



OXFORD SPORTS LAWN TENNIS CLUB

A Tennis Clubmark Accredited Club



Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club News Update **February 2010**

Welcome to Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club

What a year 2009 has been for Oxford Sports, so a little reflection.

I'm sure it has not gone un-noticed that we have a new club house. Firstly, I must thank the main protagonists who enabled the project to get off the ground and finally result in the fabulous new club house that we now have. Without the help and dedication of a few people we would not be where we are today. So a big thank you goes to Mike Good our outgoing treasurer for his tireless work in liaising with the LTA to obtain the necessary funding, Mary Evans for helping keep the club focussed on the need to have new club house and John Szulc for the sterling work he has done in project managing the build and more importantly the final bits of snagging. Maggie Jutton should be mentioned for her contribution in getting the club house fit for purpose. There are so many people that have contributed to this project it is difficult to name them all and of course the generosity of club members in supporting this project with personal donations and supporting the fund raising events. Please can I urge you to keep doing so as we still have a long journey to take to ensure the club as a whole is at the standard we strive for.

We may have noticed that a new logo has started to appear – the Tennis Clubmark. Oxford Sports has attained Clubmark status. Clubmark is the only national cross sports quality accreditation scheme for clubs with junior sections. It is built around a set of core criteria which ensure that accredited clubs operate to a set of consistent, accepted and adopted minimum operating standards. Our thanks go to Melanie and Maggie who persevered with the application process.

So, what are the plans for 2010?

Well, firstly we need to increase membership and with this we can continue to provide competitive tennis at all ability levels. We pride ourselves on the number of teams we have in the Oxfordshire leagues, but to be able to continue this, we need members and just as importantly volunteers for the captain's roles for some teams.

Now the club house is up and running, we want to increase the number of social events we hold at the club as we've never really had the room before and make use of the new landscaped patio area – perfect for those summer BBQs.

To ensure we gain the maximum use from the club house and the club Maggie Jutton has agreed to be the main point of contact to help answer any queries and importantly keep an eye on the club house and courts.

So, we have the new club house, what next? Well courts 7 to 9 do need resurfacing and we're looking to re-locate the practice wall and set-up a Kids Zone in place of court 7. This will give us 8 quality courts to use. For the longer term we will be revisiting the floodlighting of courts 7 to 9.

All these projects do not happen by themselves and it's been down to the hard work of the committee and volunteers that has enabled this to come to fruition, so my thanks goes out to them all. On speaking of volunteers – we need you, yes you, to help out in any way you can with running of our and your club. Notices will be going up in the club house, so if you have skills we can use, please sign up.

As I stated previously Mike Good, after all the years of acting as club treasurer has decided to step down. If anyone would be willing to take over this role, please do get in touch.

So finally, as I think I've gone on long enough, is to say welcome again to Oxford Sports and we hope to see you down the club using the new club house (have I said that already?) facilities and importantly playing tennis.

With best wishes for 2010

Phil

Phil Morgan-Brown
Club Chairman

Tennis Club Survey Results

A big thank you to all who took part in the survey. It's purpose was to help us:

- Understand the extent to which current members engage with the club
- Understand how members use and view the club
- Identify areas for improvement

- Form action plans on how to make changes.

The results are in!

Four key themes emerged:

- Communication
- Ongoing maintenance of facilities and equipment
- Teams and matches
- Club ethos, membership, opportunities to play

We have now formed a sub-committee specifically to address these issues and put into place an action plan. At our initial meeting we looked at ways of improving communication, hence this news update and proceeding ad. for a communications volunteer! Our aim is to continue these updates on a regular basis to keep you better informed and also to keep information regularly updated on the web and in the clubhouse.

If you would like to have a copy of the full survey results email Denise on the link below.

If you have any good ideas or suggestions we would like to hear them. Contact deniseknox01@aol.com or use the suggestion box in the clubhouse.

The survey has certainly been a very useful tool in helping the club identify its strengths and target areas for improvement. Many thanks to Judy Shipway for her professional input.

Volunteers

The committee, are looking to make progress in developing other areas of activity which will improve the Tennis Experience at Oxford Sports LTC for **ALL** its members.

To assist us in this process, we need to recruit new members to the committee. We are looking for enthusiastic, committed people to fill the vacant posts and join us in fulfilling our plans. The survey of members' views, conducted last Autumn, has helped us to identify the improvements, members would most like to see. We have decided to create a new post of **COMMUNICATIONS / PRESS OFFICER** to ensure that we address this very important issue, as a priority.

In addition, as Phil Morgan Brown who has been the club secretary, has become Chairman of the club, we need a new **SECRETARY** so that Phil can concentrate on his new role. Mike Good, who is currently our Treasurer, has signalled his intention of stepping down at the end of March so we urgently need a new **Treasurer**

If you would like more information about any of these roles, please contact **Mary Evans** at

maryeevans@sky.com or on 01865 779108 who would be happy to discuss any of the roles with you.

If you could spare any of your time or skills in supporting the club, even on a one off basis, we would love to hear from you. Please indicate on your renewal forms or in the clubhouse!

Clubhouse Keys

These are now available from the membership secretary. - £10 deposit for a set of two keys.

Social Tennis is back

Every Thursday night starting Thursday 25th Feb. 7.30 onwards. Hot soup and rolls available! Please make a big effort to come along!

Membership Renewal Evening

Thursday march 18th 6.30 onwards. Buffet and social tournament. Free balls for all who renew on the night. That is tempting!

Message from Team Captains

to all you enthusiastic tennis players

Your club needs you

If you are available and would like to play in a team please let Allison or Ed know. All levels welcome. Contact alison.clayton@bioch.ox.ac.uk

A special thank you to Terry Murphy who has taken on the D Team captaincy.

Club Website

Do take time to visit the new website. A big thank you to Ali's brother for designing it and to Steve Roberts who 'keeps the engine running'. www.oxfordsportsltc.org

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