

WELCOME BACK MAT JOHNSTONE



WTC Members will be aware that Mat Johnstone has been unable to play tennis for some time now due to the after effects of contracting meningococcal Y and septicaemia last October. In a few days he went from being completely fine and normal, having his birthday and driving lessons, to waking up in the hospital not being able to feel his legs. Mathew has been undergoing regular physiotherapy sessions at Queen Alexandra

Hospital in Cosham and has been able to build up slowly from hitting balls from his wheelchair to standing with a stick. Finally his hard work and determination paid off when on Sunday 16 October when he played for our Men's 3rd team in the Portsmouth League away to Chichester. The weather was superb for tennis and Mat had the fervent support of his family from the spectator's gallery. Mat was understandably apprehensive on the day, his personal motivation pushing himself forward on his journey to recovery much faster than his medical team anticipated. It was a pleasure to play with Mat and during our first match we were both learning how best to play. After the initial nerves were gone Mat relaxed in to the match finding all his trademark shots were still there while Kevin ran round the court. Not only that he was thinking and talking tennis all the time, notably reminding his partner, Kevin, to shout change sides when he scampered off on one of his runs to avoid leaving open spaces – not quite sure Kevin quite got the hang of this basic requirement!!



If Mat enjoyed his first match he certainly enjoyed the second one. With fluent tennis from both teams we took the first set 6-4 and Mat was smiling. However, at 5-1 down in the second set things did not look promising, but Mat was hitting the ball ever more fluidly and the serve was kicking in – all very important ingredients as we clawed our way back to win the set 7-5. Great stuff – it was and Game Set and Mats...

It was a big step forward for Mat to play in the team and we trust his confidence and motivation will be further bolstered and we look forward to seeing him back out on court again soon.

Best regards, your fellow match players, Kevin, Michael and Phil and of course all WTC Members.

CHRISTMAS ADULTS DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

On Sunday December 4th Head Coach Rob Norris is running his annual adult doubles event which is back by popular demand. All places are already full and an exciting event is anticipated, with prizes, snacks and some mince pies.

CHRISTMAS JUNIOR TENNIS CAMP

Rob will be running a Christmas tennis camp for juniors on Thursday 23rd December, 9-12 or 9-2pm option. To reserve a place contact Rob on 07519 633559 / 01489 781947.

Winter Mixed Doubles Tournament

Matt Pond and Katy Firrell will be running another Winter mixed event for all club players with pairings chosen out of a hat. This was very successful last year and they are hoping that even more players will sign up this year. It runs from 5th January until end of March and prizes will be awarded at the club AGM in April. Entry fee is £3.00 which will all be donated to a Multiple Sclerosis Charity. This is a cause close to Matt's heart, as his fiancée Claire battles against this debilitating condition daily. Please sign up in the clubhouse by the 1st Jan.

What A Quiz Night

Our annual quiz and hog roast took place on Friday the 19th November in the Warsash Church Hall. Helen Rawlins who organised it was delighted when she realised that the numbers coming went over 90 – what a turn out.

The evening started at 7.00pm. Lots of people turned up to help lay out, thanks to Karen & John, Nick, Tim & Jill (Tim's new friend is a very nice Jill – Of course I know how nice that is as I have one as well!), Malcolm, Julie, Kate, Liz and others.

We were all ready and waiting for the arrivals who started to come at around 7pm.

PG provided 3 single sheet "warm up" picture rounds – Car logos, TV Detective series and Dingbats, and we did these whilst the hog roast was served – Great food. The PG quiz was not part of the main event, but was lots of fun. The winners were The Borrowers. The table that came last was Julie's, which was nice for Jilly and I as we usually get the "wooden spoon"! They were presented with a large box of Jelly Babies. After the hog roast and dessert we had coffee and tea served from the bar, which was run by Kate and Liz. Big thank you to you two for all your hard work.

The main quiz started at just after 8, it was 80 questions set by our quizmaster Kevin and enjoyed by all. The questions were general knowledge, but of course only easy if you know the answers!! We had 11 teams so it was very competitive. The winners by 1/4 of a point were the Kate and Liz table, and they were presented with an advent calendar each.

Thank you Helen for all your hard work – I know that Karen Downie was also a great help

– We had over 90 people and have made over £520.00 profit (Kumi will be flabbergasted) It was great.

Helen has said that she is willing to carry on and organise the Summer Ball and next years Quiz Evening, but if members would like other social activities, we need a volunteer or volunteers to be in charge of these other events. I would be very willing to support this team as I have supported Helen.

David Sadler

Breaking news...

WTC 'Christmas in January' Club Dinner

**at the Jolly Farmer Pub
Fleet End Rd Warsash
Sat 14th Jan - 7.30pm
£20.00 for 3 course meal**

Please email pgudal@sky.com asap for more info and menu if you would like to come to this fun club social event for you, your family and friends. Come along and meet other club members - it's another great chance to get together off the tennis courts!

COACHING NEWS

Tennis sessions have been going really well and enjoyed by all who attend. If you have not tried a session or feeling a little rusty then check out sessions available as there is something for all levels and ages.

Sessions will run up until Friday 23rd December when Rob will take a break and will return on Monday 5th January.

It has been a great year of tennis and Rob has noticed a vast improvement of members tennis from the coaching they have attended which is starting to reflect in matches. He looks forward to seeing you all on court over the festive period and beyond and wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and fantastic New Year.



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

The latest thing in tennis fashion and guaranteed to turn your opponents heads this winter are the brand new Warsash Tennis Club hoodies.

Available in a spectacular array of rainbow colours (as beautifully modelled in photo above at the Quiz Night) they are competitively priced at £26.00 each and come in Small, Medium and Large. Please contact Matt Pond on 07971 918034 to order your one today!

If your loved one already has one of these sweatshirts, then a great original idea for Christmas for any friends or family who like tennis could also be a Tennis Lesson or two (vouchers are available from Rob Norris). Rob also has a wide range of tennis shoes, racquets and related equipment available. His really competitive prices often beat the shops and the Internet, so for prices of Christmas tennis vouchers and great value equipment please contact Rob direct on 07519 633559 or 01489 781947.



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WARSASH TENNIS CLUB awarded clubmark status 08/2009