



The stars of the future

You are currently looking at the future of our tennis club. Right here, right now. The children and the coaching staff in the picture represent the next generation of tennis excellence in Wheathampstead.

Wind back five years and the some of the young men and ladies currently playing in our Datchworth teams were going through the the same process of coaching, play and practice. Our Mens Champion, Ben Giddens, grew up in a non-tennis playing family but discovered the sessions on the Marford playing fields and thought it seemed like fun.

Wind back five more years and the story was a little more sketchy. There was some coaching available but nothing like the focused timetable now on offer. There were a few childrens' rackets to encourage mums to show their children how, but no Mini Red tournaments to excite and challenge them.

So here's to some of the decisions the committee made then to expand the junior facilities. And here's to Matt and Neil from Total Tennis for their continued efforts and their ability to keep things interesting for the children. And here's to Mike Rouse (Committee member for the Juniors) for his stalwart service and unflagging enthusiasm.

Because it's not just about feeding the teams a steady diet of new players or producing some decent results in the County Cup; it's about having fun, getting some exercise and making friends. Not just when you're young, but all through your life. Just like riding a bicycle, you never forget how to play tennis. And what could be better on a warm summer's evening than a game of tennis?

Rob Carr, Chairman



W E A T H A M P S T E A D





THE TOPSPIN SERVE

The top-spin or 'kick' serve is created by the racket face brushing up the back of the ball. It creates a serve that loops higher over the net and then dips down into the court.

It can be a very deceptive serve as the ball will swing from right to left in the air (for a right hander) but as it bounces the spin will bite into the court and it will kick high and to the right.

This makes it ideal as a second serve as the looped flight path makes it safe yet the kick on the bounce forces the receiver back and usually on their weaker backhand return.



STEP ONE

To hit the kick serve you have to have the correct chopper grip.

If you nudge it a bit further around the grip to a slight backhand grip then you can generate even more spin on the ball.

Bring the ball placement back slightly and to the left (right if you are left handed), almost as if you were trying to land the ball on your head.



STEP TWO

As you go to hit the ball, arch your back more.

Hold your sideways turn longer and accelerate the racket head up the back of the ball.

Your swing path should be more in line with the baseline rather than forwards into the court.



STEP THREE

Do not worry where they go to begin with.

Look to create the loopy trajectory and develop it from there.

These coaching tips came from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/tennis/skills> - it's a fantastic site with plenty of advice for beginners and experts alike.

* * * CLUB NEWS * * *

FLOODLIGHTS

Our re-application to extend the hours of operation of the floodlights from 8:30 pm until 9.30 pm was heard at a meeting of the St Albans District Council Planning Committee North. After much debate, opinion amongst councillors remained divided and they eventually voted to turn down our application. Despite respecting the wishes of the local residents we believe there is considerable benefit to the village in a small extension and are considering an appeal.

CLUBHOUSE CLEANING

A new rota for cleaning the Club House is to be published shortly. Like last year, the rota will be made up from all those adults who play in competitive matches, both club and leagues, but who do not serve on the club committee. Keep those rubber gloves handy!

HALF PRICE OFFER ON ALL WLTC CLOTHING!

We have plenty of top quality WLTC sweatshirts and polo shirts available for you to wear on court (especially during league matches). What's more, with **50% OFF** they're remarkable value and a great way to look smart this summer.



	WAS	NOW
Sweatshirts	£25.00	£12.50
Polo Shirts (adult)	£15.00	£7.50
Polo Shirts (child)	£10.00	£5.00

Please email colin_heal@btinternet.com to arrange to try on or place and order.



TEAM NEWS

The teams had a fantastic season in the summer of 2008, **our best season in the Datchworth Leagues ever – for the second year running!** We entered 6 teams into this the unique league for the Summer competition, with both the 3rd and 6th teams winning their leagues and gaining promotion. Further Datchworth success came in the Autumn season with the 1st Team also gaining promotion to Division 2.

The Herts Ladies were pipped for the top spot but promoted in second place. Both Herts Mens teams played strongly but were only able to finish mid-table.

The younger players in the senior teams (from the 6ths up to the 1sts) proved themselves up to the task in every case. The improved junior quality has come as a result of our long established coaching programme and more recently the improvements in our facilities. The new floodlights have extended our season dramatically and this is being reflected in our performances on court.

We welcome applications from everyone who wishes to represent the club in the various leagues in which we are involved. An application form will be going out by email to all previous team members. If you haven't played in a team before or somehow don't get the message, email Rob Carr robvcarr@googlemail.com The forms need to be completed and returned by 31st March in order that we can get the team structures in place in time for the beginning of the season.



WIMBLEDON BALLOT

The LTA have allocated WLTC 23 pairs of tickets for The 2009 Championships. We do not as yet have the exact dates for these tickets but The Championships run from 22 June to 5 July. For the first time the roof on Centre Court will be available so play is now guaranteed on this court. The tickets are as follows:

- 9 pairs for Centre Court**
- 9 pairs for No.1 Court**
- 4 pairs for No.2 Court**
- 1 pair for No.3 Court**

So that all WLTC Members are aware of the process, here are the rules by which these tickets will be allocated to members.

- All WLTC Adults and Juniors over 9 years of age who are also members of British Tennis (a condition of the LTA) will be entered into a ballot that will be held after Clubnight on **Wed 29 April**.
- The LTA issue us with a list of members who have signed up for British Tennis and this list will be used as the basis for the ballot.
- The first 23 names drawn will be offered a pair of tickets in the order that they are drawn in. ie first out the hat will be offered the most desirable tickets second out the hat will be offered the second best tickets etc.
- Should the first out of the hat not wish to purchase the allocated tickets the

tickets will be offered to the first reserve ie the 24th name drawn. The first out of the hat gives up their right to tickets.

- You do not have to attend the ballot to be allocated tickets. You will be notified by email on 30 April if you have been successful in the ballot. For those without email, a list will be put up in the Clubhouse. You must reply by Sunday 3 May or you will forfeit the tickets.

Tickets will be available for collection from Dan Boon between Monday 11 May and Sunday 17 May. Payment for the tickets should be by cheque payable to WLTC.

NEW TAGS, NEW KEYS

We have a new style of tags this year. Child friendly in the extreme, they will fit velcro tennis shoes as well as laces. This means there is no excuse for not wearing yours and those who don't will be asked to leave the court



A new lock means new keys for everybody - they'll be sent out in the membership packs. The lock will be changed on the **4th April** so you'll need your new key after that. We're planning a 'key amnesty' to get back as many of the old keys as possible and will give you **£2 back** for each key you return. Please see Keith Andrews at any Wednesday Club Night in April.

DATES FOR 2009

Date	Event
May 3	Ryder Cup (all day)
June 7	American Tournament 2pm
July 5	Finals Day 2pm
July 11	Party in the Park 6pm
July 12	Village Day
Sept 13	Junior event
Oct 10	Turbo Tennis & Curry 5pm
Nov 13	Quiz Night 7.30pm
Dec 4	AGM 7.30pm
Dec 27	Winter Warmer 1pm

THE SLICE SERVE

The slice serve or 'slider' happens when the racquet face brushes around the side of the ball. The spin takes the ball out wide which often means the receiver has to run right out of court to return the ball. It is all down to where you put the ball in your throw up.



STEP ONE

To hit a slice serve the ball needs to be in front of you. If you place it a little more to the right (to the left for left-handers) can also help generate more spin.



STEP TWO

As you accelerate to hit the ball, slide the racquet face around the outside of the ball.

You should hear a different sound as the strings brush across the ball imparting the spin.



STEP THREE

Try to stay relaxed as you hit the ball. Try to feather the ball and glide the serve rather than bite into it. This will help you get more swing and angle.



*** COACHING CORNER ***

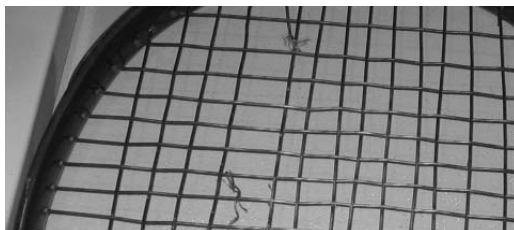


We're pleased to announce another action packed coaching programme with courses for adults and juniors of all ages. Run by Matt and Neil, these friendly sessions are designed to improve all levels of abilities.

There are Mini Red, Orange and Green courses for 4 to 10 year olds and Improver, Intermediate and Team Squad courses for the older juniors. For adults there are a choice of two sessions and the facility to create bespoke lessons (or series of lessons) for individuals or groups of players. Just ask!

We hope you will join in this year and look forward to seeing you on court in the summer. For more details visit the website or call Carole on 07710 169132

If something goes 'twang', don't despair. Nancy Jeffroy offers an excellent stringing service with prices from £15. She lives in St Albans and you can collect/drop off in Wheathampstead. Give her a ring on 07814 242105



THE COMMITTEE - IF YOU SEE US JUST ASK, WE'RE HERE TO HELP



Rob Carr
Chairman



Rick Smale
Deputy chairman



Catherine Joce
Membership Secretary



Keith Andrews
Treasurer



Colin Heal
Facilities



Dan Boon
Club Secretary



Julia Verney
Social



Simon Robinson
Communications



Mike Rouse
Juniors



Helen Nuttall
General



Andrew Innes
General



Christine Gatward
General



Ian Hardy
General

We're looking for new committee members. Join us and help organise the club, represent the interests of the members and have some fun too .

Your name could be here too

2008 CLUB CHAMPIONS



Jack Charlton Mens' Singles
Ben Giddens (Right)



Wally Sanger Ladies' Singles
Melanie Nguyen Huy Lai (Left)



Ladies Doubles: **Melanie Nguyen Huy Lai/Cathy Honey** (Left)



Bob Sparrow Junior Singles
Jamie Hardy (Right)

Cecil Allen Mixed Doubles
Helen Nuttall/Will Berrington

Most Improved Adult
Ben Giddens

Most Improved Junior
Mat Golding

Swingers Cup
Helen Nuttall/Ben Giddens

2007 Clapp Mens Doubles
Bob Tink/Simon Robinson

2008 Clapp Mens Doubles
undecided at time of publication