

TENNIS REPORT FOR THE AGM 2017

Juniors

One of the tennis committee's targets is to increase our junior membership and provide them with greater incentives and opportunities. It is proposed to significantly lower the junior membership fee and offer an initial joining package. Non-members will be charged £2.00 extra for any coaching session with funds going to the club. Potential new junior members are now being given two complimentary lessons.

This year we reintroduced the Junior BBQ evening on a Thursday. The two grass courts and croquet were made available. We aim to continue this next year and with the addition of the new clock house and making available the grass area behind the tennis courts we feel this will become an even more popular event.

The Ryde Schools cluster tournament was once again successfully held at the club on 17th May with all courts used for junior play. Thanks to our members who turned up to officiate.

Junior Plus Membership was introduced during the year, open to young players 12 years or under on the 1st April 2016. For only £50 per annum junior players and their nominated parent/guardian could have access to RLTC's six all-weather and two grass courts. The Junior Plus member and their parent(s)/guardian(s) had to undergo a one-off 30 minute on-court training session with one of our accredited coaches before membership was accepted and the parent(s)/guardian(s) were not eligible to use courts unless playing with the Junior Plus member. Surprisingly, there was not a substantial take up of this offer but the membership will be repeated next year and reviewed at the end of the 2017 season.

The club hosted a successful training day for teachers from around the Island organised by the LTA.

Club Ladder

David Ford ran the club ladder giving players the opportunity to compete. A different format is proposed for next year, introducing a league system where all potential matches must be played by the end of a certain period.

Tournament Dates for 2017/18:

- 45 Club: Monday 5th Tuesday 6th June
- Westridge: 18th to 20th August and 25th to 27th August
- Easter Junior: 10th 11th April
- County Press Junior: Wed – Friday 26th – 28th July
- Veterans Tournament: To be arranged
- Internal Club Tournament: Tuesday 20 June Men's and Ladies' Doubles; Wednesday 21 June Mixed Doubles; Thursday and Friday 22/23 June Men's and Ladies' Singles

Shooters Hill Visit

Members of this South London Club visited the Club for a week at the beginning of June. They joined in with many of our organised events and significantly increased our bar profits!

Wimbledon Ballot

The ballot was combined with an American Tournament and took place on Wednesday 23rd March.

Cleaning of Astroturf courts 1-3.

The cleaning of the three courts has been undertaken. It has been noted that the time between the need for the courts to be cleaned is decreasing. The rise in membership and subsequent increase in court use has obviously contributed to their decline. A decision will be made whether courts 4,5 and 6 will be rejuvenated or resurfaced.

Ball Machine

The ball machine was mended and is now operational. It will be sited in the shed behind the chalet making it more accessible for coaching during next season.

Ladies Captain

Justin Biggs has been the men's club captain. This year Carrie Bateman was nominated as the Ladies' Club Captain.

Teams

During the summer an extra Masters Team was introduced to the league

During the winter a third men's team and a third Masters team were also added.

Summer League Results 2016

League	Played	Won	Lost	Position
Portsmouth Men's 1	7	6	1	2
Portsmouth Men's 2	6	2	4	4
Portsmouth Men's 3	8	5	3	2
Portsmouth Ladies 1	6	5	1	2
Portsmouth Ladies 2	6	6	0	1
Portsmouth Ladies 3	6	6	0	1
Portsmouth Mixed 1	6	5	1	1
Portsmouth Mixed 2	6	4	2	3
Portsmouth Mixed 3	6	1	5	6
Master's Mixed 1	6	6	0	1
Master's Mixed 2	6	2	4	4
Hampshire Men's 1 (D.2)				
Hampshire Ladies 1 (D. 3)				

Winter League Results up to January 20 2016

League	Played	Won	Lost	Position
Portsmouth Men's 1	6	3	3	3
Portsmouth Men's 2	4	4	0	2
Portsmouth Men's 3	6	2	4	6
Portsmouth Ladies 1	7	2	5	4
Portsmouth Ladies 2	9	2	7	5
Portsmouth Ladies 3	6	4	2	2
Portsmouth Mixed 1	6	1	5	8
Portsmouth Mixed 2	5	5	0	2
Portsmouth Mixed 3	5	3	2	7
Portsmouth Master's Mixed 1	5	5	0	1
Portsmouth Master's Mixed 2	7	5	2	3
Portsmouth Master's Mixed 3	6	2	4	6

First Aid

Coaches attended a first aid course on the mainland on 4th of May

Great British Tennis Weekend 16th July

This was a particularly successful event. Banners, equipment and T shirts were available. Sessions were organised between 11.00 – 15.00 and croquet was available in the morning. Cardio, ball machine, adult and mini tennis were offered as taster sessions. The BBQ and bar contributed to a great atmosphere in the club. The event was advertised through Clubspark. The committee was delighted with the attendance at this event and will be repeating it next year.

Seaview

With the sad closure of the Seaview Club a BBQ and Open Evening was organised for potential new members looking for an alternative sporting venue. Gary Mead has moved his Seaview coaching session to the club on Friday evenings using 2 courts.

Tennismark

Tennismark has been completed online and the annual subscription has been paid allowing our eligibility for Wimbledon tickets.

Online shop

Discussions have taken place with the Big **WIGHT** T shirt company. The Company will create an online shop and the link will be available on our website. Sports clothing with our colours and logos will be made available at reasonable prices with a small percentage of the sales going to club funds.

Match Practice

Match practice has been well attended. This is by invitation only but is often oversubscribed, particularly during the winter months when only five floodlit courts are available. It has been agreed to start another session on a Friday evening specifically for the 3rd and 4th men's teams.

Tennis court entry system

The committee has been reviewing the court entry system. Rather than members having to pay for keys we decided to trial unlocking the courts during the winter months. This will be reviewed and if unsuccessful a fob system or a combination lock will be considered.

Development Plans

The following objectives and long term plans were reviewed and set in March 2017:

Objectives:

To retain existing members and recruit new members.

To increase the number of juniors playing both tennis and croquet and regularly competing.

To widen the range of activities and access throughout the year for members and non-members within the community.

Increase income from club's facilities.

Increase participation in club's coaching programme.

Re-energise and increase attendance at social and fundraising functions.

Develop the use of social media as a means of publicising the club.

Encourage increased membership participation in running the club.

To extend and improve the existing clubhouse incorporating changing rooms, bar, seating and dining areas.

To provide a Swiss chalet style building, including storage, placed by the tennis courts, to replace the existing shed.

To produce an innovative summer and winter programme for all members.

To achieve Tennismark status each year.

Short Term Tennis Development Plan

Proposal

Our next project is to cost and apply for grants for an extra court (9) to be built behind courts 1,2 and 3 including floodlights. This would be set up as a full sized court for adult play but would be primarily a junior court – lines marked for short tennis. Saturday morning junior tennis would then be restricted to courts 1,2, 3 and 9 allowing adult play on courts 4,5 and 6

Action:

- to apply for planning permission for extra court including floodlights
- If planning is permitted, to set up a working party to move the project forward
- Apply for grants
- Agree court surface
- Look at ways of raising funds

Longer Term Tennis Development Plan

Long Term:

To convert the grass courts to an all-weather surface

To have an indoor facility covering at least two courts

The Tennis Committee

March 2017

Tennis Committee:

R Hutchins (Chair)

J Smith (Secretary)

D Fothergill (Head Coach)

C Bateman (Adult Co-ordinator and Ladies' Captain)

K Bicknell (Joint Junior Co-ordinator and Safeguarding Officer)

D Harris (Junior Manager)

H Spurgeon (Club Treasurer)

A Sheppard (Club Publicity Officer)

M Blamey (Social Club Secretary)

J Biggs (Men's Captain)

H Wilmott-Stanton (Coach and student representative)

A Tapley (Previous Tennis Chairman, Secretary and match secretary)

J Cooney (Registered umpire/referee, Previous Club Publicity Officer and present member of the Irish Tennis Federation)