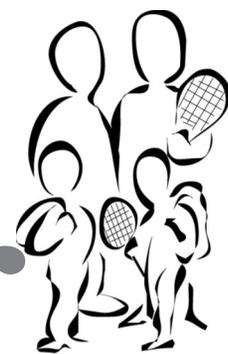




# GREENWOOD PARK Lawn Tennis Club



## Winter 2017 Newsletter

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### ■ AGM

It's AGM time again and all members are welcome to attend the meeting, which will be held in the clubhouse on **Tuesday, 28th November**. A glass of wine will be available and the meeting will begin at 7:30pm.



### ■ Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

#### Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

To celebrate another great year of tennis we welcome all our members to join us for an evening of mulled wine and mince pies and a bit of tennis taking place on **Thursday 14th December**.



### ■ Your club needs YOU

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, several committee members are standing down after many years of service and hard work for the club. This is a great chance for some new blood to bring new ideas to the table, so please offer to help if you can – the club doesn't magically run by itself.

### ■ Anyone with publishing skills?

#### Anyone with publishing skills?

After 10 years or more of producing the club newsletters, this will be Terry Smith's last issue. If anyone has any experience with publishing, or knows somebody who does, then please let us know as soon as possible, we'll need the new person in situ in time for next Spring's newsletter.

### ■ From The Committee

*Greetings to all of our members old and new  
Welcome to another winter season at Greenwood Park.*

The project for the clubhouse extension and facilities was mostly completed in stages during the summer and has, as I hope you'll agree, made a big difference already but there is still some way to go. The security shutters need to be installed, and there are ongoing teething problems with the main door and locks and building security, which are not part of the clubhouse extension project but a separate PC issue and which have not gone as we would have liked. Once it is all completed and functioning as intended, we'd like to run more events and functions. We all need to thank David Thompson, and Jovan and Caroline Ciric, for all of their considerable time and effort that they put in throughout this project.

Several committee members are stepping down this year after long service. I have served on the committee for 14 years, the past 5 of those as acting chairman and then chairman, and I feel that I have done my bit for the club and I'll be standing down from the committee at the AGM in November. Caroline Ciric is doing likewise after 5 years on the committee and 3 of those as Club Secretary, and Barbara Jones is stepping down as Membership Secretary after 7 years. In addition, David Thompson is relinquishing his role as Vice Chairman after 3 years although he will be continuing on the committee.

I understand that many of you want to come to the Club and just play tennis, but unfortunately the Club cannot run without a group of volunteers and those existing committee members who are staying on this year cannot be expected to run everything on their own. So please can you look in the mirror, and ask yourselves whether you could contribute to the running of the club in any way? The intention is that the committee should have a regular turnover of members with nobody expected to serve too many years, with a mix of old and new hands. The turnover this year is an opportunity for people with new ideas to join in the running of the club and perhaps innovate in some ways and mix things up a bit. The Nominations list will be on the board – so let's have some of you stepping forward!

Personally, I'd like to thank everyone on various committees over the years who have assisted me in any way, there are too many of you to mention by name.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you soon at club social tennis and events, please keep an eye out for emails and look at the club notice board and elsewhere in this newsletter for news of forthcoming events and tournaments which you might like to enter.

**Laurie Cheney, Chairman**

## ■ Facilities Update

The Clubhouse improvement project is almost complete. Only installation of the security shutter is outstanding and that may be in place by the time you read this. Once the building is secure we will install a TV. We now need volunteers to organise functions and events to make the most of the new facility.

Separate from the project, the Parish Council decided to replace the main entrance door. As many of you know, this has caused us a lot of difficulties with keys and access. The agreed path forward is to fit a digital push button lock, plus a key in a secure box on the wall. The digital lock will be used during daytime and the last person to leave will also need to lock the door with the key.

Routine maintenance of the courts continues, with the help of Gary Kerr. Brushing, moss treatment and sand addition is carried out every 6 months. Can I request that members take their rubbish home or put it in the bin – especially their ball can lids and water bottles.

**David Thompson, Vice Chairman**



## ■ Club Tournaments 2017 - 2018



There were some closely contested tournaments this year. The Men's Veterans Singles was won by Andrew Marshall who beat Dave Skinner in a thrilling three set final. The Winter Mixed Doubles final was a repeat of last year's final and again it was a very close match with Tanya Cheney and James Ellwood beating Penny and Adam Skinner in the third set.

We trialled a new format for the Summer Mixed Doubles this year. We had eight pairs playing a round robin of 7 matches with the top 2 couples on match wins going into the final. The top 4 pairs were very close (if we had counted back on games it would have been a very different final).

After a closely fought final, Penny Skinner and Ian Woodley prevailed over Gill Ewing and Paul Robbins, winning 6-3.

Jennie Rayson retained her Ladies Singles title although it was a well fought after match by Tanya Cheney. Jennie won the first set and was ahead in the second when rain stopped play but when the match resumed the next day Tanya fought back to win the second set but then just lost out in the third. The Men's Singles, Men's Doubles and Ladies Doubles all had new winners of the titles. The Men's Singles was won by Max Hodgson who, at 15, is one of the youngest boys to win this title. Ellis Drayton and Jonny Stammers took the Men's Doubles title and Tanya Cheney and Anna Liddelov won the Ladies Doubles title.

The Winter Mixed Doubles is just about to get underway with the Veterans Singles starting in December. Finals Day for these two tournaments is Sunday 22nd April 2018.

**Click here for full tournament results**

**Lynn Marshall & Jeanette Drayton,  
Tournament Secretaries**

## ■ Coaching/Junior News

077796 03757 [sampink\\_2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sampink_2000@yahoo.co.uk)

The end of 2017 looks to be as dramatic as the start! 2017 will be remembered as the year of tennis comebacks. In the women's game Venus seemed to take over from her sister Serena (taking a break to have a baby), nearly winning a fairy tale Wimbledon final, but Venus seemed to just run out of steam against a strong Garbine Muguruza.

Let's just pause for a moment, this win would have given Venus 8 Grand Slam singles titles, to go with her 14 Grand Slam doubles titles and two Grand Slam mixed doubles titles, a total of 24 Grand Slam titles. Serena currently has 23 Grand Slam single titles, 14 Grand Slam doubles titles and 2 Grand Slam mixed doubles titles, a total of 39 Grand Slam titles. All together they have won 62 Grand Slam titles and with Venus performance this season (Venus also narrowly lost to Caroline Wozniacki at the WTA finals. Wozniacki also staging a career come back this season) and Serena returning after starting a family, who is to say there won't be a few more. Is there a more successful sporting family? (answers on a postcard).

In the men's game it felt like we had travelled back in time 10 years, with Nadal and Federer dominating the year. Federer wins the Australian, Nadal wins the French, Federer wins Wimbledon and Nadal wins the US and what seemed like a season decider, Federer won in Shanghai. Nadal No1 in the world, Federer No2. But wait, there is still the ATP finals in London, at the time of writing, both players are still entered in

the event. After Shanghai it seems impossible not to imagine a Federer Nadal final and after Roger's display, a win for the FED-EXPRESS and unbelievably, Federer finishing the season as No 1 in the world.

As mere mortals what can we learn from this year? Perhaps if you believe and work hard enough, it is possible to succeed. Nadal, Federer & Venus are three of the greatest players to play the game, but just like all of us, they suffered setbacks and disappointments, but they overcame them, to achieve their goals. Whether it is a change of game style or a change of racket, they stayed focus on their end goal and kept on keeping on.

One thing is for sure, they cannot keep on going forever, so let's enjoy them while we can and remember if you make your goals realistic, you can succeed,

Look forward to seeing you on court!

**Sam Pink, Head Coach**



## ■ Social Events



We decided to bring the adult finals day forward this year from October to September.

This encouraged lots of the students attending university to enter and we had a very exciting finals day which was well attended.

Later in the evening several of our champions, runners up and spectators celebrated with drinks at the Peahen followed by an excellent curry at the Chilli Bar and Kitchen.

Our annual Christmas party which was well attended last year with great food and atmosphere will be held once again at the Ardmore House Hotel on **Saturday 2nd December**.

We still have a few spaces left so please let us know asap if you would like to join us.

Another date for your diary is our annual Christmas tennis social on **Thursday 14th December** where some exciting tournaments will be run by Sam and we can enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies.

In the New year it would be good to try some new social events such as games evenings, music quizzes, wine tastings etc etc in our new and improved club house.

If any other members would like to get involved organizing such events all ideas and suggestions would be really appreciated.

**Gill & Norman Ewing, Social Secretaries**

## ■ Match Secretary's Report 2017

It was a vintage year for Greenwood Park with the Over 60's ladies starting proceedings as Winter Division 2 Champions. Following that, the Mens A, Ladies B and our Mixed teams were all champions of their respective divisions and the Ladies A also gained promotion. We also had a number of 3rd placings, so very well done everybody. Hopefully we can all remain at our new elevated levels and let the vintage champagne flow at the Christmas party.

**Dave Skinner,  
Match Secretary**

[Click here for full captains reports](#)



## ■ Membership Renewals/Applications/Subscriptions 2018-2019



As usual I would like to encourage you all to tell your friends, neighbours, work colleagues etc about our Club - we are the best value in St Albans with great facilities, plenty of teams and social tennis and a coach who is keen to make tennis in Greenwood Park a must for the local community. You can now confidently refer them to the website [www.greenwoodtennis.com](http://www.greenwoodtennis.com) for any information they need and they are welcome to attend a social session free of charge to try us out.

**Barbara Jones, Membership Secretary**

## ■ New Subscription Rates for 2018-2019

The proposed membership rates for 2018-2019 for all categories are:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	NEW	RENEWAL RATE*
		only if paid by 01/04/18
Family	£340	£308
Adult	£150	£140
Senior (60+)	£140	£130
Full time student (18-23)	£74	£66
Teen (12-18)	£74	£66
Junior (9-11)	£37	£34
Teen (brother/sister)	£37	£34
Junior (brother/sister)	£19	£17
Kidszone (up to age 8)	£12	£12
Social	£25	£25

\* Renewal rate applies to Existing members only - monies must be received by 1/04/18 or the full rate will apply



### END OF YEAR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017/18 WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Adults .....	114
Under 18s .....	190
Lifetime Members .....	8
Social .....	5
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>317</b>

## ■ Like to play for Greenwood Park?

Looking forward to a successful 2018 season, we will be entering teams to suit all abilities this season. It may be winter but don't forget there is still plenty of social and competitive tennis on offer. See clubhouse for details on how to take part.



## ■ Wimbledon Ballot

The draw for Wimbledon tickets will take place next April or May. Be sure to log into your British Tennis account and opt in to the ballot before February 2018.



## ■ ClubSpark, Membership, On-line Renewals and Court Booking

On-line court booking and membership applications and renewals have all worked very well over the past year via our ClubSpark website, so we shall be continuing with both this year. If you have not previously done so, please make every effort to join or renew via ClubSpark as it does help to reduce much of the administration work involved in processing and maintaining the membership database.

**Gerard Bermingham, IT & ClubSpark**

## ■ Social Tennis

In order to ensure that everyone gets their fair share of games at a Club Social Session on days when Josh or his nominated assistant is not organising the session, can everyone please remember to use the Rotation Board.

### Do remember that:

- The system only works if everyone on the courts has their tag on the board.
- It is an individual's responsibility to put their own tag on the board.
- Anyone playing with Social Session time allocation should take the earliest opportunity to ensure their tag is on the board. If people just coming off court are the updaters, then that minimises wasted playing time. Thank you for your co-operation

### Sunday Mornings

10.00am - 1.00pm

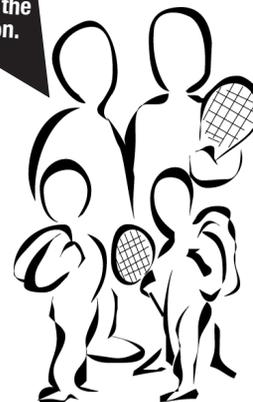
(clubhouse open from 10.30am)

### Thursday Evenings

7.00pm - 10.00pm

(Floodlights when needed)

American  
Tournaments to  
be played on the  
first Sunday  
morning of every  
month during the  
Social Session.



## ■ Committee Members 2016-2017

(\*\*standing down in 2017-2018)

MEMBER	FUNCTION	TELEPHONE	E MAIL
Laurie Cheney	** Chairman	01727 872393	laurie.cheney@causeway.com
David Thompson	** Vice Chairman	01923 404203	dathompson@ntlworld.com
Caroline Ciric	** Secretary	01727 768844	c.ciric@ntlworld.com
Rosemary Bennett	Treasurer	01727 872772	gp@cherrytrees.net
Carol Brazier	Secretarial Assistance	01727 867575	carolbrazier99@gmail.com
Gill Ewing	Social & Marketing	01727 875504	gillewing@btinternet.com
Norman Ewing	Social & Marketing	01727 875504	normanewing@btinternet.com
Barbara Jones	** Membership Secretary	01727 872078	banddchoppin@btinternet.com
Sam Pink	Coach	07779 603757	sam@sampinktenniscoaching.co.uk
Dave Skinner	Match Secretary	01727 856780	davem.skinner@tiscali.co.uk
David Thompson	Facilities	01923 404203	dathompson@ntlworld.com

### Also significant assistance as non-committee members:

Gerard Bermingham	IT, Clubspark	01727 839231	gerard.bermingham@gmail.com
Jeanette Drayton	Tournament Secretary	07941 600999	jeanettedrayton@btinternet.com
Lynn Marshall	Tournament Secretary	01727 873634	lynnmarshall49@gmail.com