent performance by the Ladies, with Ladies' A becoming league champions and Ladies' B finishing third in Division 1. Ladies' C won Division 3 and Ladies' D finished second in Division 5 East. Men's A finished second to Stourbridge A in Division 1 and Men's B second in Division 2. Men's C expect to be relegated from Division 3 and Men's F from Division 7 East. In Mixed Division 1 the three Manor Park teams finished second, third and fourth, with the A Team narrowly beaten by Worcester A, as in the winter league. Mixed E won Division 3 East but Mixed F finished bottom of Division 6 East.

Winter Leagues 2023/24 - Team Captains

Ladies: A Katy Lewin; B Penny Smith; C Lois Burgess; D Penny McKechnie; E Tracy Morgan; F Diane Burke; G Pam Webber
Men: A Paul Burgess; B Sam Edmondson; C Mike Marks; D Joel Talcott; E Lee Smith; F Pat Brazil; G Kevin Wilkins; H John Gammond
Mixed: A Katy Lewin; B Bethany Pye; C Ben Westwood; D Chris Barr-Hamilton; E Nick Jones; F Lesley Lowndes
National Club League: Katy Lewin

If you are interested in team play please ask Chris B-H at the club office for an introduction.

Change of email address

The club uses the LTA ClubSpark system as its database. Problems can occur when members change their email address. It is important for members to log into their LTA account to change the email address there as well as on ClubSpark and to do this before the old email address becomes obsolete. The club is not empowered to do this.

Booking Indoor Courts

Booking indoor courts continues to be a challenge for some members. It appears that new members automatically obtain an effective username and password when they register. Existing members need to become LTA Advantage members and merge their LTA and ClubSpark logins. A help sheet is available on request and a video is to be put on the club website. To log in successfully you need to use your USERNAME and PASSWORD. You go to the club website and click on 'Tennis', and on the drop down menu 'Book an Indoor Court'. Alternatively you can download and then make use of the 'Booker' App.

Ripple Cup

held on Saturday 23rd September 2023
Massive congratulations to Clive Bruley and Alfie Mills for lifting the trophy, defeating Zac Burgess and Regi Ristic-North in the final. It was also a top win for Jos Sclater and James Green taking the Plate. Huge thanks to Jos for sponsoring the event and to Taco Bandits for the delicious burritos afterwards.

'Play your Way to Wimbledon' (3)

In August, I had the great privilege of playing at Wimbledon with my bezzie mate, John Clarke. By winning the regional qualifiers in July (at Manor Park, fortunately, with the home crowd support!) we qualified for the main event at Wimbledon.

We arrived at Wimbledon in the morning to pick up an array of free goodies for the competitors. Our supporters came in their droves (7!), with Jane & Nikki kindly showing us all around the secret parts of the Wimbledon clubhouse and grounds.

Feeling suitably inspired, and in our shiny white kits, we beat our first opponents from Hertfordshire, 7-6, 6-3. With Liz Clarke, Pat Brazil & Ali Earp starting a Mexican wave, we felt just like being back at Manor Park. Onto the second match, playing a strong pair from Middlesex, we took the first set 6-4, and then battled back from 4-1 down in the second set, to twice try to serve the match out! Unfortunately we (no 1 in team) missed the tricky task on match point to hit the ball over the net and into an empty court from 1 foot out! And never quite recovering from that, we lost 10-8 in the championship tie break, and our Wimbledon adventure was over! Chris Barr-Hamilton



Coaching Programme

Sessions begin as from Monday 11 September

Adult Coaching Groups – Indoor Acrylic

Tuesday 9.00 – 10.30 am

Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30 pm

Junior Outdoor Groups

Older Teens 14 – 18 years

Monday 7.30 – 8.30 pm

Green to Young Teens 11 – 14 years

Monday & Thursday 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Orange/Green 9 – 10 years

Monday and Thursday 5.30 – 6.30 pm

Red Mini Tennis 4 – 8 years indoors

Monday & Tuesday, 4.30 – 5.30 pm

Saturday 9.00 – 10.00 am

Club Tournament Results – Adults

Main events

Men's Singles: Matt Tully

r/u Charlie Titmuss

Ladies' Singles: Katy Lewin

r/u Beth Pye

Men's Doubles: Chris Marlow & Matt Tully

r/u Sam Laidler & Charlie Titmuss

Ladies' Doubles: Beth Pye & Regi Ristic-North

r/u Marina Webb & Maddie Walsh

Mixed Doubles: Sam Laidler & Beth Pye

r/u Paul Burgess & Katy Lewin

Men's Singles 60+: Rory Guilding

r/u Geoff Smith

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

r/u Bob Mannion & Chris Whiteley

Ladies' Doubles 60+: Sarah Titmuss & Penny

McKechnie r/u Janet Hunter & Anne Haywood

Mixed Doubles 50+: Geoff & Penny Smith

r/u Rory Guilding & Alice Davey

Family Doubles: Neil & Ollie Ruddick

r/u David Fraser & Izzy Da Silva

Plate events

Men's Singles: Emil Meager

r/u Nick Jones

Ladies' Singles: Nicky Browne

r/u Nicky Jones

Men's Doubles: Charlie Bowden & Monty Cooper

r/u Joel Talcott & John Milton

Ladies' Doubles: Nicky Browne & Di Marlow

r/u Ali Earp & Elaine Fleming

Mixed Doubles: Davide Compagno & Lois Burgess

r/u Al Cooper & Penny McKechnie

Men's Singles 60+: Pete Moore r/u Geoff Titmuss

Ladies' Doubles 60+: Sarah Connell & Kay Bedwell

r/u Caroline Orgee & Pam Webber

Family Doubles: Ben & Daisy Williams

r/u Dave & Emily Taylor

Club Tournament Results: Juniors

8U: James Marlow

9U: Andrew Marlow r/u Harry Mifflin

10UA: Ruby Taylor r/u Andrew Marlow

10UB: Elizabeth Flanagan

10U Doubles: Luca Mainini & Ruby Taylor

12U Boy's Singles: Zander Archer r/u Lewis Parker

12U Girl's Singles: Ruby Taylor r/u Ailsa Archer

18U Boy's Singles: Ollie Ruddick r/u Alfie Mills

18U Boy's Doubles: Ollie Ruddick & Alfie Mills

18U Girl's Doubles: Daisy Williams & Marina Webb

r/u Beth Pye & Lois Burgess

18U Mixed Doubles: Ollie Ruddick & Daisy Williams

r/u Alfie Mills & Marina Webb

Mixed Doubles: Sam Laidler & Beth Pye