

Some of you will be aware that **Lesley Charles**, our Club coach since 1989, is to retire this year on 20th July. We know that she would probably like to slip away quietly, but the many friends she has made over the years would be very disappointed if this happened, so we plan to have an informal **farewell evening in the bar on Wednesday 18th July from 7.30pm**. We hope that as many of you as possible will want to come along to say goodbye and to thank her for all she has done for the tennis section over the past 23 years. It will be very informal, with drinks and a finger buffet. It would be helpful if we knew in advance how many of you will be coming, please reply to tennischair@thewimbledonclub.co.uk if you plan to be there.

In anticipation of Lesley's retirement, and in an effort to improve what the Club offers all our members across the whole spectrum of ages and abilities, we have rationalised our coaching set up.

Alex Morris, who will be familiar to most members, has been promoted to **Head of Junior Tennis** at the club and will be responsible for all aspects of our Junior Programme.

This includes mini-tennis sessions 4 days a week for U8/U9/U10 with junior tennis academy squads for stand-out players; junior mix-ins on Friday afternoons; team training sessions on Saturday mornings and an academy squad for older juniors on Monday evenings.

Our teams compete in AEGON Team tennis in all age groups throughout the summer and we are committed to ensuring all our juniors have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Alex is available for private individual and group junior tennis lessons and can be contacted at: tennisjuniorcoach@thewimbledonclub.co.uk or on his mobile: 07809 434165

We are delighted to welcome **Rod Booth** back to the Club as **Head of Adult Tennis** with responsibility for all aspects of our Adult Programme. Rod has extensive experience coaching at clubs in Surrey for over 15 years, from beginner to team standard. Rod will run a number of programmes throughout the year, including:

- Social tennis sessions on Wednesday evening 6-9pm and Saturday afternoon 2-5pm (FULL members only)
- Associates Class Monday evenings 8-9pm (Associate members/ Self rating 1)
- Improvers Class Monday evenings 7-8pm (Self rating 2-3)

Rod will also be organising new member play-ins; running box leagues and a tennis ladder throughout the year; and running the summer and winter tournaments. Rod is available for private individual and group adult tennis lessons and can be contacted at: tennisadultcoach@thewimbledonclub.co.uk or on his mobile: 07984 492998

Rachel Oakeshott is our third club coach and continues to coach on a part-time basis, helping both Alex and Rod with aspects of the junior and adult tennis programmes.

The **Sunday social tennis session** is now being organised by Jeff Wakefield with assistance from Roseanne Eckart. Please give them your full support and help to make this a thriving and enjoyable session for everyone (including the organisers!).

There are three more **American Tournaments** scheduled for this summer. They are on Saturday 16th June at starting at 2.00pm, Saturday 11th August starting at 2.00pm, and Saturday 22nd September starting at 2.00pm. Sign up sheets are kept behind the bar.

The draws for both the **Club Tournament and the Handicap Tournament** have now been made and are displayed on the tennis notice board and on the LTA website <http://tinyurl.com/2012draws> and club website for Handicap draws: <http://tinyurl.com/2012handicapdraws>

Finals day will be on Saturday 15th September this year to allow more time for completing the rounds. Please don't use this as an excuse for not getting started, as there is a busy time ahead with **Wimbledon** (25th June to 8th July) and the **Olympics** (Tennis 28th July to 5th August). Don't forget that you will need a car park pass to drive to the Club during both of these events.

At this time of year we often have a few people who aren't members but who would like a game of grass court tennis and believe that they can just come and play on our courts. Please help to prevent such abuse by challenging anyone that you don't recognize and who hasn't got a shoe tag on. (Don't forget to wear your own shoe tag or you may be challenged!).

Bad weather delayed the take down of the **air-dome** and we eventually managed to get it packed away on 2nd May. A number of members have asked why we don't keep it up throughout the year as we can get rain at any time in this country. The reason for this is that we were only able to get planning permission for the air-dome as a temporary structure for 7 months of the year (1st October to 30th April) so our hands are tied. We have already booked for the air-dome to be put up on 1st October and it should be available for play shortly after that.

Our first winter with the air-dome has been a huge learning experience for the tennis committee and the Club. We didn't expect to get everything right first time and naturally we didn't. However, we did our best to make changes to the booking system and the operational procedures as we went along and we are confident that everything will run more smoothly next season. We plan to run more indoor events next winter and we will be announcing the details nearer the time.

As announced previously, we are running a small [online trial for booking outdoor courts](#) with Court 16 (beside the car park) available for booking on Saturday and Sunday mornings throughout the summer. Again, there have been some teething problems and this hasn't proved to be universally popular, but we will review the trial at the end of the season as agreed.

We had hoped that the **3 artificial grass courts could be resurfaced this summer** but budget constraints mean that it will be done next year instead. We have also asked for the sports hall to be resurfaced in 2014 as that now has a number of dead spots on the playing surface. Options for both these areas will need to be thoroughly researched and the committee has already started work on this.

If you would like to comment on anything in this Newsletter, or to contribute to the running of the tennis section, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The tennis committee wishes you an enjoyable summer of tennis

[Mary Preece](#) - Tennis Committee Chairman