

September News 2017

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Our Tennis Club



A message from the Club President

September is my favourite month of the year - though as each 10th of

September passes I somehow get another year older.....

This time of year sees our young people with all the excitement of starting the new school year, starting new careers or organising university and college places - exam results are over and the future beckons.

At the Tennis Club, the league season is over and after the lull of the holiday month of August the action really steps up with the start of the Open Doubles and Over 50 Singles Tournament and the Annual Junior Tournament - who needs the US Open - a 'Flowery Field' is better than a 'Flushing Meadow'!

September also sees the start of the Social Calendar with the first Quiz Night and the first Food Evening of the season - if you haven't been tempted by these events before, now's a good time to try!

What a thriving Club we have....the best performance from Junior teams in many years, big numbers attending and enjoying Saturday Junior mornings, hundreds, yes hundreds, of children from all over the town experiencing playing at our Club in schools events (thanks Ben!), solid performances in the Senior League by our men's teams and spectacular ones by our ladies, highly successful Captain's and President's Days, busy Summer

Camps, busy Club Nights and really well organised Saturday afternoon events - all supported by our hard working committees and the dedication of all the members whose volunteering makes DLTC the most welcoming Club.

Enough from me - thanks to all our members for contributing to the ongoing success of our Club - enjoy September! We have a packed newsletter this month. Enjoy catching up with all the news.

Team Spirit - Reflections on the Summer Season



DLTC overall has had yet another good season in the senior leagues. **60 players** had played in our 8 summer teams (5 mens teams and 3 ladies teams) during the season and many more of you have supported when you can. The final positions in the league for each team is as follows:

Men's 1 - 7th div 1

Men's 2 - 3rd div 3

Men's 3 - 7th div 6

Men's 4 - 4th div 8

Men's 5 - 8th div 9

Women 1 - 4th div 1

Women 2 - 2nd div 5 - promoted as runners-up

Women 3 - 1st div 7 - promoted as champions

Each of our Captain's has reflected on their team's season and share the ups and downs, and fun with you here.



First Team - Chris Townend

It has been a season of 'what ifs' for the first team as we started very slowly and dropped at least six very gettable points which would have put us in the

promotion battle rather than the depths of mid table. We finished the season frustrated, but that should push us all to improve over the winter and convert some of those draws and one set losses in to wins next season.

Highlights include:

Best win - the league's only 18-0 win against Hale 3.

Best team performance - 10-5 victory over West Heaton.

Best shot - in a tense 9-9 draw with Hale 2 in which Ben played one of the best shots the first court at DLTC has ever seen (a behind the back, spinning, volley winner that beat both opponents at the net whilst in the pouring rain) to win a crucial set against their first pair.

Best item of clothing - Stu's backwards cap.

Well done to the whole squad for their efforts and attitude and banter this year, despite some of the results it's been fun. Hopefully this continues through the winter and we come out firing next season.

In the words of Liverpool fans everywhere, 'next year will be our year.'



Second Team – Jeremy Bentham



The second team have had a successful year in 2017, finishing 3rd in division three with 7 wins and 3 defeats. This meant we missed promotion by 3

points, with Northern and Bramhall lane going up. I think we gave a good account of ourselves in 9 out of 10 matches, with one collective off night at Poynton away. We were lucky to have Ben Bush play a few games for us this year, improving the set difference for whoever he played with. Sadly Jim

suffered a bad injury early in the season, and was only able to play the first two matches. This was a real shame for us, as he was in excellent form. It did however allow Aidan a chance to step up from the thirds and put down a strong marker for next season.

Hopefully, we can go one better next year and try and get ourselves into division two.



Third Team – Dave Farr

The 3rd team started the season with a squad of 8 players, Aiden McWilliams, Joseph



Sotoudemehr, Neil Henry, Nathan Scarll, Mark Shawcross, Robert Innocent, John Harrison and David Farr.

There were a number of setbacks with illness and injury, Aiden was promoted to the 2nd team, Robert had time off with tennis elbow and later in the season we also lost Joseph to injury. Due to these problems other players also helped including Iain Taylor coming up from the 4th team for a number of matches. To complicate things even more, for most of the season John Harrison acted as playing captain as I was on the 4th team. My thanks to John as acting captain and thanks to all who played and also who did our match suppers. The team had been promoted the previous year to Division 6 and therefore overall this season was one of consolidation. The team finished 7th winning 4 and losing 6 matches with some close loses.

Fourth Team – Iain Taylor

First I'd like to thank everyone who played for the 4th team this year, with injuries and team moves we've had a



fair few players who all played their part Jack Stanyer, Ian Stanyer, Dave Farr, Tom Pye, John Harrison, Sid Beales, Pete Berry, Barry Stead, Andy Robinson, Dave Longdon, Joe Longdon, Dave Pennington and Tony Morse.

This was my first time as a summer league captain and I soon found out it's a lot harder to get 6 grown men to one place than first anticipated!

On the whole we had a good season with some great wins and some close loses which could have pushed us further up the table had they gone our way but we finished in a respectable 4th place (thanks to Tony and Joe's last set tie break heroics) As you can see from the amount of players we've had it's been difficult to get regular pairings throughout the season and I think the main problem was consistency in the team. I hope moving into next season we will have more regular pairings and I'm sure with the players the team has they could push for a promotion place.



Fifth Team – Barry Stead

Another tough season for the 5th team with two very good teams running away with the division. After a slow start to the season for the 5th we grabbed a couple of great wins near the end, the first was 8-7 v Cheadle who ended up 3rd in the division and on our last match of the season it was 6-6 after two rounds with 40 minutes to go and we won 10-7 to keep us in the division with great support from the club house which was really appreciated. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who played with 14 players during the season with some stepping in at short notice and only playing a couple of games which was really appreciated. Keeping us in the division was a real team effort with everyone playing their part during the season so once again a big thank you to A Rob, Dave L, Sid, Alan, Pete, Dave P, Dave S, Tony, Colin, Tom N, Joel, Jack S and a guest appearance for a game from Nick who I hope will come out of premature retirement next year. I would also like to say thank you to everyone who cooked this season with some great suppers although we didn't manage to get Dave P to do his beans on toast or A

Rob to do his famous minced beef Wellington, maybe next year! It was a pleasure to be Captain this year with everyone pulling together and making it a lot easier and good fun.



Ladies First Team – Sara Sotoudemehr

It's been a successful year for the Davenport Ladies 1st Team with players returning from injury and finishing an ever so close fourth in the division. We had a great start to the season winning our first few matches with a number of close games that followed; competing against a wide range of adversaries from some fantastic (extremely young) county players through to some questionable line callers (Heaton Mersey we are looking at you!). Luckily there weren't any serious injuries this time round but highlights include racing through heavy traffic to storm an – out of breathe - impressive win against Bowdon and a tie-break heavy but victorious marathon battle for Josie and Maria at Bramhall Park, which coupled with the obligatory Love Island discussions afterwards nearly finished Josie off! We have tried out a mixture of pairings and to our benefit have seen some solid results, though as ever we wouldn't have been able to get through our matches without the support of the other ladies teams so thank you to you all and specifically to Juliette, Laura and Hayley for providing key strength in the matches they played. Overall it's been a varied season with it coming down to the second to last match as to whether we would be promoted and although it wasn't for us this time our competitive spirit won't fade and no doubt we will be back fighting for that top spot next year! Josie, Charlotte, Annie, Maria and Becky thanks for giving your all each match!





Second Team - Emma West

I am very pleased to report another excellent season for Davenport Tennis Ladies.

All our ladies teams have played so well this year, 2nd and 3rds gaining promotion and 1st team being very close indeed.

It is no mean feat to gain promotion 2 years in a row and I feel our 2nd team are particularly strong now, out of the 128 sets played, we only lost 26 sets overall, an 80% success rate! I know it has been some time since 2nd team have played in division 4 and I hope we can continue to be as successful there as we have been this year.

I would like to thank all our players for being available for the majority of matches, Laura, Hayley, Juliette, Rosie and Sue, it makes a big difference.

Also to those who played up so well for us, Paddy, Kirsty and Olivia, again as I said last year, having a really strong 3rd team who we can count on to play up for us really helps.

We were lucky with the weather this year, only having to re arrange one match against Queensgate which the weather just didn't want us to finish! After re arranging twice, we persevered through the heavy downpours to finish our final match with a great 12-0 victory, a perfect way to end the season.

Thanks to everyone who made us some lovely match suppers, thank you to Sue for being the Treasurer and thanks to all who came and supported us this season. Onwards to division 4!!



Ladies Third Team – Ruth Connor

After being promoted as Champions last season to Division 7, the 3rd team were in good spirits starting the new

season. A few early wins were followed by our first ever loss away at Grieve, our 13th match as a team proving unlucky.

This only made us more determined than ever to win the rest of our matches.

Most of the season we were chasing Alderley Edge and Cheadle who held the top spots but when we beat Cheadle 11-4 we realised we were in with a chance of promotion. The match versus Alderley Edge was our closest yet and a truly brilliant team performance resulted in a 9-6 win. The table was incredibly tight for the last few weeks and in the end our win at Handforth Hall meant we secured promotion with two matches in hand. And by the end of the season we had retained our status as Division Champion's.

Congratulations to Pam, Olivia, Jo, Kirsty, Jane, Paddy, Brenda and Sandy you've had a truly wonderful season! Thanks to everyone who cooked us supper and came down to watch and to Ben for the pre-season team coaching. Watch out Division 6, we're coming to get you!

The Acton Cup



The quarter final was held at

Davenport on Monday 7th August at 7pm when our team played Poynton. We won 5-0! An amazing result. The semi-final was played at home on Wednesday 30th August against Bramhall Lane at home. After a hard fought match we lost 0-5. Well done team for getting to the semi-finals. Quite an achievement and the score line doesn't reflect how close some of the game really were.

Social Tennis

Watch out! September means the **Open doubles and over 50s singles tournaments**

This year the open doubles tournament will start on **Monday 4th September with Finals' Day on Saturday 16th September.**

We hope to have a Plate Competition in the mixed doubles this year for those who are knocked out in the first round to give more people the chance to play additional competitive matches.

The Over 50s Singles will begin a week before, on Monday August 28th with the final on the same day as the Open Doubles, **Saturday 16th September**. The closing day for entries has now passed. All players must be available for the majority of the first week, the majority of the second week and Finals' Day.

The September schedule for Saturday social tennis reflects the above and is as follows:

Date	2.00pm Start	Organiser
2 nd September	Social tennis	
9 th September	Priority to tournament matches	
16th September	Finals Day!!	Come and support
23 rd September	Social play	
30th September	Junior Tournament Finals	Ben Bush Come and support



Tennis Committee News

Ever wondered how all the team and social tennis runs so smoothly? Well we have an excellent Tennis Committee that looks after it all, headed up by the Club Captain, currently Tom Longden. After supporting this committee over a number of years Joe Garnett is stepping down to focus on a heavy year of study. Many thanks go to Joe for his support and we wish him well with his studies. The committee has been joined by Charlotte Sykes and Nathan Scarll. So, the full complement of the committee is as follows:

Tom Longden; Dave Farr; Sid Beales; Sue Beales; Ruth Connor; Ben Bush; Elaine Hallworth; and new additions, Charlotte Sykes and Nathan Scarll.



News on the coaching front – by Ben Bush

Autumn Coaching is nearly here!! If you have not yet enrolled in the group coaching please do so ASAP.

Autumn Coaching includes the following Junior and Adult Groups available:

Monday: 4.30-5.30pm Orange/Green (9-10yrs)
5.30-6.30pm U13/15 Squad

Thursday: 4.30-5.30pm U13/15 Squad

Friday: 4.30-5.30pm Red (5-9 yrs)
5.30-6.30pm U18 Squad

Saturday: 1.00-2.00pm Adult Group - CONTINUING OVER SUMMER HOLIDAYS

To enrol in a group contact Ben now.

October Half Tennis Camps – Bookings Now Open!!

Mornings and Full Days available. Early Drop Off and Late Pickup also available if needed. Forms are in the clubhouse and on the Davenport TC Website. Places are limited for these camps – please book early to avoid disappointment.

Camp Dates are as follows: 23-27 October 2017

3-17th September - During this time I will be away on holiday. NO COACHING during this time except the following sessions:

Saturday Junior Morning 9.45am-12noon

Tuesday Junior Club Night 5-7pm

These sessions will be run by Qualified Coaches Joe Garnett and Charlotte Sykes.

Announcing the Annual Junior Tournament

The following Singles Events will be running this year:

- 10&Under Boys & Girls**
- 13&Under Boys & Girls**
- 15&Under Boys & Girls**
- 18&Under Boys & Girls**

Please read the Key Dates on the Junior Noticeboard.

Entry Deadline has been extended for the following events:

10&u Singles and 13&u Girls Singles (if you would like to enter these events please sign up on the Junior Notice Board in the Clubhouse).

Don't forget to read the rules before entering!!

ALL OTHER EVENTS ARE NOW CLOSED AND UNDER WAY!

13&U, 15&U, 18&U matches will run 3-30 Sept. Matches to be played in your own time with Finals Day on 30th September.

10&U matches will be on Tuesday 26th September with the Finals to be played on 30th September.

FINALS DAY – SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 12noon START. Please feel free to come along and support our Juniors.

Coaches Tip of the Month – Playing in wet conditions!!



How many of us actually adjust our strategy when the rain starts?

The balls get heavy, the courts play differently and yet we play the same! Here are a few tips to consider:

- Try and keep the points short by getting to the net whenever possible.
- Wind often goes hand in hand with rain so keep this in mind and observe the direction it's blowing.
- React accordingly. Keep a firm grip on your handle just before you execute your shot and hopefully this will stop the racquet from slipping in your hand.
- Raise the height of your groundstrokes as the wet (and now heavy) balls will drop much quicker causing short balls and mistakes in the net.
- If you have any slice in your game – USE IT! It's horrible to play against in the rain!

For help on this or any other coaching information contact Ben now on 07966 973901 or bbushtennis@yahoo.co.uk.

Other Club News



End of season awards night: 21st October

Save the date for the end of season bash Saturday 21st October. Everyone welcome!

Come and join us for some end of season drinks and buffet as we celebrate the achievements of our club this year. MC John Harrison will be on the mic presenting a range of prizes including team and social player awards as well as the inaugural President's prize

Look out for more details over the next month.



Food Evening Dates!

It is that time of year again. Make sure you get the dates below into your diary. All are welcome. Excellent food,

excellent company and generally a really good night out. Either sign up on the list in the club house or email Sue Beales at: suebeales1@ntlworld.com

Starting with a **Spanish Evening** on **16th September**
Followed by:

- 11th November - Bonfire Supper
- 9th December - Christmas Buffet
- 13th January - Winter Warmer
- 10th February - Valentine's Evening
- 17th March - St Patrick's Supper

Quiz Nights

Yes, the quiz nights are starting again on **Friday 8th September**. The evening starts at 8pm with supper. Price £3.



Put these other dates in your diary as well:

- 13 October
- 17 November
- 15 December
- 19 January
- 16 February
- 9 March
- 13 April



Coffee Morning

This takes place on the third Tuesday every month with the same format of £1.50 entry for tea/coffee and biscuits, with the proceeds going to charity. Come and enjoy a coffee with local residents. Open to all.

Happy Birthday!!



David, has a whole year come and gone?? Doesn't time fly!! Happy Birthday to our President and Club Secretary, David Sykes who celebrates his birthday on 10th September. And, especially arranged for Finals Day it's mine, your very own newsletter editor, on the 16th.

