



Sutton Churches  
Tennis Club

# Tennis Club News

www.ClubTennis.co.uk

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THIRTY TWO YOUNGSTERS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF FREE TENNIS COACHING AT PLAY TENNIS 2003

## Junior Open Morning

On Saturday, 29th March, the club offered youngsters the chance to take advantage of the country's biggest and best annual sporting offer – to play tennis free of charge!

Play Tennis 2003 is run by the Lawn Tennis Association and the campaign offers everyone, especially beginners, the opportunity to pick up a racket and play. As part of the campaign we threw open our doors, offering free tennis for juniors and much more.

The Junior Open Day was the first of the club's special events to kick-start the season with a Senior Open Day and a Fun Day following in April. 32 youngsters aged between 6 and 15 showed up to take part in the free coaching, competitions, and other attractions. Max Forster aged 10 from Sutton

won the "Test the Speed of Your Serve" competition recording an impressive 51 mph using the club's Speedchek radar. Parents and children alike took advantage of side-shows such as bouncy castle, trampoline and table-tennis with refreshments providing a welcome break for hard-working children and helpers. The club's Head Tennis Coach, Adrian King-Owen, took charge of the coaching throughout the morning and also invited some of the borough's future young stars back for his Advanced Juniors class later in the day. This fun morning was designed to promote tennis and encourage new junior members to the club. Joanne Shovelton, the club's secretary said: "The day was a great success. We managed to attract a lot of kids who had never tried tennis before and nearly all said



they would like to play more regularly. We are here to make that possible for them in a safe and welcoming environment."

Many senior club members helped with coaching, catering etc. a big thank you to all.

## Meet Gerry Groogan



New club member, Gerry Groogan, has volunteered to supervise the Junior Practice on Saturday mornings, 9:30 - 11:00. Gerry is a primary school teacher and recently coached his school team to win the County Schools' Championship!

Gerry will not be alone on Saturday mornings as he will be assisted by parents each week on a rota basis. All parents are required to pick a Saturday on the rota to help Gerry. No tennis knowledge is needed. The rota is available on the noticeboard in the clubhouse, or you can contact Joanne to pick a suitable date 020 8642 8672, info@ClubTennis.co.uk.

## Senior Open Days

Beautiful weather, enjoyable tennis and sumptuous catering made for a very favourable Open Weekend on 12th & 13th of April. The courts were crammed on Saturday for our open afternoon with several newcomers making an appearance. The Sunday afternoon saw an American Tournament set at a very leisurely pace! The ladies' winner was new member Carole Russell and Matthew Shovelton took the title for the men. Thanks to Steve Cox, Masterchef, for his barbecuing skills and Laurie for running the

tournament.

Some wonderful prizes including tennis racket bag, junior racket, short tennis set and free coaching with Adrian went to lucky winners in the raffle which raised £113. After expenses the day raised £173 in total for the club. We have at least 16 new adult members signed up already this year, most of whom are taking advantage of our free new members' coaching course. The next 6 week course will begin on Tuesday 3rd June so if you have any friends who are interested, please give them plenty of notice to sign up!



# Coaching

WITH ADRIAN KING-OWEN AND FRIENDS

First of all I would like to thank Jenny Freaney, Janine Galloway and Gerry Groogan for volunteering as Tennis Assistants this year.

**New Adult Members:** We are again providing free coaching for new adult members this year. The 6 week courses run on Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm. The first course started on 22nd April and the next one will follow starting on 3rd June. New members wishing to take up this offer should sign up for courses in advance. I hope these classes will help to integrate new members into club sessions as quickly as possible.

**Advanced Juniors:** In March, I introduced an Advanced Juniors group, Saturdays 1-2pm. This has started as a group of eight of our most talented juniors who have been hand-picked and invited by me. The idea is to give the better juniors a chance to be coached and to practise together. We will mainly be concentrating on doubles play with the intention of inviting some of the group to stay for Saturday club afternoon when they are ready. We are also encouraging them to enter Surrey Competitions. I will keep you posted on their results! With this group already in place prior to the new season, I will be able to talent-spot and invite others to join from the main juniors group as the season gets underway!

**Regular Juniors:** Tuesdays 5-6:30pm until end September. I am now accepting junior members from the age of 6 as I feel this is the best age to start tennis. As the group increases in size we will add an earlier time for the youngest ones in order to offer better coaching. Will parents please check for any such announcements when collecting their kids.

**Courses:** I will again be running various Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced adult classes on demand this year as well as private lessons; all of which are great value! I am available afternoons, evenings and weekends. If you would like to join a course, please get in touch. Notice of new courses will be sent by email and posted on my noticeboard outside the clubhouse. If you are not on email please make sure you regularly check my noticeboard as we cannot afford to write to everyone each time a new course is run!

**Tournaments:** I plan to introduce a handicap tournament this year for new members and existing members as a way of integrating new members into our normal club sessions.

After last year's success, the second annual New Members' Cup will be held on Sunday 28th September - new members get practising now!

## ADRIAN'S CONTACT DETAILS

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## Future for Shale?

Two of the topics discussed at last year's AGM were the possibility of a new irrigation system and the renovation of our shale courts. Having made enquiries, there are plenty of irrigation options to choose from. However, with regards to the shale, the options are more limited. Also, there are no longer

any companies in this country who make or supply shale courts.

Since the courts clearly need renovation we may have to look at some alternative options. These include porous macadam, acrylic, grass, astroturf, carpet, clay or a multitude of artificial clay surfaces.



## Alison's Social Calendar DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Pub Walk in the Bluebell Woods Sun 27th April, 10am

A walk in the bluebell woods of Surrey. Leaving from the club car park at 10am sharp. More details and directions given on the day. Expect to walk 5-6 miles and follow with a pub lunch.

### Raynes Park Residents' LTC Join Us for Social Tennis Sat 10th May from 2pm

A normal Saturday club afternoon except we will be joined by our friends from RPRLTC to make things a bit more interesting.

### Junior Half-Term Fun Day - Thu 29th May, 10am - 4pm

Provisional date for a junior fun day. A bit like another Play Tennis event as we will invite non-members along to the club to try tennis free of charge in the hope that they will then join. Juniors should bring plenty of drinks and a packed lunch.

### New Members' Coaching Course #2 Begins Tue 3rd June, 7-9pm

### New Members' Coaching Course #3 Begins Tue 15th July, 7-9pm

### Annual Tournament Finals' Day Sat 19th July from 2pm

Our social and competitive event of the year whether playing, officiating or spectating. The day will finish in traditional style with a house party. Entry lists up 24th May, Draw and play begins 21st June. Please do not enter if you will be away for any of the period 21st June - 19th July. You must play all your matches in time for Finals' Day.

### Social Tennis at Raynes Park Residents' LTC Sat 9th August, from 2pm

Last year we all spent a superb Saturday afternoon playing at RPRLTC. We had such a good time that we're doing it again! Meet in club car park 2pm to lift-share. Address: 129 Grand Drive, Raynes Park - entrance between Crossway and Westway.

### Garden Party at Peter's - Sun 17th August from 1pm

Another blazing success from last year is to be repeated! Featuring grass court tennis, croquet, boules, trampoline and barbecue. Be there at 4 The Causeway, Sutton.

### New Members' Cup Tournament Sun 28th September from 1pm

The second annual doubles tournament. A chance for new members to make their mark!

MANY MORE EVENTS IN THE PIPELINE, THESE ARE ADVERTISED BY EMAIL AND POSTERS AT THE CLUBHOUSE. PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON THE NOTICEBOARD IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL.

Obviously, we would be looking for a replacement surface with similar qualities to the shale: easy under foot, a fast bounce, slide, quick drying and playable when damp. None of the above mentioned surfaces have all of these. However, many of them would require a lot less maintenance and so would have

that advantage at least.

If any readers know anything about court surfacing or know anyone who can offer advice we would be very interested to hear from you!

Please contact Joanne if you can help 020 8642 8672, [info@Clubtennis.co.uk](mailto:info@Clubtennis.co.uk).