

WE CAN NOT BE SERIOUS

STOP PRESS/STOP PRESS
Congrats are due to tireless workaholic, (I think that's the right word), Alex Moore on becoming the JPD Sportsperson of the Year. Well done Alex. The drinks are on you.

MARK OF EXCELLENCE

The tennis section will be aiming to attain LTA Club Mark. This is now a requirement of all clubs if they are looking to increase membership and attract juniors. The Club Mark denotes we are a club that is a safe, friendly and welcoming of all sections of the community and that the sporting offer is of high quality. What's more, we get 100% rate relief from Trafford if we have this award. It requires considerable work to attain this accreditation. The cricket and hockey sections have achieved Club Mark, so it is now a priority for tennis.

QUESTION?

Do you know any adults who are new to the idea of tennis, who aren't yet members but just need that extra kick-start to help them? We're offering a Learn to Play/Fast Track course. Our 8 week course of small groups costs £50 to join, and this will be deducted from your club membership if you go on to join us.

VISIT
www.salesportsclub.com

Volunteers
If you would like to volunteer to help in any capacity, please contact any member of the committee. However much or little time you have, we are particularly keen for members to help with some of the tournaments and social events, don't forget that we are a members' club run by members.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SWEET CHAIRMAN



The two key things I want to talk about are the New Courts and Culture of the Club (apologies to Boy George).

As most of you will know, the new courts have now been completed, thanks to the sterling efforts and support of Friends of Sale Tennis and Biffaward. We are sincerely grateful for their efforts to get us to our first objective.

Obviously we welcome more contributions – no matter how small. Everything makes a difference. That's the thing about the Club. Anything you do to help makes it all work better and allows us to have the nice things that make the whole Sale Tennis Club experience that much more enjoyable.

We have a newly decorated bar in which I certainly plan to spend more time – and money!! Joking aside, money across the bar is crucial to the Club. So, we need to find new ways of making more.

Just as importantly, we want to find more ways to have fun at the Club.

Increasing membership is also really important. Each and every one of us needs to push for/recruit new members – young & old!

Our Club is great place to play tennis and it should be for everyone. Everyone should be made to feel welcome. Social Tennis is a great way to integrate new members and encourage beginners and we all need to make a special effort to make it fun. So be nice, encourage, be understanding, help and encourage juniors, beginners and newcomers. Pass on your old balls/racquets to the juniors etc. Partner the Chairman (I'm not as quick as I used to be!!).

Our grant requires us to increase membership to increase income. The best way to look at it is that it's the fun way to have more fun with more people.

It's your Club and it needs you!

Tony Roberts Chairman



THE SOCIAL (OH, AND TENNIS) WHIRL FOR 08

Great stuff coming up on and off court so keep your eyes peeled for news of events. Oh, and by the way, please make sure that John (contact at bottom right of this page) has all of your latest contact details.

Singles Box League

Big thanks to Mark Broadbent for this little gem. Mark is doing a great job of running this league. Don't forget to play your matches though – and, very important, this, record your results on the club noticeboard inside the clubhouse! There may also be the opportunity to join the league, even at this late stage, so if you are a keen singles player of any standard, give young Mark a call on 07816103876.

Hopefully coming soon...

We have some very exciting plans for events on and off court this season, some designed to raise funds but most of them just to enjoy our tennis and have a good laugh. If you have an idea for an event, or if you'd like to help organise one, then contact one of the people at the bottom right of this page

07 HIGHS

Vive l'Angleterre/Les Grands Fromages

We won our second "international" v France (Jean Claude, Serge, Alain H, Davide & Suzanne & Stephen H) – but they were compensated with a feast of English Traditional Delicacies – the best food they'd had since Fish & Chips.

A selection of fine English cheeses. What a feat to be able to impress the French with our very own cheese. But what they really loved was the mountain of pork pies.

Joining Day & Tournament

A fantastic day was had by all on Saturday 24th March. 54 players, including 15 new members joined and played on the day.

Strawberries and Champagne

Judith worked her socks off and there was a fantastic turn-out for this Summer's Strawberries and Champagne Tournament. Over £150 was raised, much of which came from the raffle, during which some "spectacular" prizes were won. The highlight had to be Giles who looked a combination of stunned and delighted to be the recipient of the star prize – an ornate gilt framed photograph of our very own Editor, Alan Herron!

Judith and Kate swapped gossip whilst preparing the strawberries (you'll have to bribe them to extract anything) and lots of pink champagne helped members wash it all down.

FLOUNDERING FOREHAND? VOLLEY LACKS WELLY? LIMP LOB?



Brill!

Jarek is a Licensed Level 2 DCA Tennis Coach, which means – to those of you who aren't in the know – he's pretty talented! We are lucky to have a coach of such calibre at our club. Jarek is friendly and supportive and is keen to help beginners through to more advanced players. If you would like to find out more about coaching or to book a session, please contact Jarek directly on 0791 754 8101 or jarek-dabros@yahoo.com. Reduced fees for members and block bookings.

Juniors – Monday evening
Adult coaching – 1-1 and group
Ladies morning – group
For more information and to register your place please call Jarek.

JUNIOR SHOWTIME

We are trying to get our junior section re-started. Jarek has the required level of qualification and CRB check to form School-club links and this will be a priority to set these up in Apr/May. As well as group and 1-1 coaching with juniors, we are looking to set up a junior social session from 12.30 – 2pm on Saturdays. We are desperate for helpers (you will operate in pairs on a rota basis), so please contact Alex if you would like to do this. No coaching experience needed as we will just be facilitating the session to ensure the young people have fun and stay safe.* We are hoping the coach will get us started in the early days and give us some pointers.

DON'T CHUCK IT!

Next time you get a new racket, why not donate the old one to one of our younger players, Alex Moore will ensure it goes to a good home, give her a shout.

BECOME PART OF BRITISH TENNIS

LTA have launched a new membership which includes free advice from top coaches and players, exclusive discounts, player ratings, online tournament entry, monthly newsletter and entry into a Wimbledon ticket draw – like the sound of it? Speak to Alex Moore.

THE CLUB'S GOING TO THE DOGS

Quite literally. On Tuesday 25 March we have organised a club night out at Belle Vue for greyhound racing – don't worry, we won't actually be racing against the dogs and let's face it, this early in the season some of us are slightly less than match fit. And as an added bonus we have our own dog in Trap 6 for the evening, Barry's Bullet is trained by Joe Holt.

Tickets £5, are available from all big wigs (contacts at the bottom of the page) and captains



SATURDAY 15 MARCH CLUB JOINING DAY

Roll-up, roll-up, cheque book (not ration book, Norman) in hand to get the best value tennis club membership in the land. 1 o'clock onwards, see you all there.

BEARD SECTION NEWS

Don't forget that the Beard Club meets in the clubhouse every Friday evening at 8.00, all styles welcome. Contact Joe or John for details.



Two new VPLs

Sorry, that should read VPs. After many years' fantastic support of the Club, Simone Douglas and Andy Morley have been honoured as new Vice-Presidents. This is a brilliant achievement and huge congratulations are in order to them both. Well done!

Club AGM

This was well attended and had a full agenda for discussion. Don't forget that everyone is welcome at these meetings. Please feel free to come along and dispute the line calls. And don't forget, the bar is open for complementary drinks.*

Winter draw(er)s on

After a quiet start in the dead of winter, ladies nights on Thursdays are back on. To kick start the new tennis season, there are ladies coaching sessions starting mid March, 7-8:30pm for 4 weeks. All players welcome. Please contact Alex to book your place. All levels welcome.

I'm free!

Cheshire LTA have granted us a couple of places free of charge on the Assistant (UKCC Level 1) tennis coaching course. If you are interested, please contact Alex. Please note talent in tennis is not a requisite – all welcome!

Wanted.
Ear protectors/ear plugs.
Must have attained Rod Owen Noise Resistance Specification 00/4500112
Tel 0161 123 3323, ask for Madame Lily

*****FOR SALE*****
Body building equipment incl weights, dumbbells, belt, etc.
Call Norman Taylor on 0161 334 5562.
Buyer to collect as they're a bit heavy.

Anger Management Coach
Are you on a short fuse? Ready to blow at the slightest thing?
Speak to me, Nad "I will make you Karma" 0161 334 5490

BEARDS/BEARDS/BEARDS

All styles available. From goatee to mandarin.
Ginger and taupe only.
Call John or Joe on 0161 1222333
ask about our club.

Key Contacts/Big Wigs

Chairman – Tony Roberts

Secretary (Club and Fixtures) & Junior Tennis – Alex Moore (07980 690 181) alexandra_boyle@hotmail.com

Treasurer and Membership – John Graves (07990 690 003) john.graves@bigfoot.com

Grounds – Joe Holt (07891 845 759) barry.holt@highways.gsi.gov.uk

*I must be jesting

*All volunteers working with juniors will be CRB checked.

AT THE COALFACE - NEWS FROM AROUND THE TEAMS

Another successful season of competitive team tennis saw our lads and lasses plumbing the depths and conquering the highest peaks. Yes, it was an allright season. By the way, everyone is invited to join in with team tennis, no matter what your ability, just speak to one of the team captains, they're always on the lookout for players.

NEC Ladies 1

Ladies 1 team were promoted to the 3rd division of the NE Cheshire league last year. They struggled to get a consistent team out and finished 3rd off bottom. Due to the structure of their league they will be demoted to the 4th division this year.

Ladies 2

Were also promoted to the first division last year. They had a good season although the matches were a lot more challenging. They finished in the bottom section of the league, but early indications look like they should remain in the first division.

Ladies 3

Consolidated their season and finished in the top half of the mid table in division 3.

Well done to all the ladies in what was a tough summer with so many injuries

SWM Mens Div 5

Another steady season consolidating our position of third bottom, or fifth top depending on your demeanour. Some great matches played with a great bunch of lads. Thanks to everyone who helped me out at short notice and particularly to Kevin Simmons who actually did most of my job. Looking forward to another steady season, new players always welcome. Alan Herron

NEC Mens Div 5b

Captain Barry - A triumph of numerical strength over adversity

After the tragic loss of the team captain allegedly stretched off after the first practice match (was it exasperation at one of R*d's line calls?) the future of this team looked gloomy. It was clear from the very first match that it was going to be a challenging season as our cars didn't quite match those of Alderly Edge's players. So instead of going for the maximum points we decided to go for the inaugural Most Legal Players in a Team in Division 5B of the NE Cheshire Challenge Trophy. And this turned out to be an absolute triumph! Helped by a rotation policy better even than Liverpool's and team sponsors Vodafone and TalkTalk the team managed 6 points and 23 players at the last count (that's an average of just over two sets won per player for the season). So the City of Manchester Stadium has

been hired for the end of season bash (well someone has to fill those empty seats...) Not wanting pose a threat to the club's first men's team through promotion, a few matches had to be, how shall we say, carefully managed... So the weaker teams in the division of Alderly Edge, Prestbury, Croftside, Mellor, Brabyns and Greave were allowed narrow victories (especially Mellor who won 18 sets and we didn't) ...but we strongly refute Mr Henman's allegations about the phone calls to Bet Fred. So everything rested on the last match of the season with a winner takes all battle with Strines. Thanks to the skill of the carefully selected team (AKA whoever wasn't on holiday in the middle of August) a nail biting finish led to a final match victory. Particular thanks have to be given to the players who flew in from abroad and travelled from the other end of England to play and the several who stood in at the very last moments to ensure we did not receive any penalty points for not having enough players. So bring on 2008 to see if the team can successfully retain its trophy. Kevin O'Neill

SWM Mens Div 3

No stats required, oh dear. My team have been promoted for the second year running. This time finished second to a good Ashton team (from Bolton). We narrowly beating Brooklands into third place. Some great games really close. Thanks to Nad for grumbling- I mean being the most available player all season. Mark Benson

SWM Mens Division 2

World beating Sale A took SW Manchester Division 2 by storm and cleared the top of the table by a scarily high margin. It was a most efficient performance with most matches being won by the odd miss hit. This resulted in an impressive sets for and against difference that would have rendered us mid table in most cases. Volunteers who appreciate thrashing (especially in the Fallowfield region) are asked to make themselves known now for future appearances in Division 1 (sponsored by Mr Kipling). Nigel Dunkinson

NEC Mens Div 4a

Norm got a bit confused here, as he was asked for a tennis report... To avoid embarrassment and to protect the innocent only real

names have been used.

Paul's night out.

Let's meet at the Brook and have a couple of pints. We meet at the Brook and have a couple of pints. Where shall we go now? I dunno. Let's get the tram in to town. First dilemma - to buy a single or return? Where shall we get off? I dunno. Near a pub. Off we go to The City Arms for a couple of pints. Oh no! S Africa are beating England. Giles wants to go somewhere young and trendy and sets off. We all tag along and end up at the Kro Bar where we have a couple of pints. Paul decides it's time to eat. Where shall we go. I dunno. Giles says he's not hungry. He's had a sandwich. Paul says, 'Indian or Chinese?' Either. None of us mind. Paul says put your hands up all those who want Indian. Paul puts his hand up. Either, none of us mind. Let's get some cabs and go in to Rusholme.

Hang on says Mark (sensible chap). Most of us come from Sale and will need to get home. Why don't we get the tram back in to Sale and eat there. There's plenty of places to eat in Sale. Good idea. So off we head for the tram. This is where those who invested in a return ticket come up trumps and anyone stung by sub prime mortgage defaulters or buying expensive M&S sandwiches has to buy another ticket. Back to Sale. Where shall we eat? I dunno. Chinese or Indian? Don't start that again. Off we head to Rani's where we have a couple of pints and a selection of meals. The sandwich must have worn off by now as Giles tucks in to a starter, main and keema nan. The calories are offset by a couple of pints of diet Coke. For anyone interested there is a very large screen TV in there. We were able to watch Shilpa Shetty (careful with the spelling) in a variety of Bollywood movies. No one knows what was being said but we were all singing along by the end. A good evening was had by all.

Nigel's night out.

Rendezvous at the Railway 18.45. hrs Drink for 1 hour. Meal at The Great Katmandu 19.45 hrs Nigel had done a recce the week before to ascertain suitability - bit like checking what courts the

opposition play on.

Anyway, we met at the Railway for a couple of pints or the odd Jamesons.

Nigel arrived with an armful of stats for the season. We all pounced on him to see who had the best figures. The conclusion was that whoever played with Nick won the most points. Rod was able to talk us through all the points he'd won. That didn't actually take too long. Note to captain - we need another table showing disputed line calls. 19.45 - off to the restaurant. Something mild and not spicy for Rod and a bit of everything else for everyone else. All with the obligatory couple of pints and diet Coke. No Shilpa in here so back to the pub for another drink once we had finished. Another good evening.

So 2 contrasting nights out. 1 consisting of lots of beer and an Indian meal and the other consisting of, well actually it was really very similar. And all very civilised and relatively sensible. No one disgraced themselves. Well done to Paul and Nigel. Norman Taylor

BOB NIBLOCK'S BITS & BOBS



A couple of club members snapped on an unusual form of transport in France. *Le Petit Train*, more usually frequented by children and geriatrics. *Plus ca change.*

WHOSE LEGS ARE THESE?



A prize for the wittiest answer - emailed to John Graves - address inside

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News, views and how-do-you-do's from Sale Tennis Club
Issue 184 March 2008

Hello again to all members. Spring is in the air at long last and a young/old mans/womans fancy turns to... tennis of course. Exciting times ahead for Sale Tennis Club as our courts have been re-laid to provide us with some of the best playing surfaces in the area. Come and give it a go. It has also been one of the most eventful seasons in the club's history, read on...