

2009 has been an eventful year in the Club's history. The committee wishes everyone a merry Christmas over the festive period, and a prosperous new year.



Mens tennis team update

The mens teams have played a number of games this season, with mixed results:-

Mens 1st - played one and won one.

Mens 2nd - played one and lost one.

Mens 3rd - played one and drawn one.

Mens 4th - played two and won two.

Ladies tennis team update

The Ladies 1st team have played two matches so far this winter season.

One ended in a draw and one unfortunately a loss.

The team is aiming for a hat trick of wins to complete the winter season, and are extremely sorry to be losing Harriet, its highly valued player, to her "around the world" adventures.

Reminder concerning Guests playing at the Club

Tennis guest fees are payable at £5-00 per adult visit and £3-00 per junior visit. Members bringing guests to the Club are responsible for collecting guest fees.

The Club has invested considerable money into upgrading the quality of the tennis courts, and it isn't appropriate that guests should take advantage without any contribution. A fee of £5 is comparable to charges imposed by other clubs, and relative to charges for public courts. Payment can either be made to any of the committee members serving behind the bar, or when the bar isn't open, the Club has now installed a new guest fee box which should be used when the bar is closed.

Non-members may play as guests a maximum of three times in any one season and must always be accompanied by a member.

New Memberships rates 2010

The new membership rates for next year have been approved by the committee.

	2009/10 Rate	2010/11 Full Rate	2010/11 Discounted Rate *
Adult	£185	£215	£200
Concession (note 1)	£115	£140	£130
Family (note 2)	£55	£70	£60
Student (note 3)	£90	£100	£95
Junior U18	£65	£75	£70
Junior U16	£45	£55	£50
Social	£40	£25	n/a
Adult Joining fee	£25	£25	n/a
Adult new shares	£10	£10	n/a

* The early payment discount is for memberships paid in full by 15 April 2010.

note 1: Concession rate applies to:

- Members 65yrs and over
- the spouse/partner at the same address as a full Adult paying member where family membership rate is also being paid

note 2: Family membership covers all children under 16yrs old at time of joining, living at the same address as a parent/partner who is also paying the full adult tennis member rate.

note 3: Students in full-time education – Student ID to be provided

Club Session Etiquette

Club sessions (Tuesdays and Fridays from 6pm and Sundays from 2pm) are the main opportunity to drop in and enjoy some social tennis (men's, ladies' and mixed doubles). Members should be prepared to mix in with whoever is there and at the end of a set, come off court to mix around again or find out who is waiting to play. These sessions have priority on courts 1, 2, 3 and 4.

At all busy times, unless playing in a match, members are asked to be aware of others waiting to play and not to stay on court indefinitely. As a general rule, members will be requested to play for no more than one hour if other members are waiting to play.

All members (and their guests) are asked to show appropriate consideration to other players and be respectful of neighbouring houses when playing their games. Please keep court noise to a minimum.

gardens
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Summary of Committee Meeting (Thursday 5th November 2009)

Finance

Club's insurance bill ended up being much reduced because we have public liability insurance via the LTA. As a result, our current insurance bill is roughly at 2006 levels.

Court lighting was discussed. Committee agreed we should consider upgrading the power supply to phase-3 although an application for lighting on court 4 should not be submitted until the spring of next year.

Membership

Current membership numbers as follows:

Full = 126, Junior = 67, Social = 11.

It was highlighted that the end of November was the deadline to join British Tennis, as regards the allocation of Wimbledon tickets to the Club. A reminder email has been sent reminding all members of the deadline.

Club Maintenance

The contractor recently came to re-dress the courts.

It was proposed that a maintenance book be used as the best way to notify the committee of anything that needs doing.

Coaching

Court time allocated to coaching was discussed. The following parameters were agreed.

- Court 1 always to be kept free for members
- Except for Monday, no coaching on weekday evenings
- Evenings start at 6:30pm
- Non-members can only be coached a maximum of 6 times (after which they will either have to become members, or else cease being coached at the Club)
- Non-members currently being coached, can pay and join now for the 2010 membership year.

Making plans for New Years Eve ?



A view from Ken Jessop

This month, we interview Ken Jessop, our oldest and longest serving member at the Gardens Tennis Club.

How long have you been a member at the Gardens Tennis Club?

I joined the Gardens, with my wife Phyllis, in 1976 and have enjoyed every minute of it for 33 years.

You must have seen many changes to the look and feel of the Club during this time?

Being on the Committee for over 20 years (House and Grounds) I painted the Hall three times, twice on my own and the third time with Peter Grimes and others.

I recall arranging to have the Club re-wired by an old friend George Wood (Martin's Dad) and what a good job he did for a very low price. We had old gas heaters which were made redundant in the hall and the bar had to be replaced. Conveniently a small running club (whom we allowed to use our facilities) had a couple of gas central heating engineers in their membership, who were willing to do the work. With a little persuasion, I got the Committee to agree to have central heating put in for around £1,000, using a second hand boiler and radiators. These are still working well today I gather.

I also re-layed the shale courts for about 10 years, after a local firm made a mess of court 2, and recall John Sprackett and I demolishing the old garage, and building the current store.

What are the most significant changes you've seen at the Club since you've been a member?

To my mind the most significant changes are what Brian Hoban has done since he and Lynn joined. The extended balcony, the bar re-furbishment and of course the four new courts with the floodlights.

What aspect of the Gardens Club do you enjoy most ?

The friendly atmosphere of the Club, everyone will play with whoever and enjoy playing. I have always felt, if you let possible new members try out the Courts and you make them feel comfortable, they will join.

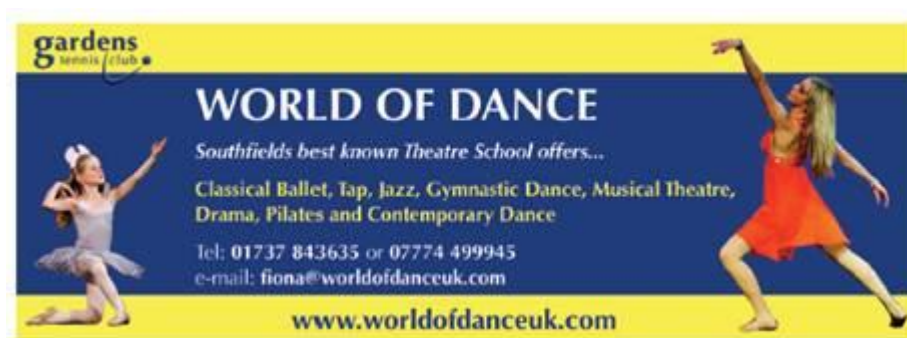
Which is your most memorable tennis match you played in at the Club?

Every year, back in the 80's we had a tennis tour group who visited our Club every year during the Wimbledon fortnight. They would play in the mornings on our courts and go to the Wimbledon Tennis in the afternoon. On one evening each year, Club members would have a challenge match with them. The match I remember most was when my wife and I were matched against this "grey-haired old couple" who we thought would be an easy pushover. They gave us a right "pasting" and wiped us off the Court - we found out later that he was an over-60's champion !!

Finally, how do you rate Andy Murray's chances at the wimbledon championships next year?

On his present form I believe he has as good a chance as any to win Wimbledon.





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Final word from the Editor

I'm sure everyone would like to join myself and the committee in wishing Harriet and Andy a bon voyage for their world travels, and our best wishes for the future!

No date has been set as yet for the AGM, however I have been reliably informed that there will be a vacancy on the committee for the role of the membership secretary for 2011. If anyone is interested and would like to know more about what this role entails, please contact Juliet.

Have a lovely Christmas, enjoy the festive period with your friends and family, and a happy new year to everyone.

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