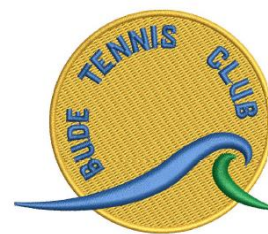


BUDE TENNIS CLUB

March 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the new season!

The Officers and Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting were:

Chairman

David Brown

Membership Secretary

Carolyn Scarff

Secretary

Gordon Cordeiro

Treasurer

Sue Brown

Committee

Ann Mason
Gary Bickle
Sharon Box
Ann Mason

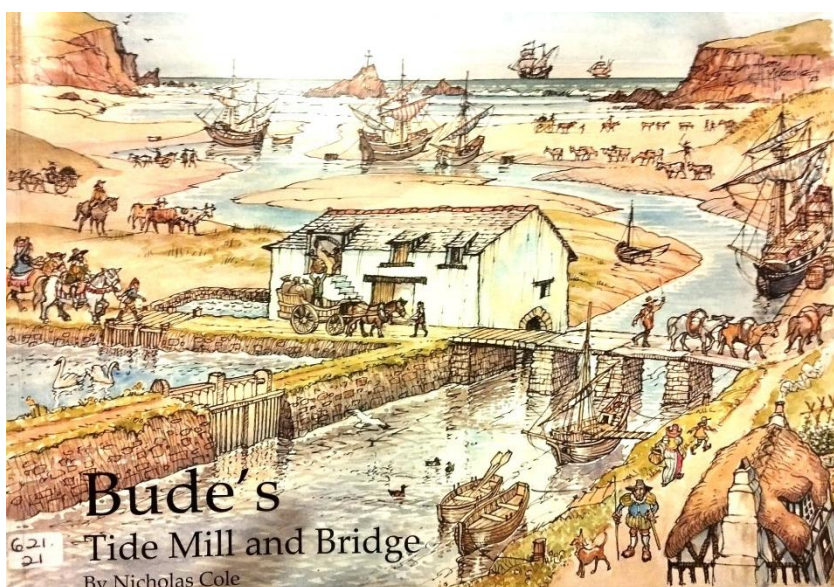
Match Secretary
Men's Captain
Welfare Officer
Ladies' Captain

Val Leafe
John Brooks
Joan Coney

Tournament Organiser
General member
General member

MEMBERSHIP FEES – The new season starts on the 1st April 2024
Subscriptions must be paid to the Treasurer by the 14th April 2024

| | |
|--|--|
| Senior membership | £170 |
| Student membership | £80 |
| Country membership | £80 for members who live 30+ miles from the Club |
| Junior and Parent of Junior membership | £40 (junior defined as 18 years or under) |



RECENT CLUB TOURNAMENTS



The Men's and Ladies Singles tournaments turned out to be the longest ever played on record, starting in May and finally finishing in October. A large crowd assembled on Sunday 22nd October to witness Sue Brown defeat Val Leafe and Gary Bickle overcome Andrew Troop in a thrilling three setter.

Val Leafe & Sue Brown



Gary Bickle & Andrew Troop

To celebrate Christmas, nineteen members participated in the Festive Hurlingham held on Saturday 16th December –

Winning man: *Adrian Riddock*,
Winning ladies: *Joan Coney and Sarah Grey*.

Afterwards we had scrummy yule log and mince pies!

This year also saw the instigation of the Singles Ladder, which I'm sure will take off when the weather improves.

The First Thursday of the Month Hurlinghams have proved to be very popular.

October - winning man: *David Brown*, winning lady: *Sue Burges*

January - actually played on Saturday 6th - winning man: *Paul Constantine*, winning lady: *Joan Coney*

February winning man: *John Brooks*, winning lady: *Joan Coney*



At the moment, the Winter Doubles for Ladies and Men are currently in progress and at the next meeting, the Committee will be discussing future tournaments including holding a whole day event if logistics allow.

Report by Tournament Organizer Val Leafe

THIS SUMMER'S COUNTY LEAGUE ENTRIES

We are entering three Ladies' teams and two Men's teams this year. Please remember you must be a **fully paid up club member** to take part in any club tournaments and league matches and be registered with the LTA. Men's and Ladies Teams/Pairs practice takes place on Wednesday club night. Please note this is still a Men's club evening for members not wishing to play in Teams.

HOW OUR TEAMS DID LAST YEAR

Bude entered 3 ladies and 2 men's teams in last year's summer league.

The ladies A team had a very successful summer finishing top of div1 and will be promoted to the premier division. Congratulations to Wendy, Sue, Sarah & Lynda.

The ladies B team, also in div1, struggled with injuries and used twelve different players. They will be relegated to div2 this summer where they will join the C team.

After several years in the premier division the men's A team also struggled last year and will be relegated to the county division.

The men's B team narrowly missed promotion, finishing 3rd in div2.

We entered one team in last year's Houldsworth Cup, which is a mixed knockout competition in Devon. Bude was given a walkover by Ilfracombe B in the first round but were then unable to raise a team against ARC A in the next round.

We have entered one team in the winter league with a group of people sharing the matches. Bude are currently 3rd out of 5 with 2 matches left to play.

Report by Match Secretary Ann Mason

PARENT PLAY SESSIONS : by Val Leafe



Bude Tennis Activators are Go!

In an attempt to reduce the average age of the club membership and increase the longevity of the club, in October 2023 we successfully introduced Parent Play at the Bude Haven REC. Children aged 5 and upwards and any ability can attend with a parent(s)/guardian (who are encouraged to participate too!) on a Tuesday evening 4 – 5pm.

Several Bude Tennis Club members have undertaken online training on safeguarding and how to run sessions; the remit is not coaching but to facilitate play with a great deal of activity and enjoyment.

Dexter, who has been a member since the inception, said, 'The coaches are great, I always have lots of fun. The sessions are always different with fun warmups, games, and matches.'

Josh, who came for the first time last week, said, 'I wish the sessions were daily!'

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining, please email the Bude Tennis Club at budetennisclub@gmail.com



SOCIAL EVENTS

The club held two great events at the Stable Room in the Brendon Arms this year. The Christmas dinner was held on the 8th December. The atmosphere was rocking, ideal for eating, drinking, mingling and chatting.



The Quiz Night on the 29th February was also a great success with quizmaster Adrian setting some taxing questions, we all needed the welcome interval to revive flagging brain cells with a delicious fish and chips supper. "New balls please!" won on the tie break question "when was the last hanging in the UK?"

There have also been several other events organised throughout the year including a ladies team night out at the Preston Gate and the Big Breakfast at the Brendon Arms in support of Cancer Research.

A big thank you to Val for her tireless work keeping us all entertained.

VIEW FROM THE CLUB ROOM *New Balls Please!:* by Val Leafe

With so much talk about the state of the tennis balls at the club, I thought it might be quite interesting to find out the history of them.

The game we play today, lawn tennis was developed in the 1870s from the game of royal or real tennis. Initially, the ball was manufactured from India rubber made from a vulcanisation process invented by Charles Goodyear in the 1850s. The wearing and playing properties were improved by covering the rubber with stitched flannel and further developed by hollowing out the core and pressurising it with gas. Originally, a three-leaf clover shape was stamped into a rubber sheet and then assembled into a roughly spherical shape by machinery. Chemicals generating pressurising gas were added prior to closing the shape up. This process was used for many years until the precision of the game demanded a higher degree of uniformity.

Now it is usual to compression mould two separate 'half-shells' which are assembled to produce a 'core'. The original flannel cloth was replaced by special 'melton' (felt) made specifically for the purpose and the stitching has been replaced by a vulcanised rubber seam.

Tennis balls were originally black or white, depending on the background colour of the courts. In 1972, the ITF introduced yellow balls as research had shown that they were more visible for television viewers. However, Wimbledon resisted this change and continued to use white balls up until 1986.

Tennis balls begin to lose their bounce as soon as the ball can is opened. This is because the air inside the ball is pushing harder when a can is opened compared to when a ball is packaged.

The most expensive part of the ball is the felt covering. The felt delays flow separation in the boundary layer which reduces aerodynamic drag and gives the ball better flight properties.

Around 325 million balls are produced annually with more than 200 brands approved by the ITF so you can probably understand why it is so difficult to find a set of balls that will suit everyone at Bude Tennis Club. Sadly, over 100 million balls are dumped into landfill every year and will take over 450 years to decompose.



FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDANT *by Gautam Das*

I was standing at the banks of Lake Beauverte enjoying the cool air coming off the Canadian Rockies, when I found myself in the presence of a loudly conversing squadron.

'That's Gautam,' one of them said. 'He's from Bude Tennis Club.'

'Yes,' another added. 'He's the one who always stops mid-serve to say, "hello" as we fly overhead.'

'Do you know,' a third said. 'They've got brand new floodlights, and their Hurlingham tournaments are very popular.'



I wished them all a very good morning on behalf of Bude Tennis Club.

'See you at Summerleaze this winter,' they said. 'When we land on Terminal One at River Neet.'

I know the place exactly, where on an autumn evening, you can see the panorama of an emerald sea with the orange sun smiling back from the windows of Flexbury.

QUIZ – ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Can you name the tennis player? The following anagrams are of famous tennis players current and retired. If you know the answers email or text them to me at gordoncordeiro@gmail.com or 0798 4473702 and I will post correct submissions and the winner on WhatsApp!

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Seal juicy peas | 4. I.V. mend evil dead |
| 2. Oh! lager run | 5. To nail a vile sin |
| 3. Winter lad Sam | 6. Pam's terse P.A. |

OUR COURTS GET A FACELIFT

The worst sections of our fencing have been replaced. Ironically we have more holes but they are all the same size! The courts will be recoated starting at Easter. Although disruptive you can look forward to an image of beautifully painted courts in the Autumn newsletter.

FINALLY

Please remember in any matters relating to court usage the Groundsman's decision will always apply.

Please check the notice boards to see any social events and activities that are happening in the club. There is also further club information on our website which you can find in the link below.

<http://budetennisclub.uk>