

Newsletter

Oxford University Tennis Club



September 2010

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

KNIGHT CUP

Club Singles Championship - October 10th & 11th.

Although not a handicap competition all players under about 50 handicap are encouraged to enter as the draw will be heavily seeded to try to ensure that everyone gets at least one game against someone of a similar standard. Entries close September 25th.

ABERDARE CUP, PAMELA WALLIS CUP [40+], BEARD CUP [40-]

Entry sheets are now on the notice board for the three major handicap knock-out singles competitions which run through the winter season. Do remember to sign up before the closing date of October 10th. Entry fee only £2 per competition.

The defending champion in the Aberdare Cup will be Graham Piddock (46 h'cap) who represented the Club in the champion of champions tournament at Hampton Court over the weekend of 4th/5th Sept. He did extremely well getting to 7-7 and 30 all in the grand final before just losing out. Congratulations and commiserations on getting so close .

Defending champion in the Beard Cup will be Richard Oliver who defeated Roger Boning 9-7.

Winner 9-8 of a titanic battle in the Pamela Wallis final was John Murphy who overcame Harry Burn.

NATIONAL LEAGUE 2010/11

This is going to be a busy season for the Oxford Club as we will have teams in 5 of the 10 divisions. Namely 1, 4, 7, 8, and 9.

We are fortunate in being able to field an entirely home grown side in Division 1 (actually the 2nd

Division as there's a Premier division like the football league!) with Roman Krznaric and Will Fortune both being on 4 handicap.

Their matches should be well worth watching. Their home matches will be mostly on Thursday nights and the other divisions on Fridays. Fixtures will be displayed on the Club notice board.

A1 RAM 40+ Doubles.

This popular handicap doubles competition for players above 40 handicap will be taking place over Friday evening on 25th November and during Saturday 26th November.

OVER 60 (AGE) HANDICAP DOUBLES SATURDAY DECEMBER 11TH

No doubt one or two more members will have passed this magic age during the last year and will be anxious to make their mark in the seniors' competition.

ANNUAL CLUB DINNER

A very advance date for next year's diary (if you have one already) is Friday April 8th. For the last two years we have had an extremely successful dinner in Corpus Christi College, attended by around 100 people, in conjunction with the 0-9 National Tournament. The dinner will be repeated in 2011 possibly trying out a different college.

RECENT EVENTS:

SIMMS (BOWER AND BAILEY SOLICITORS) CHAMPAGNE LEAGUE 2010

The roll of honour of players who qualified for the knock-out section to be played during September and October is as follows:

| | Winner | Runner up |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| League A | Adrian Fawcus | Simon Horobin |
| League B | Roger Nathan | John Stevens |
| League C | Adam Jeffrey | Jonathan Nash |
| League D | Andrew Mackintosh | Simon Stubbings |
| League E | Richard Alden | Ron Mutton |
| League F | John Perkins | Mark McArthur-Christie |
| League G | Julian Knight | Graham Cole |
| League H | Richard Youdale | Jonathan Clark. |
| League J | Mike Pike | Georgina Hall |

Best performance in terms of matches played was Group H (65-70 H'cap) where 35 of the possible 36 matches were completed. In slight disgrace were the top players in Group A who completed the lowest percentage of matches. Closest finish was in Group C where three players tied on 22 points and the unfortunate player not to qualify was Tim Dadd by just 2 games.

**OXFORD OPEN DOORS DAY
SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER**

by **Katrina Allen**

I'm a new arrival in Oxford and the existence of the court at Merton was a major factor in my decision to

Alan Oliver demonstrating the ancient art of ball making



move here. So, having been based overseas and out of the game for the past seven years, it's a real pleasure to be back in the fold. Things have, of course, moved on and a lot of new faces have appeared; it feels like starting afresh. So, the Oxford "Open Doors" day was a great chance to reintegrate.

For a good five hours curious people streamed in and, at times, were queuing out the door. There were some 250 visitors throughout the day. I've never seen so many people at a court and it was a real surprise to

Frank Close in the midst of enlightening and baffling the audience in equal measure!





Tim Dadd at the far end keeping the Dedans informed of proceedings

discover how many knew of the game and were keen to learn more about it. It was also really gratifying to see so many people choosing to visit the court considering how many other options were on offer that day. Perhaps the reason for this was the fact that this was something very different to the usual college visits or walking tours.

Mark Partington working the galleries



Apparently, last year we had great feedback and it was considered to be one of the best events of the weekend. This was certainly due to the fact that we didn't just open the court for people to look at but made it a really proactive experience and this is due to the efforts of our main organiser, Derek Williams. He arranged volunteers to play demonstration games and Alan Oliver and Frank Close gave brief talks about the history and the rules on the hour.

Tim Dadd was mostly in the dedans guiding onlookers while games were taking place. I think we all know the difficulty of getting across the workings of the chase system to complete newcomers but Tim somehow managed to impart the information without losing his audience.

Everyone seemed intrigued and absolutely determined to get their heads round it all. A few other members milled around and chipped in with historical information and explanation of the rules. The handouts with information about the game along with a court diagram were really helpful to refer to alongside the explanations and demonstrations and most took them away vowing to find out more on the internet.

As people filed in and out of the pro shop, Alan and Andrew explained the making of the ball and let them have a feel of a racket and gave more background on the game.

It was great to hear people's enthusiasm and how many of them were really keen to have a go. If just a small percentage of those visitors take up the game or even tell their friends about it we will have played our part in keeping it alive.

Just as we thought the day had finished a group of 25 odd people arrived - they were on an Inspector Morse tour. Apparently, Lewis made an arrest at the court. Of course if I had lived in Oxford a little longer I would have known that . . .

A big thanks to Derek for making the day such a success. I suspect Alan and Andrew are going to be inundated as a result.

O.U.T.C. AUTUMN GOLF MEET

This took place on the lovely Frilford Heath Course in the afternoon of Thursday September 9th. The trophy, in only its second year, was won by Pete Brown with 37 points. Joint runners up on 35 points were Andrew Mackintosh and Alan Oliver.

BEGINNERS EVENING THURSDAY 16TH SEPT

The idea of a free "come and try it" evening for friends and acquaintances of Club members has proved extremely popular. As a result of just one e-mail to the regular playing members the maximum of 12 people were signed up within a week and there were several on the waiting list. It may well be repeated later in the season if it leads to some new converts to the game.

STUDENT NEWS

RUPERT LAWRENCE CHALLENGE 2010

This year the prizes of a new racket for the winners in the student handicap singles leagues during the summer term were generously provided by former Unicorn, Matthew Slater.

Some 20 students took part in 3 leagues and the winning finalists were :

Group 1

John Bremridge beat Alex Gilmore 8/1

Group 2

Malcolm Begg beat Maggie Henderson-Tew 8/3.

Group 3

Dara Walsh beat Emily Scaysbrook 8/5.



Dara Walsh and Emily Scaysbrook with their RLC Prizes

PROSPECTS FOR THE 2010/11 SEASON

Some rebuilding will be necessary as three out of four of both of last year's blues sides have now left. However, there are some talented players whose games can improve significantly and there are rumours of promising new players arriving as Freshers.

This season's student officials are:

Captains:

Simon Roach (Lady Margaret Hall) and
Maggie Henderson-Tew (Regent's Park).

Secretary:

Alex Gilmore (Trinity)

Unicorns Captain:

Alex Evans (Worcester).

Social Secretary:

Juliet Wesley (Somerville)