

The Backhand

Spring 2009

The Newsletter of Worcester Lawn Tennis Club

Your New Committee

Working voluntarily on the behalf of you the members so please support them in any way you can and help all of us to make WLTC the best place for all to play tennis and socialise this year.

NAME	ROLE
Ray Needham	Chairman
Phil Hawkins	Secretary Treasurer
Brian Fieldhouse	Clubhouse
Bev Hawkins	Mixed Captain
Linden Horsburgh	Junior Liaison (Outgoing)
Nathalie Lea	Ladies Captain
Mike Mitchell	Events and fun stuff
Jelena Petrovic	Website
Chris Reece	Membership Secretary
Nicky Wilson	Media contact
Roger Wilson	Grounds Liaison
Lorna Yelland	Minutes



Its caption time again! Well he is the committee member for Events and fun stuff! Looking forward to hearing your captions (printable versions please) for the above photo and please send in any other photos and news ideas for coming issues.
nes_lea@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman Address

Some of my non-sporty friends say to me “you will be glad when the summer comes and you can play tennis again won’t you?” They are amazed to hear that at our club we play all year round. On New Year’s Day 24 people played in a tournament and on Saturday 3 January there were 34 people playing despite the cold! That is because we have seven all-weather courts all with the latest floodlights, a very enthusiastic playing membership and a thriving social life.

Our committee has a mixture of experience and newcomers with fresh ideas. We plan to develop our connections with the outside world by improving our website and have closer, more regular liaison with the press and local radio. We have much to be proud of and need to gain more members by letting them know what we can offer.

I anticipate that the present economic crisis will have an effect on our number of members and so we have increased our subscription for an adult by only £4 a year to £180, with other categories increased similarly. The cost of floodlights has been £4 per hour for about 6 years even though our electricity bills have soared and we have spent a lot of money on new lighting.

There used to be an attitude of “live now, pay later” that I feel has contributed to the credit crunch. Perhaps we should think “save now, spend later?” With this in mind our committee has decided not to purchase the lease from the council. We will not be in debt, and will be able to spend our money wisely.

On the playing side, I am delighted that Nathalie and Bev will be guiding our women’s and mixed teams, and we also have a very active junior section guided by our coaching team.

My big disappointment is that I have failed to find a leader for our men. Why is there no-one with broad shoulders prepared to stand up and say “I am Spartacus?”

I wish you all good health and prosperity for the coming year, and thank you for giving me the honour of being your chairman.

Ray Needham

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Happy RETURNERS for 2009.

WLTC needs more members!

Evening players might be tempted to think otherwise. Plenty of space is available from 8:00am - 5:00pm on most weekdays and also on Sunday afternoons.

Our club would benefit from new members, particularly those who are RETURNERS to the game and are available to play off peak. Additional income would reduce the likelihood of other cost increases to benefit all members.

We have a very enjoyable "mix in" activity on Tuesday mornings and another group of about 12 people who play regularly on Friday mornings. I joined in 2008 and was given a very warm welcome. No one minded that I had not played for over 35 years and accepted that not everyone who wants to play tennis is very good at the game. We could easily accommodate another twenty members on Friday mornings of all abilities. Then there would be most of 3 other days to occupy!

Tennis is a GREEN activity; Tennis is an enjoyable way to keep fit. OFF-PEAK is much less dangerous than OFF-PISTE. Think of the savings to our environment and our NHS.

ACTION: Please can you think about friends and acquaintances that have been out of tennis for some time and need an opportunity to join in without any pressure.

If it helps: I am retired and I don't have many fixed events in my diary, so I would be happy to have a knock-up with anyone on most weekdays or Sunday afternoon.

Happy RETURNERS. Roger

rogerwilson7@btinternet.com or 07970466076

Events and fun stuff

Every year the club provides a social calendar for members to plan the forthcoming year, and to maximise their membership.

This year is no different with the regular Friday evening socials, Bank holiday tournaments and the dinner dance switched to the Worcestershire County Cricket Club. However the event not to be missed is Okehampton, a Manor House Hotel surrounded by gardens, golf courses, sports halls, tennis courts, swimming pools, bowling alleys, games halls, hobby centre, therapy rooms and of course fantastic food all included, not to mention the bar, Saturday night party and as much indoor tennis as you want. So read and record the dates, call Mitch if you want more info and look out for notices in the club.

Events Calendar 2009

30 th MARCH	MIXED MELEE
4 th APRIL	WORKING PARTY
13 th APRIL	EASTER MONDAY TOURNAMENT 1.30pm MEET
4 TH MAY	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT 1.30pm
15 th MAY	FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL
25 TH MAY	MAY BANK HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT 1.30pm
7 TH JUNE	PRESIDENT'S CUP
26 TH JUNE	SECOND FRIDAY SOCIAL
17 TH JULY	THIRD FRIDAY SOCIAL
2 nd AUG	LITTLE & LARGE TOURNAMENT
14 TH AUG	FOURTH FRIDAY SOCIAL
16 TH AUG	MIXED OPEN TOURNAMENT
31 st AUG	SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT 1.30pm
6 TH SEPT	CLUB TOURNAMENT FINALS DAY
12 TH SEPT	SUMMER BALL- WORCS CRICKET CLUB
18 TH SEPT	LAST FRIDAY SOCIAL
9 TH OCT	LTA DINNER
13/14/15 NOV.	OKEHAMPTON WEEKEND
26 TH NOV	CLUB AGM
19 TH DEC	XMAS PARTY
1 ST JAN 10	NEW YEAR'S DAY TOURNAMENT & BUFFET

ROLL ON SUMMER

Over the past few weeks the tennis courts have been used in every weather condition imaginable. There has been wind, rain, sleet, snow and occasionally some sunshine. The enthusiasm of tennis players never ceases to amaze, which makes others think they must be mad! Tennis in the winter...outdoors!

It is great to see that the Backhand is in circulation and my thanks to Nathalie for taking it on.

Last year was a tough year for membership with the total numbers being down almost 10% on the previous year. This was offset by the 10% rise in membership fees, which meant that our income from membership was £33,251 a drop from the £37,147 the previous year. The membership fees have been raised only a fraction this year.

I am glad to say that we have welcomed several new members to the Club and hope that next year we will continue to recruit more new members and I also hope to stem the flow of members not rejoining.

This Tennis Club belongs to the members. It is run by the committee on your behalf and is not only a place to play tennis but a great social centre too. Mitch puts a great deal of effort into running the social side at the Club and has made a few quid in the process. Last year we had a table sale, which made a small profit, I think the most money was made on the cake stand. Maybe we can run a cake stand? If there are any ideas or feelings on the subject please contact me.

Phil Hawkins

Hon Secretary/ Hon Treasurer

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Philhawkins99@sky.com

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Worcester Tennis Academy



Nick Aylett – Head Coach

A former junior county player and a current senior county player, whose coaching experience includes working with former junior county squads now joint head coach at Worcester Tennis Academy. Qualification – Development Coach Award



John Bradshaw – Head Coach

A former junior national standard player and a current senior county player who currently runs Worcester Tennis Academy's performance programme as well as being joint Head Coach. Qualification – Development Coach Award



John Chidlow – Club Coach

A former junior county player who before joining Worcester Tennis Academy, John worked at Evesham Tennis Club as well as Hereford Whitecross as a coach. John is the newest member of Worcester Tennis Academy's coaching team. Qualification – Development Coach Award



Vanessa Brown – Club Coach

A former Welsh International at both junior and senior level and a former senior Wales captain. Vanessa worked previously at the Hong Kong Tennis Academy as well as a Tennis Development Officer in North Wales. Qualification - LTA I.C.A Qualified

Coaching News

As it has been a little while since our last backhand update, we have lots of good news to report from Worcester Tennis Academy's thriving junior section, particularly over the last year!

Our Mini Tennis teams dominated last summer by winning both the County Mini Red and Mini Orange Championships. The victorious Orange team is pictured below and includes Ryan Gaskin, Summer Yardley, Kate Horsburgh and Georgie Cupper.



With regard to the Annual County Championships, again the Worcester Juniors did us proud with the following achievements:

Event	Name	Achievement
Mini Tennis Red	Josh Hadley	Champion
Mini Tennis Red	Savi Yardley	Runner Up
Mini Tennis Orange	Georgina Cupper	Champion
Mini Tennis Orange	Kate Horsburgh	Runner Up
Mini Tennis Orange	Summer Yardley	Fourth place
Mini Tennis Orange	Ryan Gaskin	Champion
Mini Tennis Orange	Josh Hughes	Runner Up

In addition to our Mini Tennis players, our older juniors have also had some fantastic results over recent months. At Under 16's level Michael Shipley was crowned as both singles and doubles County Champion and last but by no means least, Ruth Horsburgh has also had an outstanding year finishing as the number 1 ranked player for her age (Under 12) in the County. Throughout her year Ruth has won many tournaments and competed to a very high level.

Needless to say we're extremely proud of all of the juniors successes to date and we hope this coming year will be every bit as successful.

We're always keen to hear how all of our juniors are progressing and if anyone has any stories, tournament reports, photos they wish us to include both in the Backhand and / or our Website, please email them to coaching@worcestertennis.co.uk.

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Spring is in the air!

WLT Gardening Club

Do you have an hour or so to spare on a Monday morning?

If so why not come along and join our new venture?

We intend to meet once a month, on the 1st Monday in every month, to tidy up the grounds and perhaps do a little maintenance while having a chat and of course a cup of coffee and a few biscuits!

If you are interested please come along on

Monday 2nd March at 10 a.m.

In addition there will be a WORKING PARTY on Saturday 4th April and Sunday 5th April.

For more details please contact one of the following:

Dick Francis
Ray Needham
Roger Wilson
Nathalie Lea
Pat Mayo

From the Archives Trish Mann

Not me (although some days it might feel like it) but the following excerpts from the Club's minutes. Oh how we have changed!

The "hand written minutes" of 1926, show WLTC was called The Northwick Tennis Club, and comprised two grass courts and a pavilion. The club was situated in what is now Marion Close (see map).

The minutes detail the Rules, Management and Responsibilities of the Members and seem to indicate this was the year the club was formed.

The courts were open from 1st May until 30th September. Children under 8 years were not allowed into the club grounds and all men were to wear white flannels! Prospective members were voted in at committee meetings; in this year there were approximately 65 members.

Subscription costs (Those were the days or so I have been informed).

Adult Subscription	: £1-11s-6d
Junior Subscription	: £1-1s-0d
3 dozen balls	: £2-5s-9d
Rent (paid ½ yearly to James Ward)	: £17-15s-0d
Rates (per 6 months)	: £3-6s-8d

In 1934 the committee considered restricting the membership to 75.

At the Committee meeting held on the 4th February, 1935 it was announced the land had been sold to a Mr Stanley Nye and the club were to terminate the tenancy by September 29th. Members were asked to look for other grounds. An advertisement was to be put in the paper for a site for new courts.

Now something to get your grey matter working:

In the minutes just after the war, due to rationing and shortage of petrol the members were not able to use the lawn mower to cut the grass courts so how did they maintain the grass courts that year?

Answer in the next issue of Backhand.

