

Poynton Tennis Club

Newsletter

Featured in this issue:

- The Twelve Counties Championship
- Court Cleaning Update
- Funding and the Lottery ("200") Club
- And more!

Welcome to the latest Poynton Tennis

Club Newsletter. We try to ensure a mix of news and information in the newsletter but are always glad to include offerings from anyone in the club - please let us know if there's anything you would

like to put in. You will all no doubt be aware that the all-weather courts had to undergo some major cleaning work early in the New Year (see below) and then we were hampered by a covering of snow that just wouldn't disappear! On the bright side, spring is on the horizon and we will soon be able to enjoy the luxury of seven courts for a whole season.

On this topic, I would like to draw your attention to the article on page 3 about the financial challenge we face and the launch of a new lottery to help towards it. This note was first circulated to all members towards the end of January but as yet ticket sales have been virtually non-existent and the number of volunteers to help has been even lower! So, please come forward and give your committee some support.

Mark Costello (Chairman)

The Twelve Counties Championship

Anna Jones gives an account of when she played for Cheshire U10's in the Twelve Counties Championship

When I first found out that I was asked to play for the county, I was really excited - not only because of playing for the county but because it was a different opportunity. Of course I said that I could make it and would love to come. So about a month later I found myself in the car on the way to Corby, Northampton. That night we stayed in a Premier Inn as we didn't want to be up at the crack of dawn the next day. As soon as I

went to breakfast the next day, it was obvious that there was an event going on. I came across Charlie Clark, Cheshire, and two other boys who looked as if they were there to play tennis. They were both wearing Babolat trainers and T-shirts with 'Herts' written on the back.

It was about a ten minute drive to the event where I first caught sight of where I was to play. There was a small waiting area with two massive domes joined to it and it looked quite funny in my opinion. We had a *very long* introduction/pep-talk told by a *very bossy* lady. *Eventually* we got started I was due to play my first match against Dasha Brazier (Herts). I lost that match 4-1 4-2 although I had nothing to be ashamed of: she was a good, fair player and not for a moment was I angry at myself for losing to

her. My second match was not as close but I performed to the best of my ability and, although I lost 4-0 4-1, I tried by hardest but she was a tough player and deserved to win. Finally my last match I played, me and my opponent were very similar style players, WHACK IT OUT!!! (although I had been trying to keep it in, *honest...*) Against the odds, in that match, I managed to restrain the temptation of hitting it long and I managed to pull through and win the match 4-0 4-0. To be honest I didn't really give my opponent a chance...

The event gave everyone the chance to be very social and to get to know some of the other players who we were playing with. We had a few laughs and played around together, it was very enjoyable as we had great fun. As the day was drawing to an end, I didn't want it to stop as I was having so much fun with everyone. Soon

though I had to say goodbye and return home. I had been a great day and I would definitely do it again if I could. If anyone else had the choice to do it, I would say for them to go for it!!! I had an amazing day and I hope it will happen again.



Anna (top right)

Court Cleaning

Mid November 2014 brought the awful realisation that the mud on the Astroturf had returned with a vengeance and the courts had become slippery and prone to flooding. It was not a gradual process. Within just a few weeks of first being noticed the surface had effectively become unplayable for Tennis. Maintenance of the Astroturf is paid for by the Main Club using our Winter rental fee money which is collected in a separate Sinking Fund bank account. However the Main Club appealed for help with the organisation of the work even though they were going to pay and Guy Bosanko our Tennis Committee Secretary volunteered to be the organiser. The Club requested three quotes for the work. In the end we obtained four and a Leicester company called Sweepfast , were selected as the best value, most suitable and most professional Contractor for the work. They had previously done Prestbury courts and the people that we spoke to there spoke highly of their work. So Sweepfast were awarded the contract just before Christmas. They started on 6th January and finished on 14th. The weather was not great being wet for most of the time but just as they finished on the Tuesday evening the snow came down. So we were lucky in that respect. The surface is still heavily sanded especially on Courts 3 & 4 but we expect that to bed in very quickly. Initial reaction from players has been good although the bounce is still low and feels heavy. We are certain this will improve. The Club were disappointed that the previous cleaning / rejuvenation had only lasted two years. But we are confident that the job has been done more professionally this time and will last longer. Our thanks go to Guy particularly for the speed with which he organised the work and the minimum disruption to the users of the surface. With some assistance from Alastair, the Main Club were again grateful to the Tennis Section for picking up the mantle and solving the problem.

Funding Issues & the Lottery ("200 Club") Launch

Mark Costello, Chairman

You will be aware from the last AGM of the Tennis Club and the subsequent note that was circulated to all members that we have a serious financial challenge facing us over the next few years to ensure we have enough money to (a) keep the club running on a day to day basis, and (b) to repay our instalments on the loan we took out as part of the gap between total cost and the grant from Sport England to finance the new courts.

From our calculations we need to raise an additional £4,000 for each of the next 3 years over and above the income we get from subscriptions and those pledges towards the development costs that we have already received.

Some of this will come from the tried and tested fund raising events that have become part of our regular calendar – such as the Wine Tasting evening and the Ladies Night. We clearly need some other initiatives. The committee have been working hard to come up with some ideas but need the rest of the club to back this up with their support and help in organising and running such initiatives.

The first, and potentially most lucrative, is the creation of a new lottery – the “Tennis Section 200 Club”. This will be run independently from the Main Club one and all net proceeds will be retained by us.

In simple terms, tickets will cost £2 each per month. A monthly draw will pay out half of the proceeds in prize money. If we can sell the full 200 tickets, then that means £200 a month in prizes and £200 retained for our financial commitments.

All the formalities with regard to setting up the scheme are completed. To get this going we need some help from the wider club membership to:-

- a) Sell tickets
- b) Run the lottery on an ongoing basis including organising the monthly draws and prize distribution

Could all members please consider what they can do to help with either or both of these activities. Please approach Guy Bosanko (club secretary) in the first instance.

The intention is that tickets should be extended beyond tennis club members to their family, friends, neighbours etc and to the parents of our junior members.

We have some promotional material available and we are proposing to offer some cash prizes to the juniors who sell the most tickets.

We really need to get this going as soon as possible to maximise the financial benefit for the current year and to reduce the need to plug the gap with significant increases in subs.

This is serious. Please don't be shy in coming forward to help – we need you!

Match Report

Anne P. Davies, Match Secretary

Our 3 teams are all about halfway through the season in the **East Cheshire Winter League** and the results to date are:

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
Poynton 1	7	3	2	2
Poynton 2	4	0	3	1
Poynton 3	6	2	4	0

Just a reminder that the club **Winter Tournament** is up & running and **ALL** the group matches must be completed by **March 31st**. Check out our website to see who is in your group, the rules along with your handicap and results to date.

Thinking ahead to the summer season, we will again be entering 3 ladies and 3 men's teams in the North-East Cheshire Lawn Tennis League and the teams will be captained as follows:

Ladies:

Poynton 1 - Division 4 - **Pauline Kilpatrick**

Poynton 2 - Division 6 - **Beryl Haddock**

Poynton 3 - Division 8 - **Sarah Heaton**

Men:

Poynton 1 - Division 3 - **John Martindale**

Poynton 2 - Division 7 - **Steve Thompson**

Poynton 3 - Division 9 - **John Hanson**

New Members

A warm welcome to our 4 new senior members who have joined us half way through the season -Robert Buckley a returning member, Yvonne Loynes and Diane and Terry Galvin.

Search "Poynton Tennis Club" to find us on



Facebook or follow us on Twitter
@poyntontennis



Club Diary

Wine Tasting

On **Friday 6th Feb** we held our annual Wine Tasting evening. As usual it was a hugely enjoyable evening with just the right balance between "learning" and "laughing"! With a mini tennis quiz thrown into the mix, a fabulous selection of tasty bites to "cleanse the palate!" between wines and plenty of raffle prizes on offer, it was a great way to spend a Friday night. And all for £10! It would have been nice to see a few more people there, especially as all proceeds go towards our fund raising drive, but enormous thanks must go to Dawn and her team of helpers for organising the evening and to our regular presenters Val and David from St Georges Church Wine Society.

New Season

Look out for your new season membership form which will be emailed out to all members at the beginning of March as **new 2015/16 season starts 1st April**.

Clock Change

Clocks change on **March 29th** so the summer season officially begins on **30th March**. This means the 4 all weather courts will revert back to the tennis section for our sole use throughout the summer months.

What's on at the Sports Club?

Quiz Nights - start again in Feb and are on most Fridays just turn up.

Organised Walks - first Sunday of month meet at 10.30am followed by option of a Sunday roast.