

# KINTBURY TENNIS CLUB

Affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association

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

## March 2009 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members

As we draw to the end of another year in the life of KTC and look towards the start of 2009-10 the club faces many challenges. We are fortunate to have a wonderful community of members and now's the time for individuals to come forward and help the committee drive the club forward.

**Challenge No.1** is resurfacing or rebuilding all 3 courts. For those of you who are new to the club and as a reminder to others, besides the issue of funds, the big debate is whether to resurface or build new courts on top of the existing courts. Resurfacing is the cheapest and desired option however past resurfacing has seen cracks on the old court transfer to the new surface relatively quickly and to date no contractor has been able to guarantee this will not happen again. The LTA surveyor that visited the club last year therefore recommended the only solution as being the laying of 3 brand new courts. With no LTA grants or loans available and no luck with various grants at the present time the club simply cannot afford such a project. With some £23,000 in the bank and a cost in the region of £43,000 for new courts we either delay until funds are available or look for another solution. It is possible that resurfacing may still be an option if an appropriate membrane solution can be found whereby the cracks will not transfer to the newly laid court. Current discussions are taking place with a contractor in the hope that this technique will work and be guaranteed by them.

Astro-turf has been considered however there was not much enthusiasm from members canvassed and there was also a maintenance issue. Whichever route we take it is expected to sort courts 1 & 2 first and hopefully extend the width to incorporate the grassy bank. Court 3 would be a separate project looking at the option to widen and lengthen the court at the same time. A fence would be erected between courts 2 & 3 if the widening of court 2 takes place.

Despite the talk of courts and the cracks it has to be said they still play well and the number of bad bounces is few and far between and certainly does not detract from the standard of play or the enjoyment that is being had. With a little bit of TLC we could squeeze more life out of the courts yet. We are looking at a temporary fix for the major cracks.

The club has just purchased a rotary pressure washer system that will enable us to keep the courts moss free and clean on a regular basis thus maximizing grip. This equipment cost the club £1,125 whereas an annual clean would cost the club in the region of £1,300. The NDLTA were not willing to purchase this equipment for the benefit of the whole league but did offer a solution which we felt benefited the club. The NDLTA has agreed to advertise our equipment for hire on its website and if any associated member club hires it they will reimburse KTC £100 up to a maximum of £1,000. We have already had an order from one of these clubs. It is our intention to charge £100 hire to a club thus generating £200 per hire. In time we hope to generate income from this equipment plus it will have saved us money otherwise paid to court cleaners. There is little point though in having this great bit of kit if we do not have volunteers to operate it. It took contractors nearly 2 days to clean our courts the last time they were done. Ideally it is a two man job but very straight forward.



**The Rotary Pressure Washer is available for hire to club members for a fee of £25.** It should fit in a hatch back or larger vehicle. It is ideal for block paving, patios or tarmac drives. Contact John Howell on 07979 852562

**Challenge No.2** Growing our membership. In the mid 1990's KTC had a membership of around 200; 4 years ago we were 133 and this has dropped to 131, 88 and 86 in the respective years. We can surely survive on our current figures. However it limits our fundraising and therefore our ability to improve facilities, which would otherwise enable us to build a better club to pass on to the next generation. Last year a challenge was set for each member to introduce 1 new member. A handful of you rose to the challenge but our numbers are still down as we lost members once more – mainly it has to be said as they left the area.

This year you are **all** invited to accept the challenge of finding one new member. To make it easier this year it can include bringing back to the fold old members. For those of you living in the village it should be a piece of cake as you have an untapped market – less than 40% of our members come from Kintbury. The minimum goal is to achieve a membership of 150 this year

***The role of Membership Secretary was taken on by John Howell when no one else stood for the post following Jane Knight's resignation after many years service. If someone would like to relinquish John of this role he would be delighted. Election of officials is at the AGM***

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**Challenge No.3** To build our junior membership. The best way in undoubtedly through the coaching we offer with Lauren Bryett on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. We then have to find a way of keeping their interest outside of coaching by encouraging parents to bring down to play. Juniors have a designated club night on a Wednesday 4.30 – 6.30 but without adult supervision and encouragement this has failed as an initiative.

***A Junior Coordinator is required to liaise with juniors and parents. Help organize fun days and competition. To assist in junior membership drive.***

**Challenge No.4** Participate and assist in the general running of the club and events held during the year. Too much of the day to day running of the club is carried out by Graeme Coulam (Chairman) and John Howell (Membership Sec & Club Sec) with some assistance from committee members. When it comes to events held by the club be it Quiz Night, Fun Days or Working Parties it is too often Graeme and John plus 1 or 2 others. Let us not forget we are a private members club, with no paid officials. If you wish to join the committee or wish to offer your help then please contact Graeme.

Over the coming year help will be needed with the following:

Grass Cutting; Court Cleaning; Quiz Nights (Catering, Raffle); Grounds and court maintenance in general e.g. Leaf Clearing in the autumn.

**Challenge No.5** Make more use of the KTC website.

The KTC website has been very useful for attracting new members. Only last week, we had a new person join us from out of the village after he found out about our club on the web. But the website is about more than attracting new members. It is also a resource that current members can use, to find out about matches, to book a court, even to contact other members.

These added extras are available from a members only section that you can get to by entering your email address and a password (ask John Howell or Graeme Coulam). You can change your password to something more memorable by contacting Graeme.

The members only area will help you make contact with other members according to their level of play, without disclosing anyone's personal contact details. It's a great way to set up games with people of similar ability to yourself and to make new friends. If you needed to contact every member in the club for some reason, you can do that too.

If you're not able to get to the open day you can even join and pay your subscription online (a small card fee applies). And the website is also the place you can find out who is on committee, direct visitors to a map to find the club, and find details of where to buy tokens for the floodlights, and other club matters.

Why not take a closer look at [www.kintburytennisclub.co.uk](http://www.kintburytennisclub.co.uk) and also tell Graeme if there is some other feature that you'd like to have on the site. You can contact Graeme at [chair@kintburytennisclub.co.uk](mailto:chair@kintburytennisclub.co.uk), or if you'd like to have your own KTC email address, e.g. [john@kintburytennisclub.co.uk](mailto:john@kintburytennisclub.co.uk) that can also be arranged at no cost to you.

**And now for more news.....**

## **The 2008-9 Men's Doubles Tournament:**

A fascinating final was played out on a very cold Wednesday evening in February between Paul Morgan and Malcolm Davies V Rob King and Nick Burn. Played in front of a small gallery that diminished as the match progressed and the cold and European football matches got the better of most, those who did stay the course witnessed an epic contest.

Paul and Malcolm started slowly and with a litany of unforced errors Rob and Nick must have thought Christmas had come early when they were 5-0 up. Those suffering the cold and hoping for a quick match soon realized it wasn't going to be 'early beers' as Paul and Malcolm clawed their way back to 5-5. 'Mr. Lucky' aka Paul had managed by this time to return a volley from Rob that was hit behind him down the forehand tramline to save a set point. Without video replay it is not known if Paul actually took a ball from his pocket to play the shot. With the set evenly balanced and both pairs now competing we wondered whose nerve would break first. With Nick holding his 'serve' for a 6-5 lead the pressure now lay with Malcolm. Nick and Rob held firm to what had worked so well in the opening 5 games and made the opposition play that 'one more shot' until the error came. Set 1 to Rob and Nick 7-5

Set 2: Not subdued by losing the 1st set after a valiant comeback Paul and Rob romped to a 3-0 lead. Paul was on his '6th Wind' by now having taken his '2nd wind' after the first couple of games of set 1. At 4-1 those watching were resigned to frost bite and a 3rd set. In typical fashion Rob and Nick staged a mini comeback to 5-4 but this time Paul and Malcolm did the business 6-4. One set all and into the 3rd.

Set 3: Games went with serve up to 3-3. The standard of tennis had been good throughout. The squash fit duo of Rob and Nick retrieving everything must have weakened the will of Paul and Malcolm – each time they looked like a point had been won, back it came, again and

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again. At 5-3 Rob served for the match and a pint by the fire at the Blue Ball but contrived to lose, 5-4. Paul held 5-5. Nick held 6-5. Would Malcolm now take pity on us and allow his serve to be broken – thankfully yes 7-5. Well played both pairs, a tough match, great play and good spectacle. A marvelous advert for the strength in depth we have at this club. Finally many thanks to John Tanner for his organization of the tournament.



## Diary Dates:

< Monday	9th March	AGM Blue Ball	7.00 pm
< Saturday	25th April	Quiz Night Coronation Hall	7.00 pm
< Sunday	26th April	Open Day	11am-5.00pm
< Sunday	10th May	Start of Summer Leagues	
< Saturday	23rd May	Junior Tournament	TBA
< Monday	25th May	5 Mile Fun Run	10.30
< Monday	25th May	Kiddies Run	10.00
< Saturday	11th July	The Big One(club bash)	TBA
< Sunday	12th July	Tennis Fun Day	TBA
< Saturday	10th October	Quiz Night	TBA

Don't forget to put the  
Open Day in your diary  
Sunday 26 April  
11.00am - 5.00pm  
Bring a friend along  
Possible Mixed Double  
Final

Lauren Bryett starts 3rd year coaching at Kintbury and Hungerford  
Contact Lauren on 07859 825 440 or [laurenwbtennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laurenwbtennis@hotmail.co.uk)

### Mixed Doubles Tournament 2008-9

The intention is to still play this tournament. We have had so few women interested in playing that it may be possible to play the whole tournament on the Open Day. Would all those wishing to take part please email John Howell at [johnr.howell@talk21.com](mailto:johnr.howell@talk21.com) stating if you are available on 26th April Open Day.

Depending on numbers we can either do a table or straight knockout format.