

## SUSAN'S FIRST 100 DAYS



I was asked to write a short piece for Club Talk about my first 100 days at the club as part-time Club Manager. Suffice to say it has been interesting, challenging and very enjoyable. I spent the first month of my time here assessing what was currently going on and identifying areas that needed changing, improving or reviewing.



We have now been able to move forward with a number of projects including new coaching arrangements, an extended daytime coaching programme, a new community tennis programme and longer bar opening hours and other bar improvements. I have also been able to start taking steps towards the resurfacing of courts 3 and 4 in clay and, as a more long-term project, I am working on the eventual redevelopment of the whole clubhouse.

As always, I love to hear the views and feedback of the members. Please do forward your suggestions and feedback so we can improve and progress the club. My email address is [susan.finch@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:susan.finch@sltcc.co.uk)

### CLUB MATTERS

#### AGM 2015

Minutes of the 2015 AGM are available in the Members area of the website, but here are some highlights:

- Members welcomed our new Club Secretary, Jon Sherman, and elected him a Director, thereby confirming the Board's decision to co-opt Jon to fill the vacancy last May;
- Following a long discussion about historic expenditure on grounds maintenance, we nearly fell off our chairs when Dez Lewington, who has been a member for less than a year and who had been sitting quietly at the back of the room, volunteered to fill the current Grounds & Premises Director vacancy. Thank you Dez!

#### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

At the AGM, this year's award was presented to Simon Taylor in recognition of his work as Bar Chairman and Director, a post he accepted in a side-ways move from

Squash Director last autumn. As Bar Committee Chair, Simon has brought in several innovations, not least turning a recurrent loss into profit for the first time in many years, switching our bar stock orders to a cheaper and more flexible supplier (Asda home delivery) and arranging for the club to accept card payments over the bar. In addition, in other areas, Simon has been invaluable in dealing with the club insurance and helping Peter Lewis set up payments for Susan's salary.

#### FAREWELL TO LONGSTANDING MEMBERS

As announced at the AGM, sad news has reached us that a former President and Vice-President Beryl Bush died last year at the age of 95. Beryl first joined Sydenham in 1939 and went on to be an accomplished tennis and croquet player: her name appears on the club-house honour boards for both sports.

We have also heard that George Huthwaite, another of our former Presidents/Vice-Presidents, died recently aged 80.

## EVENTS DIRECTOR STILL REQUIRED

Jeff's quizzes continue to be popular but we would also like to run more social events. To do this we need a volunteer, or volunteers, to organise such events and come up with ideas. If you would like to volunteer for the post of Events Director, or just help with organising events, please contact the club on [info@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:info@sltcc.co.uk)

## BAR

Members will want to check out the bar as it has a different look, with one half of the bar with a "cafe style" layout and the other half with traditional bar sofas.

There is plenty more time to go to the bar too – it is now open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7pm and we are attempting to open the bar on Monday to Thursday from 9am -12.30pm and 4pm-7pm (ideal for coaching sessions) , Fri 4pm-7pm and Saturday 9am-1pm.

The club will also be implementing a method of paying behind the bar with credit/debit cards. So no excuses for not buying a round!

---

## TENNIS

### SUMMER TOURNAMENT

The men's singles champion this year was Jeff Richards, who also won the men's doubles with Will Burnett, the mixed doubles with Georgina Simpson and the men's 40+ singles.



The ladies' singles champion was Katharine Beaudry who also won the ladies' doubles with Vikki Courtney.

The men's plate was won by Raffaele Lagrutta who also won the improver and intermediate doubles with Gerald Bicknell.

The beginners' singles was won by Marek Zjawiony and the beginners' doubles by Christian Gonsalves and Corrine Henry. For full details of all the results and scores go to [www.sltcc.co.uk/tournament-results](http://www.sltcc.co.uk/tournament-results)

### GOODBYE TO MICHAEL STEPHENS

At the end of August, the club sadly said goodbye to Michael Stephens who left to pursue other tennis projects in the Lewisham area with Chris Howard, who left the club in December last year. Michael played an active part in the club for many years. He has coached many juniors and adults who owe their tennis skills and enjoyment of the game to him and we are sure he will be missed by all his ex-pupils. The club wishes him well in his new ventures.

## NEW COACHES

After Michael's departure from the club, the race was on to find someone to fill his shoes and we are very pleased to welcome Toby Yates. He is an excellent all-round coach who has great enthusiasm and positivity. He has been extremely busy setting up the new Community Tennis programme with Susan and has been much in demand for 1-2-1 coaching.

We also welcome Dylan Mary who has been running the team training sessions on Tuesdays and other coaching sessions.

If anyone wants to arrange 1-2-1 coaching, please contact Toby at [toby.yates@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:toby.yates@sltcc.co.uk)

## COMMUNITY TENNIS PROGRAMME – FOR MEMBERS AND NON- MEMBERS

Members will have seen and many will have also participated in, the new community tennis programme which is open to both members and non-members. The following are currently on offer and further new, regular and one off, sessions will be introduced shortly for all levels of play.

**Cardio tennis** – a great way to get fit and practice your tennis.

**Facilitated adult match play** – 1.5 hour session run by a coach with the opportunity to win a free private coaching session. Play doubles matches with a different partner each match. Accumulate the number of games you win over six-weeks for an opportunity to win a free private coaching lesson. Suitable for all levels. Tuesday mornings.

**Coaching and coffee morning** – 1.5 hour coaching session focussing on improving your technical and tactical ability. Coffee and cake in the club house afterwards. Suitable for beginner, improver and intermediate players. Thursday mornings.

**Improve and Play** – an hour's coaching focusing on tactics and technique followed by social play.

**Over 40's coaching and social play** – an hour's coaching followed by social play.

Full details of all these activities are on the website at [www.sltcc.co.uk/community-tennis](http://www.sltcc.co.uk/community-tennis).

## TARMAC OR CLAY?

Tim Freeman, from the court contractors Trevor May, answered members' questions at the well-attended consultation meeting on 18th June. A vote was then taken and the result was, almost unanimously, in favour of proceeding with artificial clay on courts 3 and 4.

Following the meeting, a survey has been completed by

the LTA and the project is just about to go out to tender. We hope to have these new courts in place by next spring.

### SUNDAY CLUB PLAY – IMPROVERS

Currently, four players, Christine, Gary, Eileen and Jacqui, have volunteered to facilitate the sessions between 1pm and 2.30 pm. This means that members can be sure that club play will be running. The numbers attending the Sunday session have increased substantially, so do come along.

We want to set up a rota of members to assist with this session and, if you think you may be able to help, once every few weeks, then please speak to Christine or Gary or email us on [info@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:info@sltcc.co.uk)

### LEAGUES

Since the last edition of Club Talk the tennis leagues have their own site with MyCourts and are no longer on the squash site. Unless they opted out, all tennis members will have login details for this site and can log on at any time to view the leagues or book courts.

There are now three leagues: mixed, women's and off-peak. The beginners league has been incorporated into the mixed league, where the lowest one or two boxes are reserved for beginners only. Anyone who would like to join any of the leagues please email Gillian on [gillian.bartlett@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:gillian.bartlett@sltcc.co.uk)

Tennis members who want to play in the racketball leagues will need to obtain a password for the squash site from [info@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:info@sltcc.co.uk)

### COURT AVAILABILITY

The website is also updated regularly to show court availability on a daily basis. There is at least one court and sometimes two courts that can be booked each day, at the nominal price of 50p per half hour. The booking link is <http://sydenhamtennis.mycourts.co.uk/>

## SQUASH AND RACKETBALL OVER 100 MEMBERS

The squash section membership continues to grow steadily, increasing by 28% since August 2014. We currently have 106 members. This includes both experienced players and those new to the sport.

We now have 6 squash leagues and hope to set up a women's squash league shortly.

### TEAM NEWS

Congratulations to our squash team who have had a great season, pipping Sundridge Park to win their Kent Summer

League after a nail-biting final which saw our team win the league by five points, despite losing their final game ! The result was no small thanks to Louise, who did not lose a game all season, Dale who only lost one game and Tats who lost only two. Well done to all the team!

### SQUASH FINALS RESULTS

Tats Manase retained his position as Club squash champion after resisting a determined challenge from Louise Clarke in a tightly contested final of this year's competition.

**Final:** Tats Manase beat Louise Clarke 3-1.

**Plate:** Dale Rimmington beat John Rowe 3-2.

**Best of the Rest:** Lisa Hogben beat Peter Lewis 3-0.



### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The squash and racketball section will be holding a Christmas social on Thursday 10 December. We will be playing some short games from 7:00pm onwards, followed by drinks and Christmas snacks in the bar from 8:00pm. We hope everyone can make it.

### COACHING

We are planning to set up a beginners' class shortly. Duncan Marlow is also available for 1-2-1, or group coaching. Please contact Duncan on [duncan.marlow@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:duncan.marlow@sltcc.co.uk) for further details.

## CROQUET

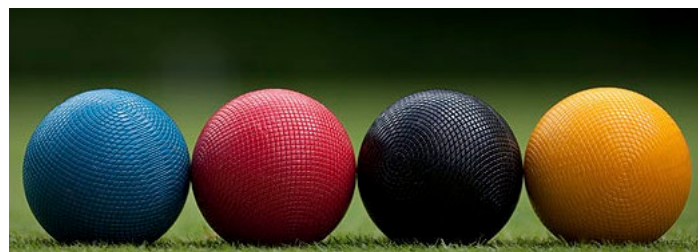
The croquet section has recruited a record number of new members this year and we are already receiving inquiries for membership for next season.

We entered a team in the South East Croquet Handicap League. The highlight was a 7-2 win at Tunbridge Wells.

Unfortunately we narrowly lost against the other four clubs we played in very hard fought matches.

We also enjoyed friendly matches with Hayes Croquet Club. We lost the home match by 7 matches to 6 and won the away match by 12 1/2 to 2 1/2

Simon Carter won in a very hard fought match against Claire Bowen Dan on the croquet finals day in September.





## JUNIORS

### JUNIOR NEWS

#### COME TO JUNIOR CLUB PLAY

Remember as a junior member you can come to club play with Bill Buah free of charge. Just turn up and join in.

Wednesdays 4.30pm to 6pm (term time only) -

8 – 11 year olds

Saturdays 9am- 11am - 12 years and over

#### MINI TENNIS

There are now more mini sessions for 4 to 10 year olds at the club, including an extra two mini reds. There are also two sessions at Kelvin Grove Primary School.

We also hope to start some mini-tots classes for 3-4 year olds at the club in the near future.

Please contact Toby on [toby.yates@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:toby.yates@sltcc.co.uk) or Susan on [susan.finch@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:susan.finch@sltcc.co.uk) for further details

#### GET A HOT DOG ON FUN FRIDAY

Come and join us for Fun Friday Tennis for fun tennis-based activities and tuition every week all year round. Hot Dogs and juice are included and parents/carers are welcome to have a coffee and chat in the bar.



Times: Every Friday throughout the year

4pm – 5pm: 4 – 7-year-olds

5pm – 6pm: 8 to 11-year-olds

6pm – 7pm: 12+

The sessions are suitable for all levels and are open to members and non-members. £2.50 members/£3.50 non-members.

For more information visit

[www.sltcc.co.uk/fun-fridaytennis](http://www.sltcc.co.uk/fun-fridaytennis) or contact Toby on [toby.yates@sltcc.co.uk](mailto:toby.yates@sltcc.co.uk)

#### CAMPS

The October half-term camp was well attended with 52 children taking part. We will be running more camps next year so watch out for dates at [www.sltcc.co.uk/junior-tennis-camps](http://www.sltcc.co.uk/junior-tennis-camps).

#### SUMMER TOURNAMENT RESULTS

There were some hard fought matches in the summer tournament this year. Here are the results:-

##### Junior Boy's 12 & under:

Seb Owen beat Matthew Craik 4-2 4-6 10-3

##### Junior Boy's 14 & under:

Michael Chan beat Dominion Oludayo 6-1 6-0

##### Junior Boy's 17 & under:

Omar Prince beat Nicholas Austin 6-1 6-4

##### Junior Girl's:

Lois Cox beat Annabel Stephens 4-0 4-1

Follow us on



[www.twitter.com/sltcc](http://www.twitter.com/sltcc)



[www.facebook.com/sydenhamtennis](http://www.facebook.com/sydenhamtennis)