

The Watlington Club Newsletter

January 2016

The Main Club

Firstly Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter for The Watlington Club.

Last year we made a grant application which we are very pleased to say was successful. The money received will help fund redecorating the front of the building, redecorating the function room, a new cellar roof, three resurfaced tennis courts and one refurbished squash court.

We are still negotiating with potential bar tenants and at the moment we are in final contract negotiations hoping to sign a contract shortly. Significant refurbishment to the two bars and kitchen will then be undertaken.

Recently we have been able to refund the cost of the function room to several charities and volunteer groups, namely, Watlington pre-school, Watlington in Bloom, Royal British Legion, Macmillan Cancer Support Group and the Watlington Christmas Fair.

The Sports Sections

Tennis

Play is continuing throughout the winter. The club sessions are on Sundays at 10:00 onward and Wednesday evenings at 18:00 onward. The courts were cleaned in November and two of the courts have floodlights so evening play is no problem (you do need to be in possession of a pavilion key to switch them on).

As well as the official sessions, there are numerous ad-hoc groups who play throughout the week at varying times and levels; players of all standards are very welcome.

Juniors have preference on Friday and Sunday evenings and organised Friday evening sessions in the summer

For those who like competitions, we run teams in the Oxfordshire leagues, Mens, ladies and Mixed Doubles. The club also has an annual knock-out tournament in these same categories as well as a couple of American-style mixed Sunday morning tournaments (with randomly assigned partners) in the spring and autumn.

Coaching is available at all levels and ages.

We will be holding an open morning on Sunday 10th April at the start of the official tennis year but prospective new members are welcome to turn up at any club session to join in (Sunday mornings are more likely to be well attended in the winter) or contact one of the committee.

Details of membership and contacts may be found at:

<http://watlingtontc.org.uk/>

We are also currently trying out new court surfaces with the aim of re-surfacing the courts in the spring.

Bowls

This is, of course, a quiet time for bowls as our season runs from May-September. However we will be having an Open Day on the Sunday 1st of May at 3pm. This is a great opportunity for newcomers to come along and have a go and all are welcome. The only requirement is that flat shoes must be worn, other than that all equipment is supplied. Free coaching for up to six weeks is available to new bowlers.

Squash and Racketball

We have been actively trying to increase our membership by introducing Club night on a Thursday and by offering a pay-as-you-go membership meaning you no longer need to be a member of the section to use the courts. You can buy tokens for £3 each which last 20 minutes; at £6 a game this is still extremely cheap. They are available from The Granary, where you can obtain a key for a £10 deposit. We have also introduced half price winter membership which runs from September to March. Membership prices and application forms are available on the website. www.watlington.org.uk/activities/squash

We are also delighted to say that Icknield Community College are trialing an after-school club at the courts. Our members have kindly donated old rackets and balls and we are also providing the court usage free of charge.

This year we are investigating replacing the old over-court heaters and having one of the courts refurbished.