

FIRST SERVE

Warsash Tennis Club, Osborne Road, Warsash, Southampton

www.warsashtennisclub.net

Summertime and the sitting is easy

The Fourth of July and WTC revellers descended on a new venue for the Summer Dance. The Navigator had been checked out, the DJ sourced and the plans, meticulously undertaken, much appreciated and enjoyed by all who came along.

Karen K and PG had made great efforts to choose the menu, confirm and decorate the venue, to source the raffle prizes and were thanked with bouquets. Helen Rawlins as the outgoing social secretary and raffle prize seeker extraordinaire was also thanked for her past efforts.

A speech was given in order to thank David Sadler for his past work and ongoing support.

He was a little nonplussed at the committee's first choice of gift in response to the idea of garden furniture and a little more relieved that he was given vouchers to choose the real thing himself (or at least with Jill's help!). People danced until the last disc was played and, apart from not having Delilah in his repertoire of music (may have been a blessing for some!), was appreciated by all who took to the floor including David who couldn't resist trying out his dancing legs! **Denise Franks**



Jilly and I attended the Warsash Tennis Club Summer dance, it was a lovely occasion.

After the meal Denise, our new Club chairman, said some kind words about my membership of the club which is now up to 40 years, and my involvement with its running. Well, I have had much more out of the club than I ever gave, I enjoy my tennis so much and this was greatly enhanced by all of you that I played with.

Denise then presented me with champagne and 2 beautiful Dartington glasses with our initials engraved on, and a very generous garden token (I think

somebody had been talking to Jilly), what a wonderful gift – Oh, and of course I mustn't forget the little folding bumble bee chair for our new granddaughter Tilly – a great success!

The other day Jilly and I went on a search to find a garden bench to fit under our pergola – We found a very nice comfortable 2 seater aluminium cast bench with a cushion. The bench has been cast in one piece then epoxy painted, so it should last a very long time. Here is a picture of the bench and us saying thank you giving you all a toast with the champagne.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU! **David Sadler**

Ladies Club Captain required

Katy Firrell, our Ladies Club Captain since 2011, has sadly decided to stand down before the winter season, so your committee are looking for a lady club member to take on this rewarding role. Apart from running 4 years of very successful club tournaments, Katy has supported the captains and overseen the progression of our ladies and mixed teams in the leagues including the Ladies A team reaching Division 1 for the first time in the Hants & IOW summer league. If you wish to follow in her footsteps the position involves:

1) *Overseeing and managing all WTC ladies teams and, jointly with the Mens Captain, the mixed teams. Holding a meeting with team captains at the beginning of both the Summer and Winter Seasons to allocate and discuss squads. Helping and assisting the captains if they have any issues throughout*

the year and being the point of contact for club members to discuss any team problems.

2) *Organising and running, jointly with the Mens Captain, the annual Club Championships and Winter Mixed Tournaments. Rob Norris will help with these if required and there is an LTA Tournament Software package that assists with organising the draws etc.*

3) *Liaising with the Club Chairman and committee regularly to keep them informed of events and team results.*

4) *Keeping our Match Secretary, Karen Downie, informed of all fixture changes and team captain changes as they arise. Attending occasional fixture meetings.*

If you are interested in taking on this role then please contact Denise Franks by the end of August and the successful applicant will be voted in at the next committee meeting on 3rd September.

TEAM NEWS

We have some early news to report from the summer season...

Mens A team have successfully been promoted to Division 1 of the Hants & IOW summer league for the first time ever!! (Ladies A have finished all their matches but are waiting for the results of Avenue and Lee's final games as to whether they've done enough to stay up in Div 1 or not.)

Our Ladies Aegon Team won the County league and managed to get through to the play-off round for the Regional Division. Ladies +50 Team are also promoted to Division 1 for next summer and Ladies +40B Team are promoted to Div 2. Apsley A have won all their matches only dropping one rubber so far but have 3 tough matches still to play. In the Portsmouth league, Ladies 1 have won all their matches to date so will hopefully going back up to Div 1 again.



Longstanding committee member Nick St John tells his Warsash story

I joined Warsash Tennis Club in 1996 having attended the Open Day in May of that year. I had been working in London for the previous ten years commuting on a daily basis and had played virtually no tennis in the previous 30 years. I had always liked tennis and had played fairly regularly

up until I was twenty. I decided having left my job in London that I would take up tennis as I now had more time to devote to leisure pursuits. I remember that members such as David Sadler, Julie Whitehead, Ian Stewart and the Reverend John Weber made me very welcome and gave me plenty of encouragement.

Two to three years after joining Ian encouraged me to join the committee and Captain one of the teams. I have been on the Committee now for 14/15 years (some might say too long!) and have acted as Auditor since it became necessary for our accounts to be independently examined.

I have seen the Club grow from two to four courts, floodlights on all four, and a Clubhouse with full facilities and no requirement for the ladies to share the football club changing rooms! I have been fortunate to directly participate in these developments alongside my colleagues, Ian Stewart, Martyn Woodward, David Sadler and Chris Coote. We put together a strategic plan and it has been so rewarding to see it realised through our efforts and the support of our sponsors.

Since being a member of the Club I have always wanted to improve my own game and since joining have had the benefit of four coaches Jo Washington, Colin Murphy, David Gray and now Rob Norris. You can see that Andy Murray was not the first male player to appoint a female coach! Currently I am Joint Club Captain for the men's teams alongside Matt Pond and Captain one of the veteran teams as well as Captaining the Warsash 3 Men's Team. It has been a privilege to be involved so closely with a Club that I love and respect. The Vision Statement included in our Business Plan is below and I hope I have been able to assist in small way in helping to achieve these ideals.

"To be the most successful community based tennis club in Hampshire by providing the facilities to play tennis to people of all ages and abilities, enjoying and improving their game in a social and competitive environment."

First Serve will continue to introduce you to all of our committee members over the next few issues of the newsletter.

Tennis and Multi Sports Camps

1st August - 2nd September

9am - 12noon **9am - 2pm**
 £15.50 per child member £20.50 per child member
 £16.50 per child non member £21.50 per child non member

All Coaches are LTA Qualified and Licensed

To book a place please contact Rob Norris on 01489 781947 or 07519 633559



No swinging please

The stainless steel poles on the disabled ramp at the club have been recemented after they had become insecure. Please can you ensure that children and adults do not sit or swing on the rails in future to ensure they stay in place.

Park & Ride

If you have a match on the IOW the new Park and Ride scheme just off the M275 in Portsmouth means you can park your car for only £2.00 and then use the bus for the 12 minute ride to the Hard and the Fast Cat ferry. Runs to 2230 On Saturday and 1820 on Sunday. Saves the £8+ parking fee at the Hard or the extra journey into Gosport to cross on the ferry.

IT'S A GAME OF NUMBERS

Having received a scorecard from Warsash 2 Ladies in May that recorded a scoreline of 2-2 in rubbers, 6-5 in sets and 52-58 in games, it got me thinking - what is the record amount of games played in any match in the Portsmouth League since I have been administrating it?

Having looked back over the scores since 2010 it became clear that matches with a total of 100 games played is a fairly scarce event ... but playing out 110 or more games is a very rare occurrence indeed.

Out of roughly 2000 matches only 15 have reached the 110 game total. In date order they are as follows:-

| | | | |
|------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Jul '10 | Mens 2 | Chichester 1 v Avenue 1 | 2-2 5-6 55-58=113 |
| 7 Aug '10 | Ladies 3 | Avenue 4 v Alverstoke 3 | 1-3 5-7 56-60=116 |
| 15 Jan '11 | Ladies 1 | Alverstoke 1 v Warsash 1 | 3-1 7-4 59-51=110 |
| 30 Jan '11 | Mens 2 | Alverstoke v Southsea 2 | 2-2 6-6 57-56=113 |
| 5 June '11 | Mens 2 | Avenue 1 v Warsash 2 | 2-2 5-6 54-56=110 |
| 28 Jul '12 | Ladies 2 | Alverstoke 2 v Ryde L 3 | 1-3 5-7 55-61=116 |
| 3 Jun '12 | Mens 2 | Avenue 3 v Priory 2 | 1-3 4-6 50-60=110 |
| 26 May '13 | Ladies 1 | Warsash 1 v Southsea 1 | 1-3 4-7 53-64=117 |
| 8 Jun '13 | Ladies 2 | Ryde Lawn 2 v Lee 3 | 3-1 7-5 65-51=116 |
| 21 Jul '13 | Mens 1 | Southsea 1 v Seacourt 1 | 2-2 5-6 54-62=116 |
| 1 Sep '13 | Mens 3 | Warsash 3 v Seacourt 3 | 2-2 6-5 58-58=116 |
| 25 May '14 | Ladies 3 | Warsash 2 v Avenue 3 | 2-2 6-5 52-58=110 |
| 28 Jun '14 | Ladies 1 | Lee 2 v Avenue 1 | 1-3 3-7 52-60=112 |
| 5 Jul '14 | Mixed 3 | Chichester v Carlton | 2-2 5-6 59-60=119 |
| 2 Aug '14 | Ladies 4 | JEM Hamble v PTA | 2-2 5-6 53-61=114 |

As you can see, until four weeks ago Warsash Ladies first team had participated in the record games score of 117, however the first mixed league result to get into the list has produced a new record of 119 games. The most games it is possible to play if every one of twelve sets went to a tie break would be 156, so 119 (played in searing heat) over five hours was pretty good going!

Interestingly, Warsash have been involved in 5 of the above matches and Avenue in 6. Does that mean both Avenue and Warsash have fighting qualities of digging deep and refusing to give up!!!!

Michael Isaacs

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

• **CLUB FINALS DAY**
13th September
 Matches from
11am onwards
 followed by...

• **HOG ROAST**
 All welcome!
Saturday 6.30pm
13th September

Church Lodge or
 St Mary's Church Hall
 depending on weather
£10.00 adult
£5.00 children

If you are able to contribute a dessert please contact PG Udal

• **WTC Quiz Night**
22nd November
St Mary's Church Hall
Warsash
Details to follow



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WARSASH TENNIS CLUB awarded clubmark status 2009