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**To:** John Barton  
**Subject:** E News 3



E-news from Usk Tennis Club – no. 3

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**Membership**

Many of you have already taken advantage of the 10% discount on membership subscriptions punctually paid. If you haven't sent your cheque yet, any letter postmarked 1st May or earlier will still qualify for the discount. Or deliver by hand! Remember, only fully paid up club members who are also signed up members of British Tennis will have any chance of getting Wimbledon tickets in next week's draw.

**Club Development – seeing is believing!**

As you can all see on site the work has now commenced and it is programmed to be completed by mid June. we do not think that the existing courts will be affected until we get to the stage of painting which should be near the end of the project, so any disruption to the tennis will be minimal.



Ground works getting underway

By the end of June we will have

- 2 new courts
- The existing 3 courts repainted
- New floodlighting for all five courts
- Extended car parking facilities
- And much more.....

**\*\*\*\*\*American Tournament and Wimbledon ticket draw\*\*\*\*\***

Saturday 8th May

AMERICAN TOURNAMENT

2-4pm

Entry £1 (all yellow ball players welcome)

Refreshments on sale

.....  
 WIMBLEDON TICKET DRAW

4-5pm

Bring your own barbeque food or picnic

.....  
 Contact: [americantournament@melyn27.co.uk](mailto:americantournament@melyn27.co.uk)

**Spring Quiz**

02/05/2010

The annual Spring Quiz was held on Friday 16th April at the cricket pavilion, hosted by Ruth & Phil Terret. Thanks to all who attended as it was the first fund raiser of the year and we managed to raise £250. It was great to see some new faces there, and as usual, there was much competition for the winning trophy, which I know the victors are always so proud to display on their mantle-shelf! Well done to the 'Eggheads' for having the great honour of winning.

### Men's Tennis Update

Well, you know when you are part of a successful club when the gap between the winter and the summer is only one week. That is all that passed from Usk Men's A Team sealing the Premier Division of the Cwmbran Indoor Dome League, the Men's Bs winning the Division One title, the Men's Cs coming runners up in Division One and the Men's A Outdoor League team gaining promotion (a ridiculous amount of success, by the way) to the first matches of the summer league. You will read elsewhere about the titanic battle that was Usk B versus Usk C in the opening midweek match of the season and how the D team kicked off the season with a fine effort in a Cup match. However, sandwiched in between those matches was yet another first for Usk Tennis Club; our first ever outdoor summer weekend league match as the B team travelled to Radyr. Usk B were represented by Rhodri Phillips & Dave Seymour, Joshua Burchell & Craig Jones and Kathcey Ahmed & Simon Greenstreet. To say that the match was a simple 6-0 victory for The Uskimoos would be to play down the drama. Let's put a few things in perspective. Dave has been out injured for a long time. Josh has played very few senior matches. This was one of Kathcey's first matches ever. So to come away with that 6-0 scoreline says an awful lot about the team spirit, support and effort that was put in. A quick word about Radyr Tennis Club... one of the nicest venues to play with a very friendly and competitive bunch of players... and now in the record books as the first victims of Usk's adventures in weekend tennis!!!!

**Usk B vs Usk C** - The Men's Mid Week Summer League Division 1 kicked off last week with Usk C playing Usk B in a very competitive match lasting over 3 hours. Usk C - Chris (C) & Alastair, Ben & Max. Usk B - Rod (C) & Simon, Pete & Neil. With the match tied at 2 events each, Usk B won by the narrow margin of 5 sets to 4. Ben and Max played exceptionally well for the C's in their first outing together coming back well against Rod and Simon in their second set losing 5-7. The Beast and Melch defied their years as the oldest men's doubles pair in the club to win both rubbers against very a strong B team, but Pete and Neil held firm to take a set that deservedly won the match.

### Ladies tennis update

The **C Team** squad benefits this summer from both experienced C team regulars and newly 'promoted' Ruby Squad ladies, as well as Amelia Greenstreet, one of our growing band of juniors beginning to snap at our heels! Well done and welcome to our new team members. I hope you enjoy your first season with us. Our squad training on a Tuesday evening is giving us some really good strategies to use on court - as well as stretching our abilities both physically and mentally! Rhys is doing a great job of keeping us focussed on our tennis court rather than watching other matches, and is actually telling us to talk **more** when we are on court (although he does insist that we only talk about tennis)! Team selection from a squad of eleven is a fine balance between strength and gaining experience, but there is no doubt that we will be working hard to win as many matches as we can! We made a good start in our first match of the season with a draw against Caerphilly B (of course, we believe we won because we did have more games!) which was a lengthy and hard fought battle. Here's to the rest of the season - a long a and dry one we hope. Helene Grant

The Ladies **B team** played their first match on 27 April against Monmouth. The Usk ladies fought hard and Monmouth only just won 5 sets to 4. We face a challenging season as the Cymru Kitchens League format has changed and we are in the same division as the Ladies 'A' team. We have a keen squad of ladies who are looking forward to some enjoyable and possibly tough matches. Sue Shaw/

**A Team** -- The Winter League concluded on a high with Usk Ladies A Team finishing runners up in Division 1 to Allt-yr-rn. Congratulations to the Team!

We had a very encouraging start to the Summer season beating a Premier Division Team (Mon C & LTC A) in a preliminary round of the Ladies Senior Cup. We now face Cwmbran B in the next round. Our first league match resulted in a draw against Caerphilly A, who fielded Wales' current No 2 Under 14's girl (Meryl Bird). Well played Usk! Ros Hawke

### Coaching

Our very popular Coaching Programme continues to run through until 18th July. Coaching will continue on both May Bank Holiday Mondays and throughout half term week.

Watch out for information on our daytime Half Term Camps.

If a lesson has to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control (e.g. weather, coach illness) you can either: Check the Usk Tennis Club facebook page status: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Usk-Tennis-Club/229057287646?ref=ts> Check the Usk Tennis Club Twitter account: <http://twitter.com/UskTennis/>

Or call the coach leading the session:

Rhys: 07792 491866 Gary: 07531 917008 Steve: 07814 253517

Sessions missed due to circumstances beyond our control will be credited.

### Fund raising football match in aid of Junior tennis

FINAL SCORE: RELICS (OVER 35'S) 1 - 7 REBELS (UNDER 35'S)

Saturday before last the eagerly awaited football re-match took place between the Relics and Rebels. The Relics were eager to avenge last year's defeat by their younger opponents. The match kicked off in sunny, warm conditions but the Relics were caught cold by their opponents who surged into a 3-0 lead within twenty minutes of the start. Playing with great skill and at a pace the Relics can only achieve these days themselves driving in a car the Rebels extended their lead to 5-0 within half an hour. Clearly the practice sessions put in by the youngsters had paid off and the tactic of the Relics to not practice beforehand in order to remain fresh for match day had little benefit.

After some changes to the Relics defensive formation the match became a marginally more balanced contest. Just before half time the Relics even got on the score sheet with a free flowing move resulting in a goal. The Rebels continued to attack in the second half and somehow the Relics managed to keep the scoring down to only two goals to result in a final score and a well deserved 7-1 win for the Rebels.

Many thanks to all the players for taking part, Craig & Ben for captaining the teams, Rhys for bringing the whole thing together, John Barton for his excellent refereeing and to all those members who came along to support and have a laugh at the Relics!

However the fundraising was the important part of the event and the Relics at least won that. Thanks to everyone's effort the Relics raised £400 and the Rebels an excellent £301 from the guess the final score competition. A special mention for Simon Greenstreet(Relics) & Sam Terrett(Rebels) who raised the most money for their team. There proved to be six correct guesses so as per the rules a draw was held to decide a lucky winner of the £50 prize. In front of a large group of club members on Saturday evening committee member Peter Hawke drew the winner in a random draw.

Sheila Mitchell (Al Mitchell's mum) proved to be the lucky winner of the £50 prize. As a result of this great fundraising effort, after taking out the winners prize from the monies raised we now have an additional £651 to dedicate to junior tennis at our club this year!

Many thanks, Andrew Burchell. Junior competitions officer



### Junior Social Committee News

Our Easter Fun Day Event really was fun despite the weather. We were able to use the Rugby Club for the event in the end. Many thanks to all who helped out and to those of you that turned up with your 'minis'. The children had a great time - with tennis and chocolate involved who wouldn't! We even recruited a few new Mini Tennis Players from other areas.

Our next big event will be the Usk Tennis Club Open Day on Sunday 27th June, 10am - 2pm. This is going to be a huge event for all Junior members and is also open to the public.

There will be lots of tennis activities on offer, including Beat the Superhero and Ball Machine Challenge. There will be delicious refreshments of strawberries and cream, and much more.

If anyone is interested in taking their children on a trip to The Aegon classic in Edgebaston (June 7th-13th)2010, please contact Caroline Hughes.

[juniortennis@melyn27.co.uk](mailto:juniortennis@melyn27.co.uk) Angela Morgan 07976 044160 Caroline Hughes 07984 162395

### Sponsorship

I would like to thank our existing sponsors for continuing with their support this year. It is very much appreciated and our thanks go to: Chris Hayes - RPS Energy, Alastair Mitchell - Usk Vets, Caroline Hughes - Physiotherapy.

We are always in need of extra funding towards the upkeep and improvement of our club, so if any new or existing members would like to sponsor Usk Tennis Club then please contact me for details.

Thanks, Kath Badran [kath@badrunner.net](mailto:kath@badrunner.net)