

# KINTBURY TENNIS CLUB

Affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association

[www.kintburytennisclub.co.uk](http://www.kintburytennisclub.co.uk)

## July 2008 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members

It's been a busy few months since the last Newsletter back in April. The Open Day was a success. Memberships came in at a snail's pace. The Quiz Night has come and gone. The Fun Run went ahead as usual despite the awful weather. The Summer League is close to concluding. Trees and stumps have been removed. Hedges and weeds have come back with a vengeance. The court project has been ongoing. The committee has worked tirelessly to build membership and increase member participation. The Men's Doubles tournament has now been posted. Coaching for juniors expanded to 2 days a week. The LTA backed down on British Tennis Membership. Laura Robson proved that in just 7 years you could win junior Wimbledon. Rafael Nadal took the game of tennis to another level. Last but not least global warming seems to be having little effect in providing us with lovely playing conditions.

Now for the meat on the bones (apologies to all Veggies and Vegans)



April's Quiz Night was a big success thanks again to Graeme's tireless efforts to drum up numbers on top of writing an excellent quiz. It's great to see all the effort that goes into the organization bring about an enjoyable evening for all and add valuable funds to the club. Thanks to Raegan Keen for volunteering to organize the food and Lola Emetulu for scoring.

**Membership:** I'd like to welcome all 17 new members. I hope you have managed to get along to club nights and get to know other members. Despite a big drive to double our membership this year we are once again down on numbers. We currently have 73 members compared to 88 last year. Why we have a declining membership is a mystery. We seem to have so much going for us a club. I do feel though we need more involvement from the average club players and for them to network more and encourage one another out on court. So get on the phone and set up regular 4 or 8's. We have floodlights so let's use them. For those in Kintbury I know for a fact that there are people in the village who keep meaning to join and just need a little cajoling to make the next step and join. Keep asking everyone you meet about playing tennis and you'll be surprised – the interest is out there.

One area where we are down on membership is juniors. All those that do coaching ought to be members as that allows them on the courts out of coaching time. There has to be 20 or so kids who play on the courts who aren't members yet seem to enjoy the sport. If you see them encourage them to sign up as they are the future of the club. If they are any parents willing to get involved with juniors it would really help the club and provide some structure to the junior members play.

Membership came even slower this year than last. Those of you who are still outstanding please make your payment by the end of this month.

**New Court Project:** Finding funding to rebuild our courts is proving more difficult than we imagined. Though no funds have been secured to date we are still hopeful. The original plan was to lay three new courts on top of the old ones, extend all three courts to LTA minimum size, and remove the bank and light court three, all at cost of some £80,000. Since raising this amount of money seems unlikely we are looking at cheaper options. One that has come up is to resurface with 'artificial grass'. This would be a quick and affordable option – approx £23,000 for 2 courts as opposed to £45,000 if we went with tarmac. The big debate is do we want 'artificial grass', though it may be our only option if funds cannot be found for tarmac. It was decided at committee that the club as a whole should have the opportunity to have its say on the subject at the next AGM or EGM. In order that members can base their decision on experience of playing on artificial grass we hope to arrange some evenings that members can play over at Kingsclere where they have recently laid such a surface.

The club would like to thank everyone who donated to the 'Development Fund' along with this year's subscriptions the monies is being held in reserve for when needed.

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## Forthcoming Events:

- Junior Tournament Saturday August 2nd: We shall be organizing a Junior Tournament free to all juniors between the ages of 8 and 16. Non-members are also welcome to participate for a fee of £2, so do invite you friends along. Should you wish to take part please contact Graeme Coulam on 01635 41547 or [chair@kintburytennisclub.co.uk](mailto:chair@kintburytennisclub.co.uk)
- Men's Doubles Tournament: The schedule has now been posted in the club house and can be found on our website. Nearly all our adult men are taking part along with some of our younger men which is a wonderful result. Please look out for when each round has to be played and start contacting your opponents to arrange matches. Many thanks to John Tanner for putting in the time and effort to organize this event again this year.
- American Tournament Sunday 14th September. Entry fee will be £5 and will include a BBQ. The format has yet to be decided as it will depend on numbers. It will be open to all. Contact Ray Kite if you wish to take part at [r.s.kite@talk21.com](mailto:r.s.kite@talk21.com) and look out for further details in the coming weeks.
- Mixed Doubles Tournament: Once the league season is finished work will begin on organizing this year's event. Unfortunately we do not have enough female members to pair all our men up so all you men out there you'd better start buttering up the ladies if you wish to take part. If you wish to take part you can start emailing me you and your partners names now at [johnr.howell@talk21.com](mailto:johnr.howell@talk21.com)
- Junior Matches: Lauren has been asked to arrange some junior matches to give them some competitive tennis. So all you juniors keep on at Lauren to get that off the ground.
- **Working Party:** The grounds are in need of some tidying up. All pretty light work but it needs hands and then it won't take too long. Those not on holidays could we have a couple hours of your time on Saturday 9th August at 10.00 am. If anybody knows anyone who can aid us in replacing the glass in one of our floodlights 10m up in the air please let John Howell know.

**The Ollie Johnson Memorial Kintbury 5 Mile Run** took place back in May in awful weather. However it failed to deter many runners from turning up from all over the place. Well done all those that took part. Many thanks to David Wright for all the hours of hard work involved in putting on such a good event that once again boosts our club coffers. Also thanks to all who volunteered to marshal – it would not be possible to put on such an event without your input.

**Summer League Update:** Many members have participated in matches this season and as we draw to a close it looks as though we may well hold on to Men's and Mixed Div 1 titles. If we manage this it will be especially special as both sides have been depleted this year and relied on those stepping up rising to the challenge.

**British Tennis Membership:** Since only 16 of our members have signed up some of you may not be aware that it is free to sign up to British Tennis. Plans to charge in 2009 have been dropped and it's been announced that no fee will be charged at least until February 2012 for members of affiliated clubs. It is worth while bearing in mind that next year's Wimbledon Ticket allocation will be proportional to members signed up to British Tennis by November 2008. The choice is yours!

Does anyone know what happened to all the tins of used match balls that were stored in the club house for future club nights? Would love to know as this is the 2nd year running balls have mysteriously vanished.

*Would you be interested in having an exclusive Kintbury Tennis Club email address? If so contact Graeme by email [chair@kintburytennisclub.co.uk](mailto:chair@kintburytennisclub.co.uk)*