

Donald or Jennie Parsons

From: Kingcoed Farm [Kingcoed@nildram.co.uk]
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E-news from Usk Tennis Club – no. 2

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Development – Almost there - 12th April diggers will be on site!

Following on from last month's newsletter I can confirm that final tenders for the work have been forthcoming and they are all within budget, the contractors have been instructed and they are putting together their programme. Diggers will be on site from 12th April, I have a meeting with Julie from Tennis Wales on Wednesday 24th March to finalise their commercial input into the scheme. We have also asked a local builder to quote for rearranging the interior of the club house to provide a better club room etc, and Kath Badran is submitting a grant application to Monmouth CC to assist with the cost of this element. I know that it all seems a slow process, well it is, but we are nearly there. I hope that the next adult/junior tournament which was a great success will be held at the club on all 5 courts. Nigel Webb

Junior and Adult indoor Championship

On Sunday 21st March we held our first ever junior & adult indoor championship. Played at the Newport indoor tennis centre we had 24 competitors taking part in the event. Each of our juniors played four rounds with a different adult partner in each round. The event was brilliantly supported by family and club members with some impressive tennis played by all our players. It was a great atmosphere and our junior winner was not decided until a very exciting last round. Four players were still in with a chance of winning until the very end. After a very tense count up and with only three points covering the top five juniors Lara Hawkins was declared our junior winner....congratulations to Lara and all our junior competitors for the brilliant tennis played.

Our adult players also performed magnificently, supporting and encouraging their junior partners throughout the event. Walter May & Chris Hayes went close, but Simon Greenstreet prevailed to take the adult winners trophy. Simon & Lara were the only undefeated players in the event so their victories were well deserved.



Here are just a few of the comments made by those present at our event:

"great to see so much fun being had by all, couldn't quite make out whether Simon was having more fun than the Children, we had better watch that he does not try to join as a junior this year". Nigel Webb-Athletic club chairman

"What a superb day yesterday and wasn't it great to see the up and coming players performing so well and more importantly having lots of fun". Alex Brown-Tennis club chairman

"It was a great idea, very well organized and a real pleasure to see the investment in Junior tennis bearing fruit. The only downside was that Simon won"! Neil Williams- A good player (and a bad loser)

"Brilliant. It was a great day, and everyone had the right attitude which meant (most importantly) that every kid had a brill time!!!" Craig Jones-3 times club singles championship finalist

"I enjoyed it and would definitely want to be involved next time". Walter May-longstanding Usk member

"Thanks for yesterday it was a great event (even though I would say that) and I thought the juniors were outstanding, at least the ones who carried me were and the support and atmosphere was also brilliant. Good news for the club and I think we should do this again before the winter season and make it a 6 month event. My thanks to you both for the excellent organisation and effort that goes into junior tennis. As a parent of 2 participating junior members I have to say they talked of nothing else all evening and Tilly said it was the most she had enjoyed tennis. With another trophy in the cabinet I have to agree....." Simon Greenstreet -Adult winner(and bighead)

"These juniors are playing some really amazing tennis. They must be having some great coaching." Rhys Jones-Head coach Usk tennis club

Social:

The next fundraising event for your diaries is the very popular **Spring 'Quiz Night'** which will be hosted by Phil and Ruth Terrett. This will be held on **Friday 16th April** at the Cricket Pavilion **7.30pm** start. Tickets are £4 per adult £2 per child. Would each table please bring their own 'picnic' - crockery and cutlery will be provided. The quiz is always extremely popular, so please arrive early for the best seats. There will be a raffle and any

donations would be gratefully received.

Mixed Tennis:

Unfortunately, after a good start, the mixed team had to pull out of the South Wales Winter League; conceding two matches meant we were not allowed to remain in. This is very disappointing to those who had played for the team as we had some very enjoyable games which were often close. My thanks go to all who supported and played for the mixed team: Angela Seymour, Ros Hawke, Hilary Barton, Mandy Davies, Denise Robinson, Kate Greenstreet, Simon Greenstreet, Pete Hawke, John Robinson, John Barton, Rhodri Phillips Alex Brown, Alastair Mitchell, Nick Waters.

Ladies News:

Social - With the first light evenings of Spring upon us you must be brimming with energy to play some tennis! Why not come along on Wednesdays 7pm-9pm. All standards very welcome.

Tours - Ten Ladies took off for a Winter Sun Tour, returning to Marrakesh in January. Souks, stall traders, pina colodas at sunset and of course tennis was enjoyed. We look forward to welcoming Angela and Rachel as first timers joining the weathered summer tourers to Devon in July. With a new pool, sauna, steam room, spa bath and redeveloped five outdoor carpet courts to greet us. Whatever the weather, four indoor carpet courts, we can enjoy tennis and Pimms all weekend.

Ladies League Matches - The Cwmbran Indoor Winter League in the Dome reaches its closing matches. The Ladies' Teams have battled well to achieve wins over Clubs they had previously never beaten. Well done to players in all three squads, thanks for your continued support and enthusiasm. Special thanks go to Jennie for all her hard work, now stepping down as B Team Captain. The South Wales Winter League also reaches its conclusion this week, winning six matches out of ten. This has given Usk Tennis Club the opportunity to further develop team experiences. Thanks to all the players for their dedication (not drinking the night before an early morning weekend match!) travelling as far

afield as Neath. We now look forward to a successful Summer Season.

Ros Hawke

Usk's Men in 2010

2010 promises to be a momentous year for Usk Tennis Club with a number of 'firsts' taking place. In addition to the new courts, the ever expanding coaching programme (well done, Rhys), and Alex Brown actually getting onto the tennis court on a regular basis, Usk's men are entering the South Wales Courtsall Summer Doubles League for the first time.

We will have two teams competing; the A Team, Captained by Andy 'Granddad' Burchell, in Division 7 East and the B Team, Captained by Rhodri 'Rocky' Phillips will be in Division 8 East. As well as encountering old enemies like Allt Yr Yn (okay, Craig's old enemies Allt Yr Yn), the leagues will see us take on new adversaries such as Cardiff, Whitchurch, Barry (What's occurring?) and Llantrisant. The start of this league could not come at a better time for Usk's men as all three teams in the Cwmbran indoor Dome league are finishing with a flourish.

The C team have had a very solid season, achieving wins over Cwmbran, Allt Yr Yn and Caerphilly. In fact, in doing the double over Cwmbran C they accumulated an amazing aggregate score of 81 games to 45. The season has seen some great performances and credit goes to Melchie, Beast and Rodders who have played in most of the matches.

The B team looks on course for the league title having only lost one match all winter season. However, the might of the C team stand in their way on the 2nd April, so anyone wanting to see blood should make a point of watching that one live in HD (Huge Dome). The current games for and against is quite unbelievable... 308 games for and only 145 against. A great team effort but Gary Hawke has really marked his 'upgrade' from junior to senior this winter and had been a solid performer throughout.

The A Team are within a couple of matches of retaining their Division 1 crown. Only Cwmbran A have beaten them in a tight season which has seen them without Club Champion Tom, Club Coach Rhys and Club Irritant Craig for pretty much the whole season. Total respect to Burchy and Quality for keeping the troops motivated and keeping the opposition firmly in their place.

So as the Winter season comes to a successful conclusion we look towards the summer, and not only the weekend league but also the midweek Gwent league where Usk Men's A team retained its place in the Premier Division by winning a vital set against Caerphilly in the last event of the last match of the season (Burchy and Craig will be talking THAT SET up forever). This year we have gone back to four men's teams, with the Ds used to bring through our awesome junior players. Good luck to all and if you think you might enjoy league tennis, get involved. It is great fun and you might just find yourself on the winning team. Sorry... USK is ALWAYS the winning team, no matter what the result!!!

Craig Jones

Coaching Programme

Our Spring Term Coaching Programme draws to a conclusion on Sunday 28th March. The new Summer Term Programme commences on Monday 12th April-Sunday 18th July. For more information please contact Ros Hawke roshawke1@hotmail.co.uk

Junior Development

UKCC1 Coaching Certificate: The LTA runs this course for enthusiastic 16 year olds or above who would like to help deliver Mini Tennis Lessons. Congratulations to Tom Gow-Smith and Ben Morjaria who complete their UKCC1 Coaching Certificates this weekend.

UKCC2 Coaching Certificate: This course is run for 17 year olds or above to further improve their Coaching skills. Gary Hawke and Ben Morjaria are attending a First Aid Course in Cardiff in April, before applying for their UKCC2 Coaching Certificates.

Both courses require candidates to hold a CRB Disclosure Certificate through the LTA.

Ros Hawke - Junior Development Officer.

Usk Tennis Club on Facebook and Twitter

Usk Tennis Club is now on Facebook and Twitter! Make sure you follow us to hear about the latest news, photos from events and coaching cancellations on:

- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/UskTennis>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Usk-Tennis-Club/229057287646?ref=search&sid=199706574.1712060306..1>
- Alternatively, there are links available on the main club site: <http://www.uskathleticclub.co.uk/tennis/>

Join the groups to receive news and interact with the club community!

Easter Fun Day

On the 29th March the club is holding an Easter Junior Fun Day, open to members and non-members. As well as FREE coaching there will be an organised Easter egg hunt and competitions!

4-9 year olds arrive at the club at 9:45am

10 - 15 year olds arrive at the club at 11:45am

For more details please contact Angela Morgan on juniortennis@melyn27.co.uk

Tennis Camps:

On the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the School Easter Holidays there are Usk Junior Easter Tennis Camps

10:00 - 11:30am for 4 - 9 year olds

11:30am - 2:00pm for 10 - 15 year olds

Please contact Rhys on 07792 491866 or tenniscoach@uskathleticclub.co.uk for forms.

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