WELLS TENNIS CLUB

Newsletter November 2017

Welcome

Welcome to our ‘deep dark winter’ newsletter! Those halcyon days spent playing tennis into long warm summer evenings are now fading into memory… Certainly makes you glad that our ‘new’ floodlights are now proving their worth, doesn’t it?

It’s worth reflecting on another successful season for the club. We saw some more great matches and successful campaigns in the summer leagues, with the men’s A team back in the top division (gunning for glory next year!), and great to see four teams competing in the women’s league. Thanks to our team captains, Julia Nest and Dave Mills for their leadership and fab coordinating skills.

We also had another strong club championships, with (almost) every title fiercely competed. Congrats to Seth Cunningham and Linda Hall, singles champs, and to all winners, competitors and organisers. The awards and skittles evening earlier this month was a great night out. Our two winter league teams, ably led by Caroline Moule (Players Player of the Year!) and Dave Mills, are now in full flow – we look forward to hearing of promotions for both come the Spring…

Winter is a good time to be working on your game, so its worth thinking about taking advantage of the coaching opportunities offered by Kevin, whether it’s rusty rackets (they’re a lively bunch!), individual sessions or junior coaching, there’s something for everyone.

We are, above all, a community club and it’s good to see more links with local schools and businesses getting stronger - in particular our most recent club sponsors, Tweedie Evans (smart new bench!) and Crest Nicholson (smart new junior t-shirts). Thanks to both.

As we proceed through the winter, we’ll look forward to our AGM on February 21st, when I’m sure our focus will be on the proposed relocation (see below). We’ll also be looking for new committee members to help the club go from strength to strength. If you’re interested, or if you just want to share ideas for your club, please get in touch. Meantime, see you on court.

Dan Cooke
Chairman, Wells TC

November 2017

Captains and competitions

I'd like to thank all the Wells ladies for taking part in the Ladies Summer League and it was great to be able to field four teams this season. The new D Team was a success and it was lovely to have many new players representing WTC. The League starts again at the end of April 2018 and I'll be looking for interest in the teams Feb/Mar time. We will hopefully have some training and friendly matches before the season begins. If anyone new would like to take part in the 2018 Ladies League, we will have four teams to fill once again and the teams cover all abilities from the experienced players of the A Team in Division 2, to the newbies of the D Team in Division 7. We welcome all keen players who would like to have a go!

Julia Nest, Ladies' Captain

The men's successful North Somerset league campaign started early this year when we had an away pre-season friendly against Cheddar. A double win for the A and B teams set the tone for the coming season. Both Wells A and C teams stormed through to a division win gaining promotion. The A team heading back up to the dizzy heights of division 1.

I'd like to thank the team Captains - Kevin Durney, Ed Pierce and Colin Blatchford-Brown for a sterling effort and making my job a lot easier. I'd also like to say a big thank-you to all the players that represented Wells, sometimes in very challenging conditions - well done!

The Winter Mixed League season has now started with Wells fielding two teams, A and B. Both teams have started well and we'll keep you updated as to our progress. The matches are generally played on a Sunday morning and if anyone would like to play for either of the teams, please speak to Caroline Moule, Julia Nest or Dave Mills.
Let's hope that 2018 will be equally as successful!

Dave Mills, Men's Captain

Diary Dates

February

Wednesday 21: Club AGM

Friday 23: Deadline for Wimbledon ballot

April

Saturday 28: Open Day

Safeguarding

A short reminder, that I cover the role of Welfare Officer for the Wells Tennis Club. This involves making sure our commitment to safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults at when at our club is followed. If you have concerns about safeguarding issues related to Wells Tennis Club, you can contact me by email member@moulekuenne.plus.com or by telephone 01749 671202. Any conversation will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Caroline Moule

Twinning friendly

Wells Twinning Association has approached us to arrange a tournament between Wells Tennis Club and representatives from Bad Durkheim, Germany when they visit next summer. Arrangements are in the very early stages but we anticipate a friendly tournament followed by a social event on Saturday 2nd June.

Wells TC visited Bad Durkheim, a town of around 20,000 people, in 2009 with 11 players and had a great time, our hosts were fantastic and looked after us really well. Their club has 16 outdoor courts and four covered as well as a restaurant on site and small seating stands on three courts.

Much to our surprise we won the match by one point in 2009 so they'll be after us this time! More details to follow once we know the numbers visiting but if you'd like to express an interest contact Brian Clarke brmclarke@googlemail.com.

Proposed club relocation

We are an ambitious tennis club with a clear vision to grow membership, improve accessibility and participation across the wider community, and to deliver a full programme of opportunities for all levels of players.

As part of this we're aiming to deliver a new and improved tennis hub for Wells and the communities of mid-Somerset. As part of a joint project with the local Rugby Club (and with the support of the District Council) we're looking to re-locate in Wells wiith them. This will deliver superb tennis playing facilities, including two indoor courts and four floodlit external astro-courts (or similar), alongside improved social facilities (annexed to a larger Rugby Clubhouse) and an ambitious coaching programme.

We're currently waiting to hear from our partners at Wells Rugby Football Club on the result of their tendering exercise for the sale and development of their current land, (and including the development of the new facilities). This will determine whether we have the opportunity to relocate with them. As

soon as we have some clarity on this, we'll need to start planning, designing and fundraising in detail.

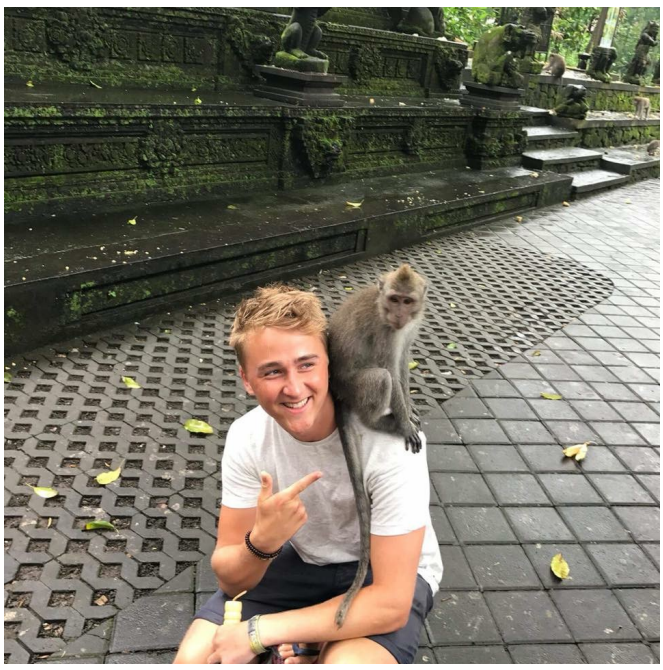
As part of our preparations we've set up a sub-committee to examine the opportunities and challenges presented and to provide a focus for the work required. Nothing will go-ahead without the support and involvement of our membership, and we'll ensure good communications and opportunities to get involved and to have your say throughout once detailed plans are available for comment. Watch this space for details, and in the meantime, if you have any comments or ideas on the proposed relocation, please get in touch with any member of the committee. Initial plans are available to view in the clubhouse.

Dan Cooke

Help Oli build a playground

Club member Oli Refson is raising funds to build a playground in Uganda next summer. He'll be in Africa for three months and would welcome any donations to help towards costs.

Oli said: "Hey guys, next summer I will be volunteering in Uganda to build a playground for disadvantaged children with East African Playgrounds. Many children all over the world grow up without a childhood, and a sense of fun and enjoyment at school. Play helps build physical, emotional, social and cognitive skills which will vastly improve their life not only as a child but for adulthood as well. I will be spending three weeks in Uganda with like minded individuals to bring fun and enjoyment to the lives of children who need it most. To help my cause please could you donate to my page, a little or a lot. It all goes in the rights direction. Thank you!"

Find out more and donate here:

https://www.eastafricanplaygrounds.org/Fundraisers/the-one-where-ollie-goes-to-uganda