



Stockton Heath Lawn Tennis Club
Delphfields Road
Appleton
Warrington
WA4 5BY

August 2020 Newsletter



There is a great deal more tennis being played at the Club now with some squads and group coaching returning. The first of the post lockdown 'Saturday social tennis' sessions occurred on 1st August (more details on page 7). Welcome to new members joining the Club since the publication of the last newsletter! Hopefully, there is something for all ages and tennis experience!

LTA Guidance

The latest LTA Coronavirus (Covid-19) guidance was issued on 21st July and all members are encouraged to regularly check the LTA website for information. Recent decisions by the Committee have been based on the following statement:

The main update to this guidance is that Government has confirmed that adult group coaching is now possible in larger groups for those coaches and venues that are COVID-19 secure, in line with published Government guidance on organising outdoor sport and physical activity events, and for providers of grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities.

Groups of up to 15 children plus coach(es) are also possible for junior coaching, in line with guidance from Government on out of school settings. Guidance from Government also means that clubs and venues can host larger groups for outdoor sport and physical activity participation events such as club nights and competitions, as long as they ensure they are COVID-19 secure.

LTA Return to Managed Play (Updated 21st July)

SHLTC Club Guidance

Please check emails and newsletters for the latest information concerning tennis activities at the Club



A red-ball coaching session with juniors, mostly aged 6/7 years old



Covid-19 secure

Stockton Heath Lawn Tennis Club

Arrangements for use of the Club from Saturday 1 August

This information sheet is for all members who use the club and courts and is based on the Government and LTA guidance on playing tennis. Please see previous guidance issued, particularly in the Club newsletters, since March.

The overriding priority is to keep all members safe and well as we continue to use the Club for tennis related activities. There are links to LTA and other documents concerning Covid-19 and we urge all members to keep up to date with the latest information concerning tennis players, venues and coaching.

Please remember to wash your hands and sanitise before and after playing tennis.

PRE-ATTENDANCE SYMPTOM CHECK (NEW)

- Anyone attending a venue (including players, coaches, staff and any other visitors), should undergo a pre-attendance self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms [using the information on the NHS website](#) before leaving home.
- No-one should leave home to participate in tennis if they, or someone they live with, has symptoms of COVID -19, currently recognised as any of the following:
 - A high temperature
 - A new, continuous cough
 - A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste
- Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must follow [NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation](#)

The above is taken from the LTA guidance.



The extract on the left is part of the instructions sent to all members concerning the opening of the Clubhouse.

Please ensure you use the one-way system, sanitise your hands regularly and record your contact details for Test and Trace

Thank you

Three of our promising junior players developing their service action!



Coaching at SHLTC

The Club is very fortunate to have a team of dedicated and hard-working coaches. Please contact them to arrange personal sessions.

Ant McCarthy (Head Coach) - 07970 530705 xltennisuk@gmail.com

Iain Warburton - 07946 730169 iain.warburton@ntlworld.com

Harrison Taylor – 07486 314654 harrison.ta@gmail.com

Nick Fance – 07464 938383 nickfance1@gmail.com

'For me, it is important to win titles and for that I need to work hard, stay healthy and be able to compete. The rest, I always say, it comes'

Rafael Nadal (Winner of 19 Grand Slam Singles Titles)



ClubSpark Update

As mentioned in previous newsletters the Club is now using ClubSpark for a variety of things. Milton has provided the following update:



ClubSpark

'A big thank you to all members for accepting the change in the court booking system and persisting with any hic-ups setting it up, we have had very few teething problems.'

A FAQ article has been published to our website

<https://www.shltc.co.uk/news/17-clubspark-tips-faqa-and-useful-links> which will be updated as needed.

At the moment here's what on there:

- If you log in to ClubSpark via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/> you won't be recognised as a member of SHLTC and you will not be able to book courts. You need to log in via <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StocktonHeathLTC>
- Note that you are only able to book a court two weeks in advance
- A very useful Booker app is available IOS - <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/clubspark-booker/id1028325841> Android
- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sportlabs.clubsparkplayers>
- A useful resource for using the app: [link for using the Booker app](#)
- Trouble finding Stockton Heath LTC on the App - try logging out and back in again, your club should be on the top of the list
- When signing up for an event through the ClubSpark home page tab, click 'Book' and then go to your basket (at the top right)

Dates of birth of junior members were not captured on our Excel database so the date 1-Jan-2010 was used. Please log on to ClubSpark and update this for your junior family members.

We now use ClubSpark to publicise and manage events. We are able to track interest and easily email all participants.'

If you have any problems registering or using ClubSpark please Milton Wimpenny on milton.wimpenny@outlook.com



ClubSpark

Other than Juniors, if you are a fully paid member of any membership class but have not received an invitation to register for ClubSpark from Milton Wimpenny, please email milton.wimpenny@outlook.com



ClubSpark – Booking Courts

The court booking aspect of ClubSpark went live ahead of schedule, thanks to the hard work of Sue, Howard, Liz and Milton. All members who have registered with ClubSpark (through the email from Milton) will be able to access the court booking module.

Court 1 - Court 7 Day view TODAY < >

Court 4	Court 5	Court 6	Court 7	>
Full, Outdoor, Non-floodli...	Full, Outdoor, Non-floodli...	Full, Outdoor, Non-floodli...	Full, Outdoor, Non-floodli...	08:00
		08:00 - 09:00 Barrie Whittam		09:00
		09:00 - 10:00 Barrie Whittam		10:00
	10:00 - 12:00 Jayne Dickens	10:00 - 12:00 Jayne Dickens	10:00 - 12:00 Jayne Dickens	11:00

ClubSpark

Please follow the guidance that Milton issued. We want all members to be able to book courts to play and we have deliberately left the ‘booking rules’ very flexible.

Any Club organised event, coaching session, match or special tournament will have courts already booked by our Administrator (Liz).

Please remember that now that the school holidays have begun there will be coaching sessions both at the Club and at the school courts.

We advise always booking a court to play and please remember to cancel a booking if you can't play for any reason.

If you have any questions or issues with bookings then please contact Sue, Liz, Milton or any Committee member (details at end of newsletter).

SHLTC 100 Club

Thank you if you have joined the 100 Club (70 so far) and we welcome new ‘members’.

The first draw was made during the Committee’s Zoom meeting on Tuesday 14th June and was appropriately verified (see the photo below!)

It is hoped that future draws will take place at Saturday social tennis afternoons.



First Prize: Number 22 – Sue Hendry £204

Second Prize: Number 51 – Martyn Bramich £153

Third Prize: Number 31 – Pat McCormick £51

Please contact Paul Ewing for further details and remember when we reach one hundred tickets, we will raise £3600 for Club funds each year!



SHLTC 100 Club



SHLTC Floodlit League

Starts Monday 7th September!

The annual SHLTC floodlit league begins in a very short time from now so it's time to make the decision to take part on a Monday evening – stay fit, enjoy the social side and take part in one hour's competitive tennis every week!



SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

The floodlit league is open to all and caters for novices up to first team standard players. It is predominantly mixed doubles pairings playing other pairs within a division. There are four seven-week blocks with promotion and relegation at the end of each block. There are also knock out cup competitions with prizes for the winners! Currently, this takes place at Bridgewater HS site.



Expressions of interest must be emailed to [Martyn Bramich](#) by Monday 24th August to reserve a place and the first 50 will be accepted. Fees will be similar to last year at around £3 per person per match and are payable by the first match night.

The 2019/20 season had a premature end in February, however here is a reminder of the winning pairs at that point!

Division 1: Tom Player & Fraser Bell

Division 2: Mark Harris & Julie Brassil

Division 3: Richard Chandler & Tom Humphries

Division 4: Chris Wise & Millie Morrison

Martyn will provide further information via email, however if there are any questions then please contact him on 100mtb@gmail.com

Below are some of the comments people have made about the Floodlit League:

Fantastically well run and organised

It has encouraged me to keep playing

I like the format of playing against different people each week

All my partners were very encouraging

Great way to stay active and meet up with people



A nice mix of good humoured and competitive tennis for all

Good fun!

A really good initial introduction to the Club and to meet other members

Really enjoyable to play throughout the year and catch up socially with people as well

Everyone is really welcoming and I have grown in confidence!

It is great to be playing tennis either at your level or a bit higher



Alison Lewis our current Ladies first team Captain and Club Social Secretary

Alison is a key member of both our playing and management side of the Club. She leads the Ladies first team and heads up our Social Committee which plans all the events at the Club. Alison has played at the Club since 1986 and here are some of her biggest tennis achievements ...

THE GUARDIAN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1988

Alison's three tennis titles

WARRINGTON teenager Alison White, above, won three titles at the ATS Cheshire Junior Tennis Championships at Birkenhead.

Alison, a member of the Stockton Heath club, took the under 18s singles title by beating Vicky Penn (Bowdon) 6-2, 6-2.

She also teamed up with Jill Crippin (Withington) to beat Vicky Penn and Sally

Stott (Bramhall Park) 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Alison, of Chalfont Close, Appleton, completed her hat-trick by winning the mixed doubles title with Peter Davis (Neston).

The pair beat Craig Mellor and Sally Stott (Bramhall Park) in straight sets.

Another Warrington success at the Cheshire Junior Championships was 16-year-old Mike Hartill, of Stockton Heath. He won the under 16s singles title by beating M. Darragh (Neston) 6-1, 6-3 and reached the final of the under 18s singles, but lost by two sets to one at the hands of Seb Jackson (Bramhall Park).

Mike also teamed up with Craig Mellor (Bramhall Park) to beat Chris Lowe and Peter Davis (Neston) in straight sets in the under 18s doubles.

Photo No: A356-1

Alison says....

'Prior to joining Stockton Heath, I played junior county tennis for Leicestershire and trained with the North Midlands regional U14 and U16 Girls squad.

I also played for Leicestershire Ladies at the age of 15.

After moving to Warrington in 1986, I played U18 county tennis for Cheshire playing in numerous inter-county matches and the Prudential Junior County Cup at Edgbaston Priory.

I have also played for Cheshire Ladies in both county matches and County week events at Worthing, Bournemouth and Frinton.

I have represented Cheshire in the over 35's (Vets) County Cup at Eastbourne on a number of occasions. I recently captained the over 40's Ladies County team from 2017 – 2019.

I have just moved to the over 50's County squad where hopefully matches will resume next year.

My biggest achievement in tennis was as a junior winning the U18 Cheshire Championships in 1988 Singles, Doubles and Mixed event, see the article on the left.'



Alison making the inaugural SHTC 100 Club draw in June

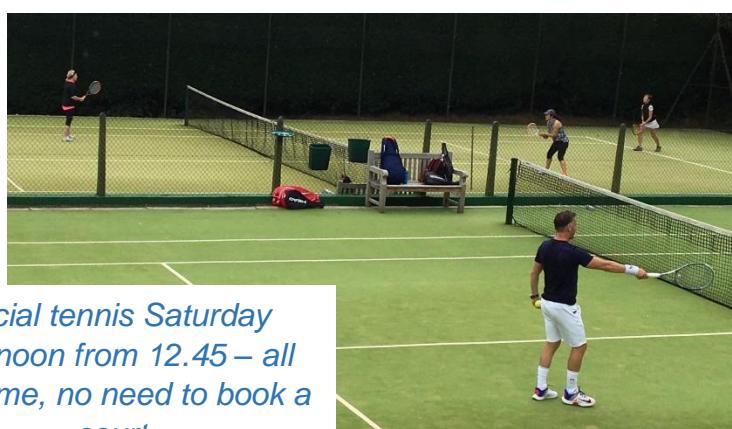


Social tennis

After a long period without any social tennis, the first Saturday afternoon session happened on Saturday 1st August.

For new members Saturday afternoons starting at 12.45pm are open to everyone and all 'mix-in'. In the past we have had refreshments on certain Saturdays throughout the main season and it's a great way to meet other people and have a social game of tennis.

Here are some photos from this first session!



Social tennis Saturday afternoon from 12.45 – all welcome, no need to book a court



New Members

It is again fantastic to report that our membership numbers have increased since the last newsletter was published. We welcome the new members listed here to our Club!



Ben & Sophie Marshall

Zac Beechall

Susan Beechall

Cumberland family

New members can arrange a free coaching session through Ant McCarthy



Charlotte Williams

Bill Carr

Alison Neville

Dylan Naveen

Nathan Boyall

Naveen Gopal

Steph Bland



Social tennis, tournaments, club nights and events coming up

Following LTA guidance, the Club is able to now extend the opportunities for playing 'organised' tennis. However, please ensure you remember to maintain social distancing and hand-washing at all times when at the Club.

'Welcome Wednesday' social night: from Wednesday 12th August at 7pm there will be a night (every Wednesday) specifically aimed at new members. We encourage all new members to come along, mix in and get to know other new members. No need to book a court (nor book via ClubSpark) and other members welcome to support and encourage people who are returning to tennis or starting up!

Saturday afternoon social tennis: every Saturday from 12.45, all members welcome for social tennis. No need to book a court (nor book via ClubSpark).

American Tournament: Sunday 16th August, arrive 12.45, start 1pm and approximate finish time 3pm

All welcome and we will arrange mixed doubles pairs. £5 per person entry fee with winners' prizes! Money raised donated to Club funds as well.

Please book a place via ClubSpark or contact Brian Aitchison on bwaitchison@btinternet.com

Lower Leagues Tournament: Sunday 6th September 12.15 for 12.30pm start. Please book your place via ClubSpark

Other events: We have plans for other events towards the end of August and in September. However, at present we believe it is prudent to review how organised tennis is going in respect to Covid-19. Future

Club events will all be organised via ClubSpark – so please ensure you have registered so that you can book your place. Events will still be advertised via newsletters and emails.

A screenshot of the ClubSpark website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'ClubSpark' and 'Stockton Heath LTC -'. On the right side of the bar are search, contact, and user profile icons. Below the bar, there is a sidebar with links for Home, Dashboard, Contacts, Booking, and Membership. The main content area shows an event titled 'Custom Competition' for '16 Aug 2020'. It indicates '0 registered' and '0 attended'. There are buttons for 'View event online' and 'Unpublish'. A note at the bottom of the event card says 'This Event has been published and is visible online.'.



Profile on the Club Coaches

The first of our profiles, in this newsletter, is on Harrison Taylor. Most of our members will know Harrison as a very talented junior player who has become an outstanding intermediate. Here, Harrison tells us more about himself and his tennis plans –

'My name is Harrison, I'm 17 and I have been coached by Ant at Stockton Heath since I was 5. I am a level 1 coach, but I will be level 2 in the next few months. My favourite part of tennis are the tournaments as they allow me to put into practice what I have been working on with Ant in my lessons and squads and also to see my hard work with Ant and Iain paying off.'

My greatest achievement in tennis so far is qualifying for the U14 HSBC Road to Wimbledon National Finals which was played on the Aorangi Pavilion practice courts at Wimbledon where the pros practice before their matches. I was there with my family for a full week coming top in my division taking me through to the knockouts (see photos right).

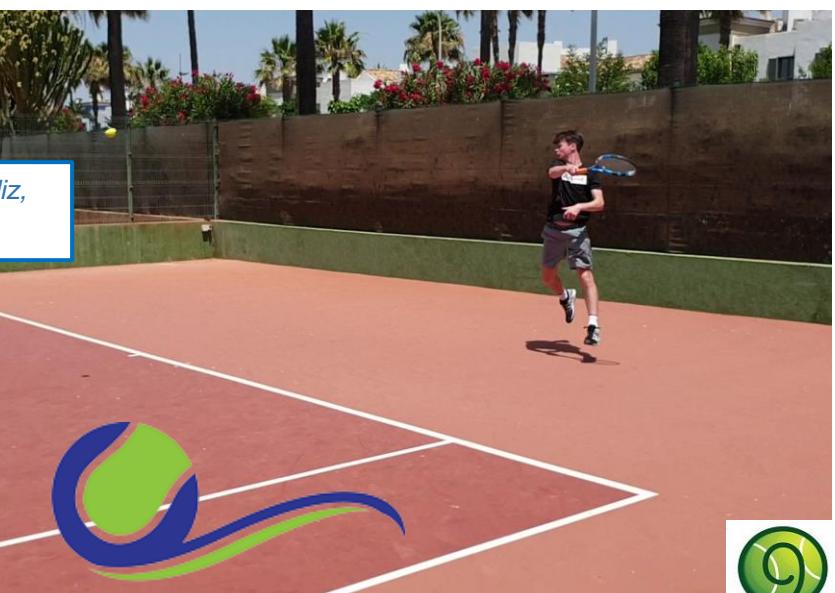
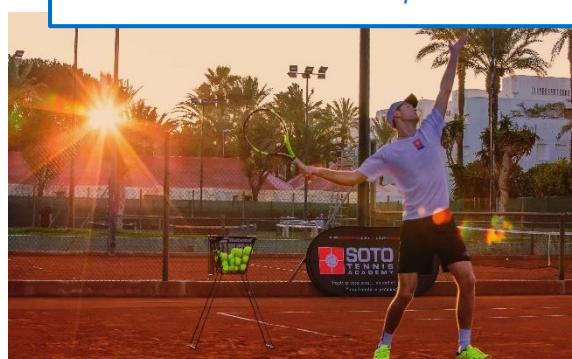
I was also given the opportunity to go to Spain last summer to train at Soto Tennis Academy for seven weeks which was an amazing experience, having the chance to train alongside world class players.

I have reached the top 5 U16 and top 10 U18 players in Cheshire and have a rating of 4.2. I have also played for Cheshire in recent years.

This year, my goal is to improve my ranking when tournaments start up again and, in a year, I am hoping to go to University to study Civil Engineering and play for their tennis team.'



Soto Tennis Academy, Sotogrande, Cadiz, South-West Spain



Profile on the Club Coaches continued ...



Nick competing at a regional tournament at Edgbaston, Birmingham



Nick with Harrison and their Doubles runner up trophy

The second profile is on Nick Fance, who writes ...

'Hi, my name is Nick and I'm a Level Two coach at SHLTC.

Sport is in my genes, as my dad was an Olympic trialist in Athletics. This family sporting background helped me to become involved in many sports as a child. Since I was six years old, I practiced Judo for nine years achieving a junior black belt, as well as playing football for Warrington Town Juniors.

However, I have always loved tennis since a child when I came to a camp at Stockton Heath when I was 7, but my passion for football and judo at the time was too well established to give up for tennis. As I grew up my love for the sport started to re-kindle as I picked up a racket aged 11 and haven't looked back since.

I started training at Grappenhall Tennis Club through a friend's recommendation but over the past two years have joined Stockton Heath and been training in many of the squads here. As well as training with many of the friendly and talented players at the Club, I have recently been involved in more coaching at the Club; including assisting Ant and Iain as well as running a few squads myself. I was looking forward to playing for the 1st Team in the summer league but obviously the season was not able to be played.

Since picking up a racket I have played for Cheshire, competed in regional tournaments against players from all over the country and I am currently ranked in the top 20 seniors in Cheshire. I am currently studying at John Moores University (ranked within the top ten universities in the world for sports research) at which I study sports psychology, a niche area but essential to elite performance and all the best tennis players in the world use sorts psychologists. In my first year of study I was selected as the University's number one seeded player, something I am very proud of.

My coaching career started when I was 16 and have since become a Level Two coach in 2018. I am very motivated and optimistic about my playing and coaching career within the most fascinating sport there is.'



Juniors

Our Club has a really thriving junior and intermediate section with 95 individuals making up this part of the membership. We all remember our first tennis 'steps' and it is fantastic to see these youngsters starting out on their own tennis journey!



Thanks to Harrison, our juniors and parents for the use of these photos, from a recent Saturday morning coaching session.



Lower Leagues Tournament – August



Photos from the first Lower Leagues tournament on Sunday 2 August. These happen on the first Sunday of the month - use ClubSpark to book your place.





*Some more photos
from a really enjoyable
afternoon of social
tennis*

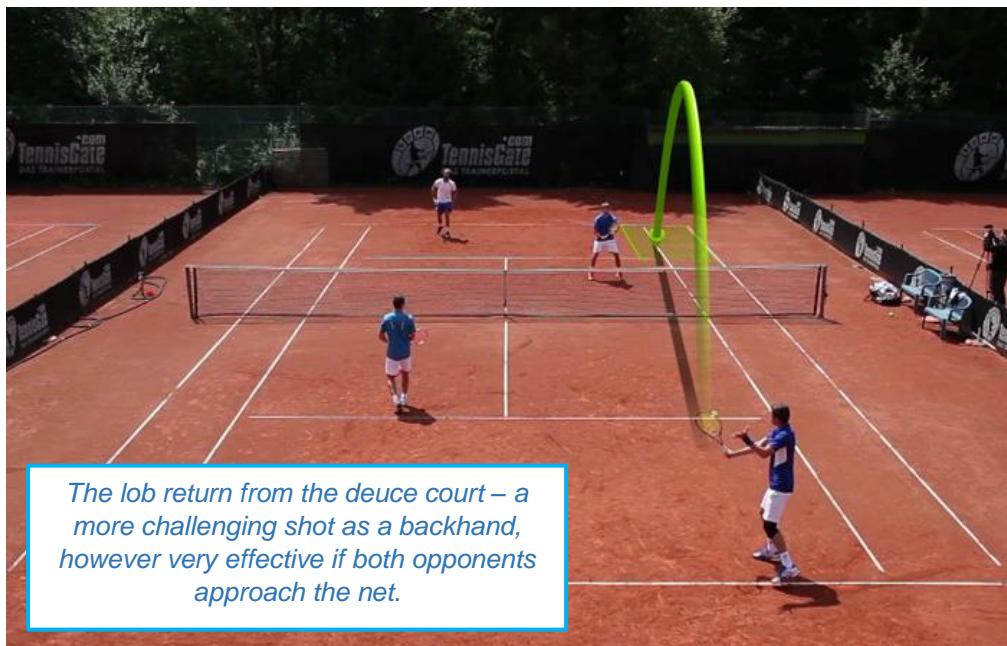


Club Risk Assessment

The initial risk assessment (May - Return to Managed Play) has been updated to take account of the Clubhouse re-opening and the LTA 21 July guidelines. A copy of this new RA is posted on the Club external noticeboard for members to view.



Coaching tip



The lob return from the deuce court – a more challenging shot as a backhand, however very effective if both opponents approach the net.

the lob over the net player as an aggressive, positive return. This is referred to as ‘mixing it up’!

Jamie Murray used an attacking lob return over 230 times in a competitive doubles season!



The lob as an aggressive shot when both opposing players have crowded the net.



Clubhouse clear-up

A lot of things, like un-used kit, old paperwork, spare tennis balls etc are being left in the Clubhouse. Please ensure you take everything with you and do not leave anything inside. Apart from it looking untidy, it is also more time consuming to clean if things have to be moved off surfaces first. This is particularly important to ensure we can clean effectively and be Covid-19 secure.

Un-named belongings will be disposed of after Sunday 23rd August – so please check and remove before then. Thank you.



Court bookings

Reminder
Please come off booked courts just before the end time to allow the next players to have their full period.

Thank you

Summer Leagues

First round of games mostly completed (by 08/08) – see below for results so far:

Division 1			Played	Win	Games	Points
B	Dan Urey	Catherine Burgess	2	2	24	6
D	Ben Urey	Lynne Humphries	2	1	18	3
C	Brian Aitchison	Jennie McArthy	2	0	8	0
A	Jon Clark	Julie Brassil	0	0	0	0

Division 2			Played	Win	Games	Points
D	Theo McArthy	Anna Clark	3	3	36	9
A	Alan Shaw	Lynne Ayetkin	3	2	28	6
B	Iain Warburton	Jane Argent	3	1	27	3
C	Andrew Sutherland	Brigitte Hackney	3	0	17	0

Division 3			Played	Win	Games	Points
A	Andy Burgess	Rose Clark	3	3	35	9
B	Mike Warburton	Sue Urey	3	2	36	6
C	Freddie Ayres	Debbie Sutcliffe	3	1	25	1.5
D	Adrian Corlett	Jane Morris	3	1	25	1.5

Division 4			Played	Win	Games	Points
C	Jonathan Hewitt	Aileen Minjoot	3	2	34	6
A	Chris Wise	Aarushi Sanger	3	2	29	6
B	Ali Aleali	Anne Hesketh	3	1	24	3
D	Darren Minjoot	Karen Geary	3	1	23	3

Division 5			Played	Win	Games	Points
D	Milton Wimpenny	Justin McArthy	3	3	34	9
B	Howard Hackney	Craig Foster	3	2	33	4.5
A	Paul Ewing	Rachel Downes	3	2	30	4.5
C	Gary Birney	Jayne Dickens	3	0	11	0

Division 6			Played	Win	Games	Points
A	Rob Chadderton	Robin Geary	3	3	36	9
D	Mark Urey	Tom Humphries	3	2	29	6
B	Sam Geary	Toby Ledwith	3	1	18	3
C	Clare Stephens	Liz Ledwith	3	0	14	0



Many thanks to Howard and Ant for organising the leagues. The next round will start soon with seven divisions.

Currently the league table of games won is:
 Theo McArthy 47
 Brigitte Hackney 38
 Mike Warburton 36
 Tom Humphries 36
 Mark Urey 36
 Sue Urey 36
 Anna Clark 36

This total includes 'subbing in'. Well done all and please remember that one party from each side sends in the results.

Welfare and Safeguarding

As part of our LTA Registered Venue accreditation we have to meet various standards in terms of practises at the Club. We are fully committed to providing a safe, inclusive, fair and welcoming environment for all members to play tennis here at SHLTC.

Important documents related to the above are found on the Club's website, in the Clubhouse and from time to time are included in newsletters.

Welfare Officers



Chris Taylor and Jo Maskery are the Club's contacts for any welfare or safeguarding queries/issues/concerns.

chris5_30@yahoo.co.uk

jo.maskery@googlemail.com

Health and Safety



Milton Wimpenny is our Health and Safety Officer. Please contact him with regards to any safety issues. There is a H&S point in the Clubhouse and relevant forms for 'slips, trips and falls', near misses and other important recording can be found there.

milton.wimpenny@outlook.com

NHS Test and Trace



Test and Trace

Please ensure you do record your details on the forms provided in the porch of the Clubhouse.



Contacts: Please use the following emails to contact key people at the Club.

Chairman: Sue Hendry shltc-chairman@hotmail.com

Secretary: Brian Aitchison secretary@shltc.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Sarah Szunko
shmembership@hotmail.co.uk

Head Coach: Ant McCarthy xltennisuk@gmail.com

Health and Safety: Milton Wimpenny
milton.wimpenny@outlook.com

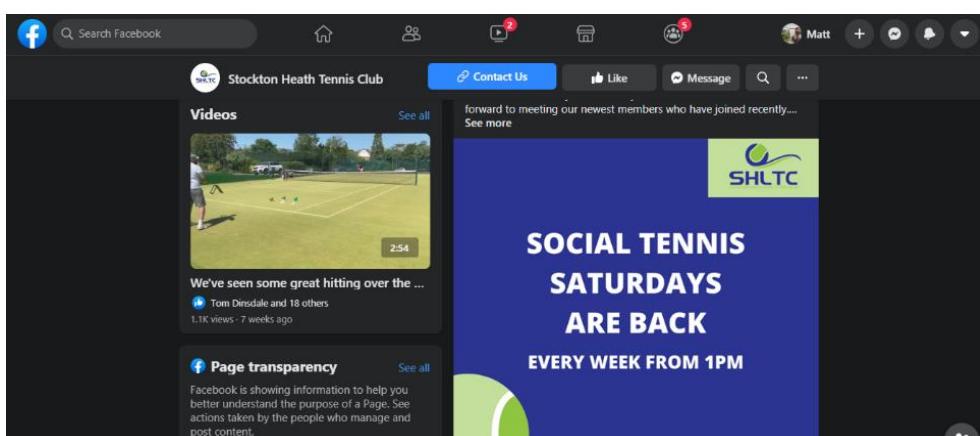
Social Committee: Alison Lewis social@shltc.co.uk

Welfare/Safeguarding: Chris Taylor/Joanne Maskery –
details on page 15

Groundsman: Peter Bickerstaff via the Chairman



Keep in touch!



Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Stockton-Heath-Tennis-Club-144879825560361/>



Please keep in touch and check the website and Facebook for Club information. ClubSpark will be used more in future, not just for court bookings, so please ensure you have registered.



SHLTC website: www.shltc.co.uk



If you have any items for future newsletters
then please contact Brian Aitchison

secretary@shltc.co.uk or
bwaitchison@btinternet.com



Photos are taken, from time to time, of members playing at the Club and are included in the newsletter. If you would prefer not to be included please let me know – thank you

Brian Aitchison

