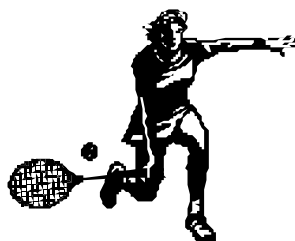


ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB



NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2009

JUNIOR CLUB NIGHT – TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2009

We are challenging all 10 and over to join us for our junior club night from 6 – 7.30pm on half term Tuesday again. Just bring your racket, £1 for the floodlight fee and show the adults how it's done.

ETC AGM – THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2009 AT MEMORIAL HALL

The ETC Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 March 2009, 8pm at the Memorial Hall. All members are welcome, in fact it's essential for us to get some feedback from you on how the club is run and what you as members would like us to do in the coming year. The club is also seeking new committee members, as always to spread the workload. A proposal form is attached, which needs to be signed by two current members of the club.

In addition, we need to have a proper constitution for ETC (to bring us up to date with existing guidelines for tennis clubs issued by the LTA earlier this year). We currently only have "rules as such". The committee is working on it right now (the draft constitution is modelled on a "standard" constitution proposal we received from the LTA) and the constitution will be with you with our next newsletter as we need to get it approved during the AGM.

ETC QUIZ NIGHT – SATURDAY, 21 MARCH 2009, 7.30 FOR 8PM AT BOWLS CLUB

Oh yes, another brain teaser evening with Trevor so get ready and book your table with Petra on 01279 814667 or mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk. Lyn is cooking chilli and jackets (vegetarian option available) which in its own merits your attendance anyway but we also have the usual raffle with exciting prizes and our licensed bar (now I have your attention). Tickets are £7 per head/brain and 8 per table please.

And don't forget the Bowls Club fundraising quiz on Saturday, 24 January. Tables can be booked with Lyn or Jean.

ESSEX SMALL CLUB LEAGUE

Ladies: Away at Stebbing. Lorna Yeadon and Petra Studholme had a tough time and lost all 4 sets against a strong Stebbing team. Most of the games were close though but crucial game points were lost rather than won and the result did not reflect the game played overall. However, Lyn Segar partnering Petrina Lees pulled out all stops and won 3 and drew 1 set giving Elsenham an acceptable 7:9 points in total. As the league is run on accumulation of points and games won, a brilliant effort from all.

Men's: Away at Thaxted: On a blustery day Alex Drake, Ben Stiles, Grant Anderson and Paul Burt stepped onto the Thaxted Astro courts to take on the Thaxted junior team. Alex and Ben took on the stronger Thaxted pair first and blitzed to a quick 6-2 first set win. Thaxted found form in the second set taking it 7-5. Grant and Paul took a while to warm up – 6 games to be precise; when they were 4-2 down. Grant's big serve with the strengthening wind started the comeback and they won 10 unanswered games to win 6-4, 6-0. After a brief intermission the weather had deteriorated. The wind had strengthened, with temperatures around 3C and the rain had started. Horizontal heavy rain to be precise. In fact conditions were the worst most players had experienced. Grant and Paul were not best enthused with the terrible conditions and lost both sets after the break. Alex and Ben however continued their buoyant tennis and kept each other focused. Even though, behind at times, they won both sets and as a result Elsenham won the match 10-6. Then it was inside for a warm cuppa, a towel down and a change of clothes.

Away against Harlow: It took about an hour for the courts to defrost but we eventually played. Alex Drake and Grant Anderson won 2 and lost 2 of their sets. Mike Stiles and Jeremy Drake won 1, drew 1 and lost 2 - so a narrow win (32 vs 37 points) for Harlow. This means that our Men are definitely in good shape this season.

Mixed: Finally got some play in after every one of our matches was rained or iced off. Ben Stiles / Petra Studholme and Derek Smith / Lorna Yeadon were facing Stebbing at home. Derek and Lorna unfortunately picked the stronger of the two teams to play against first so had a tough time loosing both their sets whereas Ben and Petra immediately put their stamp on the game with some inspiring hard hitting from Ben winning their match easily. So half time was 4:4 on points. After a short break, despite picking up their game, Derek and Lorna were unlucky to loose the remainder of their sets after some breathtaking long rallies in close games whereas Ben and Petra who struggled in the third set, loosing 3:6 and down 3:5 in the final set showed extreme determination and won it 7:5. Full credit to the whole team as Division I is tough and ETC is holding its own.

GAMES EVENING

We ran a games evening in conjunction with the Bowls Club at the end of December and what a good night it turned out to be. Plenty of enthusiasts from both sides lined up to play darts, pool and table tennis and as promised, all ages and standards were represented. We will have to do one again soon (maybe Easter break time) so watch the space (newsletter). Big thank you to Mike, Dave and Lyn for organising it and getting the equipment together.

TICKET BALLOT FOR QUEEN'S 2009

The AEGON Championships (formerly The Artois Championships) at The Queen's Club London will take place from 8 - 14 June 2009. British Tennis Adult and Junior Members (aged 9+) will be eligible for entry into a ballot* for the chance of gaining tickets to this unique grass court event. The ballot registration period runs from 10am Monday 2 February to 10am Monday 23 February 2009. To register, go to the LTA website or follow the direct link below:

<http://www.lta.org.uk/Watch/Grass-Court-Season/The-British-Tennis-Championships/Tickets-and-Hospitality-Information/>.

MORE BENEFITS (TICKETS) AVAILABLE THROUGH THE LTA

We have received an invitation to purchase tickets for National Premier League Finals at "The Gloucestershire" Esporta Club, Gloucester (22 – 26 April 2009) to see Britain's brightest young talent, from British No.2 Alex Bogdanovic to No. 10 Dan Evans, including some of the worlds top 100 players. Depending on which night you choose, ticket prices start at £5 and go up to £15 for the finals night.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Club Night – every Tuesday from 7pm until the lights go out – costing you £1 only. The social part starts in the Bowls Club after that (entirely at your cost).

Performance Club Night – Every Friday, 7.30pm onwards and James expects everyone in the bar afterwards.

Club Afternoon – Sundays from 2 - 4pm - the social "family" club session where all standards come to play.

No charge. This is now only running if we have enough members declaring their "intention" to turn up (basically check who's up for a game).

Ladies Morning – the ladies meet on a Friday from 10am for some coaching by Monica, some not so serious tennis and plenty of gossip. Monica is only charging £4 for 1½ hours of coaching – excellent value and great fun. All standards are welcome.

DIARY FOR 2009 (so far)

<u>Events Update</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Bowls Club Quiz Night	Saturday, 24 January 2009, 7.30 for 8pm at Bowls Club
Junior Club Night	Tuesday, 17 February 2009, 6 – 7.30pm (before regular club night)
AGM	Thursday, 5 March 2009, 8pm at Memorial Hall
Quiz Night	Saturday, 21 March 2009, 7.30 for 8pm at Bowls Club
Games Evening, Bowling Evening	Details to be advised shortly – working on it

ESCL Matches

Mixed	Thursday, 22 January, 7pm Sawbridgeworth	Home
Mens	Saturday, 31 January, 11am Bishops Stortford	Home
Ladies	Thursday, 5 February, 7pm Stebbing	Home
Mens	Saturday, 7 February 11am Stansted	Away
Ladies	Saturday, 7 February 12.30pm Sawbridgeworth	Away
Mixed	Thursday, 12 February 7pm Stansted	Home
Mens	Thursday, 26 February 7pm Thaxted	Home
Ladies	Saturday, 28 February, 11am Clavering	Home
Mixed	Tuesday, 3 March, 7pm Stebbing	Away
Mixed	Saturday, 7 March, 11am Stansted	Away
Ladies	Sunday, 15 March, 10am Harlow	Away
Ladies	by 15 March against Henham TBA	Home
Mixed	Monday, 16 March, 7pm Sawbridgeworth	Away
Mens	Sunday, 22 March, 10.30am Harlow	Home
Mixed	Saturday, 28 March, 11am Thaxted	Home

NOMINATION FORM

POSITION	NOMINATION	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Chairman			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Committee			
Committee			
Committee			

You can be nominated for more than one position, but remember your proposer and seconder must be members of ETC.

Please return this form to Petra Studholme at 26 Leigh Drive by 25 February 2009. Thank you.