

## SYDENHAM WINS CLUB OF THE YEAR

On 8th February 2015 the Kent Tennis Annual Awards event took place at Bromley Tennis Centre in Orpington. Having been advised that the club had been nominated for Kent Club of the Year (over 5 courts) 2014, four representatives of the club attended the event. In a ceremony with some similarities to other more glamorous events, details of the achievements of the three nominated clubs (Sydenham, Shooters Hill and Sevenoaks) were read out and finally the winner was announced - your club Sydenham!

This fantastic result recognised in particular, that the club is run entirely by volunteers, has a Volunteer of the Year Award, has a large coaching programme and summer camp programme, thriving beginners' courses, a regular Club Talk newsletter, an online booking system/ leagues and last, but not least, the achievements of the top men's teams in continuing to be the only club in the county to play 2 teams in the top division.

The plaque commemorating the win is now on display in the bar and a decision on how to spend the £500 voucher from Trevor May will be made shortly



From left to right, Will Burnett, Katharine Beaudry Austin Smith (President of Kent Tennis) Gillian Bartlett and Jeff Richards

### BOARD MATTERS

#### INVESTMENT IN THE CLUB CONTINUES

The club continues to invest in maintenance and improvements in infrastructure. The largest ticket item was the resurfacing of tennis courts 1 and 2 for £20,000, last November. More recently Courts 6 and 7 have been re-lamped with new igniters for £3,500. The cost of these works, plus the eagerly-awaited colour coating of courts 1 and 2 this spring, which will cost around £5000, have all been met from our sinking fund which has been steadily accumulating this past decade.

Separate from the sinking fund, we have refurbished the squash courts (about £1,500) as we have to do each year and made significant progress repainting and equipping the bar and club house.

Two years ago our tree experts recommended a three-year plan for maintaining trees on site and we shall complete this with some modest works this summer.

#### CHANGE OF BAR MANAGER

Goodbye and thank you to Jennifer who has ably

managed the bar through 2014 (though we will still see her for events), but welcome back to our "new" Manager - Natalie Lopes (who previously managed the bar in 2013).

#### IMPROVEMENTS AT THE BAR

For your comfort there are now two table lights, providing improved ambient lighting and 4 "retro-style" bar stools.

We are also looking at the practicalities of providing extra heating in the bar.

As the bar counter by the dartboard is underused, we will experiment with using this area as a book and CD swap (any surplus to be donated to the Hospice shop) and also a small stock of popular board games (cards, Scrabble, Chess, Trivial Pursuit and so on) for members' use in the bar. We welcome any donations left on the bar counter.



## BAR PRICES

In April there will be a modest increase in bar prices which have remained unchanged for three years, despite the increased costs of purchasing stock. Having checked our prices against other clubs, we are confident that they continue to stand up as fair and reasonable.

## GOOD NEWS ON MEMBERSHIP SUBS

The club has held subs increases this year broadly in line with inflation. Some members will even see a reduction in their subscription as the upper age limit for young adult membership rises from 21 to 23 and nominated juniors subs are reduced to £76 (down from £103 in 2014). In addition bar vouchers are being extended those renewing their squash and racketball memberships by direct debit.

## HAVEN SITE

In February, Bromley Council approved an application to build 46 units and 71 car parking spaces on the site of the Haven (Children's Home) and Rookstone (Care Home) opposite the club in Springfield Road. However, the developer's appeal to the Secretary of State against Bromley's refusal to approve a much larger development, of 107 units and 135 car parking spaces is still "live" and scheduled for June. Last month, Kitewood told the Planning Committee that they would withdraw the Appeal if their alternative proposals were approved. We shall have to wait and see....."

## CLUB MATTERS

### DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED -- VOLUNTEER NOW!

This club is run entirely by volunteers and is always looking for more helpers to do either regular, or one off jobs.

There are several vacancies in the boardroom and on section committees. We have vacancies for a Club Secretary and/or Minutes Secretary, Grounds & Premises Director, Events Co-ordinator, and Fund-Raiser. Any interested members are encouraged to chat to current volunteers, or view the gallery of job descriptions available in the members' section of the club

[website](http://www.sltcc.co.uk) or email at [info@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:info@sltcc.co.uk)

We are also urgently looking for people to help at Open Day and with the delivery of leaflets. Please speak to Christine Hensby or email her at [info@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:info@sltcc.co.uk) if you can help. Volunteers are also needed to help with the St Christopher's Hospice charity croquet event. Please see entry in croquet section for further details.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### WIMBLEDON DRAW AND BINGO NIGHT

24 APRIL - 19.30 FOR 20.00

**OPEN DAY** 4 MAY - 11.00 TO 14.00

### ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHARITY CROQUET EVENT

(SEE CROQUET SECTION FOR FURTHER DETAILS)

4 JUNE – 15.00 TO 20.30

**QUIZ** (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED) JUNE

**TENNIS AND SQUASH FINALS DAY** 18 JULY

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## TENNIS

### TEAM NEWS

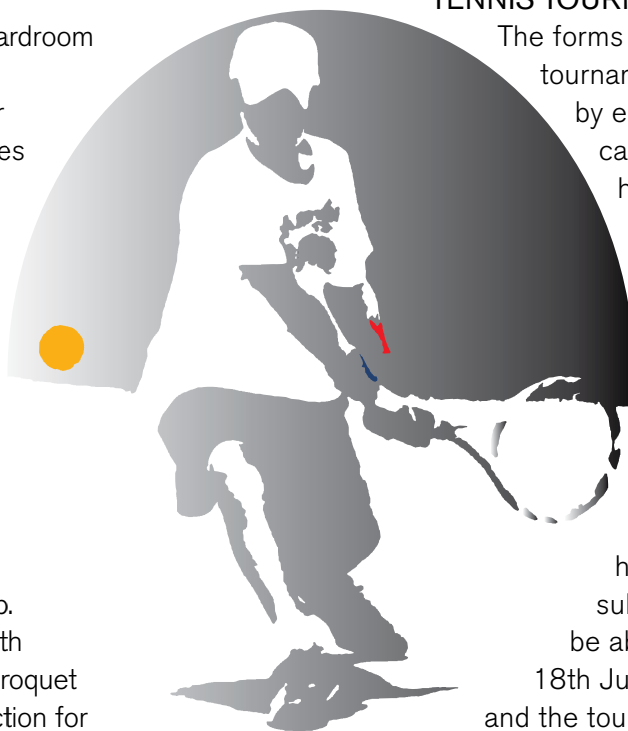
The men's teams have done well this winter. Men's 1, 2, 3 and 4 all came 2nd in their respective divisions. Men's 1 in Division 1, Men's 2 in Division 2, Men's 3 in Division 3 and Men's 4 in Division 9. Unfortunately, Ladies' 1 and Ladies' 2 were both relegated but Ladies' 3 finished 2nd in their division. Mixed 1 and Mixed 2 were both relegated. So lots of positives for the men's teams. While it was not so positive for ladies and mixed this winter, the summer is yet to come!

Summer matches run from 22 March to 16 August. The AEGON senior team and the Kent teams have 5 matches, and the North Kent teams have 10 matches. Please contact Jeff Richards if you are interested in playing for any of these teams at [jeff.richards@rcn.org.uk](mailto:jeff.richards@rcn.org.uk)

### TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The forms for the annual tennis tournament have been sent out by email and a small supply can also be found in the club house for those unable to download the electronic version. Remember to pay the fee by buying stamps from the machine in the foyer. The deadline for returning the forms is 17th April. To be eligible to play in the tournament you must have paid your membership subscription. You must also be able to play on Finals Day on 18th July! Details of how to enter and the tournament rules are available

on the [website](http://www.sltcc.co.uk).



## TENNIS LEAGUES

The online leagues have now been running for nearly a year and during that time over 60 members have participated. The online system has proved to be very popular with all players who find it makes it much easier to arrange matches and submit results. The leagues are now running on a six-week cycle, so please arrange your matches as soon as possible, rather than wait until the last weekend!

Anyone who would like to join either the Mixed League or the Women's League, or both, please email Gillian at [gillian.bartlett@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:gillian.bartlett@sltcc.co.uk) Gillian will send you a password so that you can log on and will email you when the next league starts.

## OVER 40?

For those of you who are not afraid to admit that you are over 40, why not come along to our 40 plus coaching sessions for improvers and intermediates on Friday mornings 09.30 to 10.30 followed by match play from 10.30 onwards? Contact Michael Stephens on 07956 995 820 if you are interested.

## WIMBLEDON DRAW

Please remember that to be eligible to enter the Wimbledon Draw at the club you must have opted in to the ballot on the British Tennis website. So if you are one of the 35% of the club's British Tennis Members who haven't opted in yet, find out more by visiting the club website: [website](#).

The club will be holding this year's Wimbledon Draw and Bingo Night on 24 April. Eligible members will be able to win the chance to buy Championship tickets in the bingo and the draw at the end of the evening.

If you would like to enter the ticket draw be sure to add your name to the form on the bar door in the club house by 23rd April.

## GOODBYE TO CHRIS HOWARD

At the end of December, the club sadly said goodbye to Chris Howard who has left to pursue other tennis projects in the Lewisham area. Chris played an active part in the club, being on the Tennis Committee, running the Wednesday night club play as well as under 12's junior club play and junior tournaments. The club wishes him well in his new ventures and looks forward to welcoming him back for the junior tennis camps.

## TARMAC OR CLAY?

Now that courts 1, 2 and 5 have been resurfaced, it is time for the club to consider the resurfacing of courts 3 and 4, which were last resurfaced some 12 years ago.

The two options being considered are:-

- to resurface both courts with tarmac, exactly as courts 1, 2, and 5.
- to switch to artificial clay. This surface, which is softer than tarmac, is now proving to be very popular with other clubs. Further, as the annual maintenance costs are lower than for tarmac, over a 10-year period, the overall costs of installation and maintenance are not much more than tarmac.

The tennis section will be holding a consultation meeting, probably in mid-June, at which the issue will be discussed. Members are advised to look at the details of both clay and tarmac surfaces on the website of Trevor May.

[www.trevormay.co.uk/advantage\\_redcourt\\_artificial\\_clay.asp](http://www.trevormay.co.uk/advantage_redcourt_artificial_clay.asp)

## SQUASH AND RACKETBALL

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The club would like to welcome all the new members to the squash and racketball section, which now has 85 members, the highest number since modern records began in 2005. The number of younger members has also increased and the section looks forward to a brighter future.

### BOOKING COURTS

The increased membership and the current racketball tournament have pushed usage to of courts to the highest level seen for some time. Whilst there is still plenty of court capacity, it is always a good idea to book courts [online](#) to be sure of getting a court when you want one.

### FACELIFT FOR THE COURTS

The courts have recently been repaired and refreshed and are once again looking spick & span.

### HANDICAP SQUASH TOURNAMENT

In the tournament in November 2014 Hugh Mcnicol beat Jon Rowe 3-2 to win the main 'A' competition. In the Plate, James Grey beat Harry Cole 3-0. In the Best of the Rest Alastair Dickenson beat Ben Cantor 3-0. In the 'B' competition Peter Lewis beat Alastair Putt 3-1 and in the Plate Simon Taylor beat Jamie Lee 3-2. In the Best of the Rest Dave Roberts beat Muji Abbas 3-0.

### TEAM NEWS

The Sydenham Squash team have had a hard winter league and are currently sitting one off bottom position in league four with two matches left to play.

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**OVER 80 AND IN A NATIONAL TOURNAMENT!**  
Squash member Nick David has entered a national squash tournament for the over 80's. We're right behind you Nick!

### RACKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The finals of the racketball tournament were played on 30th March. The results will be published in the next edition of Club Talk.

### CROQUET

The croquet section has received an encouraging numbers of enquiries about playing croquet this summer and hopes to start playing on the first weekend in April, depending on the weather.

A friendly home and away match with Hayes Croquet Club has been arranged and a team will be entered in the South East Croquet League.

### CALLING TENNIS MEMBERS

Over 50% of the croquet members used to be tennis members or former tennis members. Now there are very few tennis, or former tennis members, playing croquet. Club play will usually be on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons and the croquet section would welcome tennis members joining them for tea after playing tennis. Why not play tennis and then have a game of croquet, to complete an enjoyable afternoon at the club?

Join the croquet section by 4th May and save 20%.

### CHARITY EVENT WITH ST CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPICE

On Thursday 4 June St Christopher's Hospice is having a fund raising charity croquet event on our croquet lawn. This will be good publicity for the club and it is hoped that this initiative will generate interest in playing croquet and even new members. However, the event will require a lot of organisation. If any members are able to help on the day, will you please telephone Michael Wheeler on 020 8778 2687 or email at [info@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:info@sltcc.co.uk).



### JUNIOR NEWS

#### CAMPS

Calling all juniors. Remember to sign up for the camps in the school holidays.

As usual the camps for younger juniors, from age 7 to 10 will take run from 09.00 to 12.00 and the camps for 11 to 15 year olds will run from 13.00 to 16.00. The camps will continue to have the usual mix of tennis coaching and games with a tournament at the end of the week. To sign up please contact Michael on 07956 995 820 or visit our website: [www.sltcc.co.uk](http://www.sltcc.co.uk)

#### EASTER DATES 2015

CAMP 1 - Monday 30 March to Thursday 2 April

CAMP 2 - Tuesday 7 April to Friday 10 April

#### MAY HALF TERM DATES 2015

Tuesday 26 May to Friday 29 May

#### SUMMER DATES 2015

CAMP 1 - Monday 20 July to Thursday 23 July

CAMP 2 - Monday 27 July to Thursday 30 July

CAMP 3 - Monday 3 August to Thursday 6 August

CAMP 4 - Monday 10 August to Thursday 13 August

CAMP 5 - Monday 17 August to Thursday 20 August

CAMP 6 - Monday 24 August to Thursday 27 August

#### OCTOBER HALF TERM 2015

Monday 26 October to Thursday 29 October

#### JUNIOR TEAMS

Any juniors wanting to play for the junior teams please contact Michael Stephens on 07956 995 820

#### JUNIOR CLUB PLAY

Club play continues to take place on Wednesdays for 8 to 11-year-olds from 16.30 to 18.00 (school term times only) and for 12 and overs on Saturdays on court 1 from 09.00 to 10.30. All sessions are now run by Bill Buah. If you want to join, just turn up on the day and speak to Bill. Sessions are free for members and £5 for non-members.

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