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NEWSLETTER No 17 – SPRING 2022

## Clubhouse – Amazingly, we now have planning permission!



The Before and After!

### Welcome

I hope you are all okay and looking forward to playing tennis in sunny weather and taking part in our Spring / Summer programme, especially our competition day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May that Ben refers to in his report below.

### Clubhouse Planning application

Amazing News – I am delighted to tell you that I was advised today that we have gained planning permission for our long awaited clubhouse. I hope it will take less time than that to complete the project, and be able to sit down in our clubhouse and have a drink!

We now have to look at the finances and how we will raise the necessary funds. As you may be aware we reported at the AGM that we had £41,568 in our clubhouse fund having spent nearly £5000 on the feasibility study, so we have good platform to work from towards our target of 100k.

**This will be your clubhouse to make use of and benefit from, so we all need to take responsibility to come up with ideas and ways to raise the funding, so please put your thinking caps on!**

A parent group meeting will be held shortly – (date to be confirmed) so that we can have a full and frank discussion on the way forward to achieve our clubhouse dream. If you would like to attend it, please get in touch with me.

### Membership 2021/22 Update

Thank you to all of our 160 members who are now fully paid up. Thank you also and a warm welcome to our new Adult coaching members introduced in March who have joined recently – James, Sally, Alison, Jenny, Christine and Susie. I hope you enjoy reading your first OTT Club Newsletter and thank you for your support for our Club.

### AGM Report – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 by Zoom

- It was again very strange holding our second AGM online so a big THANKYOU to those of you who attended, and the good news is that we again got through the business in the 40 minutes allocated! I just hope that we do not have to repeat this next year!
- Reviewing the twelve months to 30<sup>th</sup> September, we recognised the issues that we had to work with covid restrictions and yet coped very well with the delivery of our coaching programme thanks primarily to Ben and Blake, not forgetting his assistants Kobe, Nia, Hattie and helpers. Off court we had made significant progress with the proposals for our

clubhouse and in June we submitted our feasibility study to Oswestry Town Council / Cae Glas Park Charity. I am pleased to advise that we gained approval in September and we are now working with Gavin Porritt – DPA Ltd to complete a planning application.

- For those interested in our finances, our accounts for 2020/21 show a surplus of £3,168 which was credited to boost our general reserve to £6142, our resurfacing fund now stands at £4,307, and our clubhouse fund now stands at £41,568.
- Our parent working group was re-elected en bloc, Paula Jones took over the reins from Emma Spelman as our Club welfare officer last summer and was re-elected, whilst Helen Shiel was reappointed as Treasurer. Many thanks go to Emma/ Paula and Helen for all their work through this very difficult year. I was re-elected Deputy Treasurer and Chairman for my fifth year in this position, and will again try to do my best for you. Mark Lord was reappointed as our auditor. You will also be pleased to know that there was a motion to allow an individual's age to be a trustee to be increased from 75 to 80 especially to accommodate me!
- Finally if anyone reading this would be interested in joining our parent working group, please let me know - there's always room for more!

#### **Wimbledon tickets**

**Sadly I am not advised now by the LTA as to which club members are going to Wimbledon. If you have been successful in the LTA ballot, please can you let me know asap whether you have been able to navigate the system to pay for the tickets?!**

#### **Our Green carpet addition!**



**Ben and Blake on the carpet!**

Thank you Ben for coming up with this great idea to make the surface more gentle for moving the astra tennis net and wheels on to when it is needed for football, as the wheels which had been taking some punishment previously and necessitated repairs to them.. Thank you very much to Ellesmere College for providing this carpet free of charge.

#### **Monthly Tourneys on Sunday mornings**

I have started monthly adult/junior doubles tourneys on Sunday mornings from 10am to 12pm which have proved very enjoyable and FUN for those taking part. In March we had 6 pairs and in April we had 6 pairs though I played singles as 'a pair' against the doubles pair as unfortunately I could not find a 12<sup>th</sup> person. It is a great opportunity to play with Mum and Dad or friend in a low key atmosphere and put your coaching into practice and take the opportunity to learn about competition. Evan at the age of 9 is our youngest and I qualify as the oldest to take part!

Our next tourney is on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> so I would encourage you to take part, so please look out for Ben's invitation.



**Players from our Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April tournie**

## **Coaching Programme**

Many thanks must go yet again to Ben/ Blake, Nia who oversee our coaching programme and play such an important part in our club. Ben's coaching report on behalf of Tennis2You is shown below

### **OTT Spring article from Tennis2You - Ben Judd**

I would like to start by thanking everyone who kept us going through the winter, it is not an easy time of year but you all kept bringing smiles to the courts.

We are now into the spring and the days are lengthening out quicker than Blake's serve, so this is prime time to get out and play more tennis. Courts are free from 1pm on Saturdays and all day Sundays, as well as various times in the week, please check our website to see what the court schedule is, so you can find a time to come down and play some tennis.

### **Competitions:**

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 1pm-3pm, we will be hosting a mini red, orange and green ball competition. This is a fun event and the children will play some fun matches against each other, with the help of some young assistants umpiring their matches. This is a time to put into practice little things they have learnt in their sessions and most importantly have fun.

Along with the mini tennis event on the 7th, we will be running a Road to Wimbledon competition for U14's. This is a yearly event run nationally and all those who are eligible have been sent an email about this event and we encourage all of you to have a go and enjoy a day of fun matches.

### **Open Day:**

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May from 1pm-3pm, OTT will be hosting a free open day for public members to come and have a go at some tennis. This day will be about promoting our club and the junior tennis activities we have going on, all members are welcome to come down and join in the fun activities and if you know anyone who would like to come down, please invite them. We want to fill our courts up and see loads of tennis going on throughout the afternoon.

### **Extra sessions:**

There are plenty of ways to get an extra bit of tennis in a week and having those extra sessions is a great way of improving and taking your tennis to the next level. We have plenty of other group sessions running in the week for all ages, so if you would like to attend another session, please talk to your coach. There is also the option of a hitting session with Nia, who is our level 2 coach; she can offer your child a great level of rallying and fun games, to push their abilities on. Nia's contact details are on our notice board or you can talk to her on Saturday mornings and arrange some hitting sessions, which are £7 for an hour. There is also the option of a private session with Blake or Ben, where we can work on certain areas of your tennis and help improve your game in a one-to-one situation. Just give us a message or talk to us at the courts and we can arrange a private lesson or if you would like to share a lesson with a friend or someone in your group and split the cost, we can arrange this also.

Myself, Blake and our team of young helpers are buzzing for this spring and summer season and can't wait to get back out on court after the Easter holidays.....See you all on court.

### **OTT Juniors now playing for Oswestry Tennis Club Teams**

It is encouraging to report that Kobe Jones and Nia Christoforou have both been representing Oswestry Tennis Club in their league teams, and helping their teams to enjoy success.

Most recently Kobe played for the second mixed team in Group 3 which came 3rd, whilst Nia played in the 3rd mixed team in Group 4N which gained promotion to Group 3, so two teams to argue over bragging rights next season!

### **Hope to see you on or off the courts in the not too distant future!**

Clive Knight – Chairman

26.04.2022