



# West Herts & Watford Lawn Tennis Club

## NEWSLETTER May 2021

### CHAIRMEN'S MESSAGE

Jeff Benveniste: [jeffben@btinternet.com](mailto:jeffben@btinternet.com)

Neil Mantrippe: [neil.mantrippe@sky.com](mailto:neil.mantrippe@sky.com)

I hope that everyone has been able to keep well and reasonably active during these difficult times. We are a supportive, community-based club, and if anyone would like any assistance of any kind, even if it's just a chat on the phone to relieve the boredom, please let us know.

with organisations such as ours we are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated, competent, and enthusiastic committee who are all committed to promoting the wonderful game of tennis for the benefit of everyone in our community.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all those unsung heroes in the club who have helped and supported us behind the scenes in so many different ways over the past year. Here's hoping you will all continue to do so, always bearing in mind that the more you put into your club the more you will get out of it!

With your support all of us on the Committee will continue to maintain and improve West Herts Tennis Club's superb facilities. Please read on to discover all the club has to offer you this season. We look forward to seeing you all on court as much as possible this year.



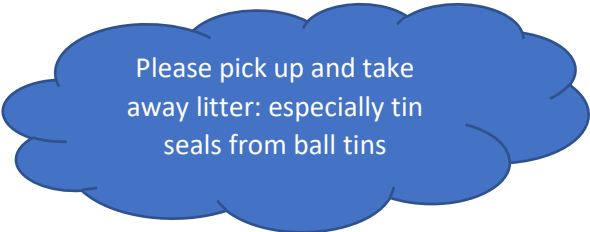
### HON SECRETARY MESSAGE

Fran Barham: [fabfrannybarham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fabfrannybarham@hotmail.co.uk)

Last year..... what a year....

After the initial lockdown in March 2020, limited tennis restarted from May of 2020. Then of course, from December, tennis became impossible due to the Tiers (remember them?) and now we hope we are emerging from the last (let's hope) Lockdown.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 restrictors, we had to cancel all of 2020 competitive League (Herts, Hot Rackets, Aegon, and W&D) fixtures. Also cancelled were all social events for last year, Open Day, Annual Charity Event, the much loved Breakfast tournament, Wimbledon ballot, Tournament Finals Day, Quizzes, and Christmas / Boxing Day Celebrations.



Please pick up and take away litter: especially tin seals from ball tins

2021 has been a lot more positive. Our first ever Zoom AGM was held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, and was attended by over 30 members. The AGM heard that, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the club has attracted a good many members and recorded a positive upswing in tennis interest throughout the local area.



### *Committee:*

Sadly, after two decades of very successful years on the committee, Peter Moore stepped down from his role of Match Secretary, but we are delighted to welcome the Ladies Champ: Hannah Watkins to the role.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our newly officially elected Membership Secretary Richard Haines. Also huge hellos to our newly elected Welfare Officer, Karen West. Most of you know Ben Gill who has taken on responsibility of setting up social play with already visible success. I would like to further welcome the return of Derek Walker to WHTC Committee as joint co-opted Mens Captain working alongside John Malpas (a.k.a. The Flying Kiwi). And to take our Junior Section under her very capable and skilful hands we welcome Kanu who will be taking charge of a revived Junior Club Night and other Junior activities.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank the rest of my Committee colleagues for their enormous support, imagination, and willing help over the rather difficult past 15 months. These are volunteers



working for your club with the sole aim of running our tennis Facilities in a smooth, professional manner for the benefit of our many members.

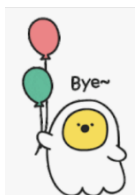
Thanks to prudent control of our finances, overseen by Hon Treasurer, Roger Killick and an influx of new members, the club is in a good financial position. Roger brings us ideas about how he plans to cover the costs of our planned refurbishment projects.

Be assured that we are taking steps to improve our availability. You will have already seen the much that started off by Neil, Hannah, myself and Andrei continues to flourish. Neil and his team have also improvements to the decking to the front of the court under the careful watch of Peter Rees is now enjoyable to play on, offering a diverse set of surfaces We are investing in the future of the club to make it venue in which to play tennis, and once the COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed, we will put in place a series of fun tennis and social events for our members. If anyone has any suggestions for such events, or indeed any comments on how we can improve the running of your club, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us. **Fran Barham Hon Secretary**



facilities and court improved garden work last summer and made significant Clubhouse. The Clay playable and very to offer all members. an enjoyable, friendly

## Farewell to Peter Moore (written by Lee Evans)



The term 'club legend' is banded about far too easily. But in Peter Moore you have someone for whom it might have been invented.

You wouldn't need a degree in maths to count the number of West Herts members who don't know Peter. Some of our newer members of course and possibly the odd oldie who has never set foot in any of the club's competitions. But that'll be it. That's because for the last two decades Peter has been one of the rocks that have helped make the club what it is today.

What has he done for the club? Ask me what he hasn't done instead. That would be an easy one.

Peter joined West Herts more than 20 years ago when Abbots Langley, the club he'd played at since he was a lad, was forced to move site and inevitably changed. He wasn't the only Abbots member we gained at the time. Despite living miles away Grant Edwards still plays at the club and if our 'older' members cast their minds back they will remember the late Ron Swithenbank, who had the uncanny knack of finding your backhand with every serve, Graham Holland, undoubtedly our Ladies' first choice partner in mixed matches and for the 1<sup>st</sup> team players of the era, Paul Theobald, whose forehand has to be the biggest the club has ever witnessed.

Sorry, I got a bit carried away there. Let's get back to the man of the moment.

In his time at the club Peter has been social secretary, match secretary, a regular member of the committee (obviously)... and he must have played for (and captained) just about every team we have ever had. But it is undoubtedly as competition guru that he is best known.

The variety and amount of competitions he has provided for us has, frankly, been unbelievable and he has always seen to it that there has been something for everyone, no matter how old or how good. But more than that, he has done it in a way that has captivated us.

Not only has he seamlessly run the usual club events for as many years as he'd care to mention but he has created and run a host of other innovative competitions which have galvanised the competitive spirit at the club. From events for seniors to fun mixed team tennis, to the winter singles competition which has been the talk of the town! He gave up his time for a whopping 6 months of the year for that one, which culminated in a hugely enjoyable finals evening – which of course he ran - with prizes, trophies and nibbles galore! But was that enough for him? Of course not. Every month on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> without fail, Peter gave us the stats and the league table, he showed us where we were in the race for a season-end prize, but crucially he had us tittering with his risqué reports of the play over the previous month. No matter how I had done the previous month, I could never wait for the 1<sup>st</sup> to come round!

These feats and more led to the club nominating him for the county's volunteer of the year award in 2016. He was pipped at the post that year but it was only a matter of time and the following year he won it by a landslide.

Did I mention that in his spare time he sits on the committee of the Watford & District League (and yes, he still does, despite living in Scarborough!) and competes for Wales at Ten Pin bowling? What a guy!

What's he up to now? Well most of you will know that Peter and his lovely wife, Ali, have upped sticks and moved away.....to Scarborough! They've always wanted to live by the coast and with Peter's penchant for chips and ice cream he's in heaven.


I know he was overwhelmed with his leaving present (money the club collected from members) so asked him what he was planning on putting it towards.

"I've invested my leaving gift money in a memorial bench....so that will be a nice way to sit and remember the good times!"

Sounds wonderful. Get the ice creams in, Peter and I'll be up to join you for a reminisce!

So fare well up north, Peter and Ali, but make sure you come back and see us whenever you're in these parts. You'll always be welcome at West Herts.

Lee Evans (on behalf of everyone at the club)



Be extra vigilant  
with closing and  
locking club if you  
are last to leave

## GOODBYE FROM MATT ROLFE

*The Committee were very sad to learn that Matt Rolfe (Previously Membership Secretary) is not re-joining the Club this year.*

(submitted by Matt)

I joined this wonderful tennis club back in January 2009. It really was the best thing I did. I had been in living in Republic of Ireland for 6 years and moved back to Watford December 2008. I really wanted to do some exercise that I would stick to. So I thought I would try out Tennis. Did a quick google search and West Herts popped up. On 1 dark Wednesday evening in January I turned up to Social. Everywhere was dark. No social that night. However, 1 other guy turned up. Jason Bermont. He was just back from University. He said he knew who runs the social, he took my number and would let me know if it was on the following week. He called, I went down the following week, and was made so welcome. The rest as the say is history.

Over the last 2 years, my job, and life, has increasingly got busier and busier. I now find every minute counts, and so when I come to West Herts, it does mean a 50 minute round journey, and I just can't justify that any more. So it is with a lot of sadness that I want to personally let you know that I will not be renewing my membership this year. Although the courts are not up to the same standard as West Herts, I have been welcomed and found a friendly home at Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis club which is a 5 minute walk from my house.

This is by no means Goodbye. When the bar opens, I will join as a Social Member and I will still like to attend the social events that you run. The Summer Party sounds great.

West Herts is an amazing club and I know it is in great hands. I can't wait to see the club keep growing.

It has truly been a honour to be part of West Herts & I am proud of everything we have accomplished.

All the best to you and the club.

*For those who don't know Matt well: here is a history of his interaction with WH and some of the achievements.*

- *Jan 2009 - Joined the club.*
  - *Jan 2009 - March 2013 - Got involved with social, with the help of other members, Roger, Barry etc made the social sessions thrive with the West Herts Bake Off's, BBQ's etc*
  - *March 2013 - Became Membership secretary.*
  - *Jan 2014 - Captained our first Mens Hot Rackets team*
  - *March 2015 - Captained our first Watford & District Mixed D team*
  - *December 2015 - Moved memberships from a manual spreadsheet on to Clubspark and setup the website for this.*
  - *August 2016 - Captained Mixed D team to winners of the league we were in.*
  - *2018 - LTA introduced Welfare Officers. He became our Welfare Officer and made sure the club met the necessary standards to pass.*
- *Nominated Volunteer of the Year twice.*

## FINANCE

### Treasurer's report from Roger Killick – Hon Treasurer rogerakillick@gmail.com

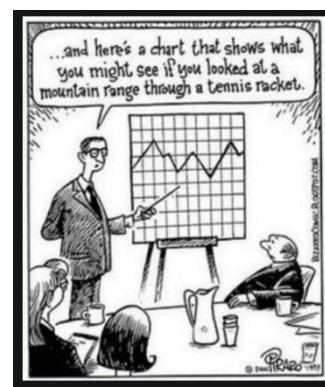
The 2020/21 season has been like no other season and the tennis committee had to react to the constantly changing circumstances to keep the Club as active as possible. As the season was curtailed by a series of lockdowns, we reduced membership fees considerably, negotiated a reduced and deferred membership affiliation fee to our landlord (West Herts Sports Club), so that as many new and old members could still play tennis as much as possible under the government and LTA guidelines.

Despite a record number of members, our overall revenue was much reduced and whilst the Club has reserves to carry us through these difficult times, we still need to provide ongoing quality tennis facilities. For example, we decided that we should spend £4000 in 2020 to have the Euroclay court rejuvenated despite this work being postponed from 2019. This court had been in poor condition for several years and we didn't want to delay for another year. Now, the court is playable in most weathers for coaching sessions as well as being popular with other members.

As a private members club, everything we have has been paid for by members. Many members will remember the tarmac courts where the blue Tigerturf courts are now. The Club saved for several years to pay the £45,000 bill for the 3 new courts and then had to save for a further 3 years to pay for the new LED lighting to be installed.

Our grass courts are almost unique in Hertfordshire these days and are a pleasure to play on. George and Ant do a marvellous job maintaining them which we pay for via our rent and Sports club affiliation fees.

I mention some of these examples to illustrate our aim to offer quality tennis facilities whilst being prudent with our income and expenditure in planning for the short and long term.



Our voluntary committee have had an exceedingly difficult year and we hope to continue investing to improve the club facilities for all membership categories to play our great game.

Roger Killick  
Hon. Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP - Richard Haines - [Richardhaines72@aol.com](mailto:Richardhaines72@aol.com)

**IMPORTANT:** The club is reopening strictly in accordance with the latest government guidelines (announced on 10 March 2021) - if you are unsure about the impact of these on playing tennis, please refer to the LTA website and familiarise yourself with the latest updates. Please continue to enforce the rules around: 1) social distancing (before, during and after all tennis activity, on and off-court), 2) hand hygiene (using hand sanitiser on entering the club grounds and before/after tennis activity), 3) access to the club house is strictly limited for the use of the toilets or to access the floodlight meters (and only one person at a time).

This year we will also be entering everyone (both adults and juniors) who sign up before the 1 May 2021 into a PRIZE DRAW with the chance of winning one of 5 adult and 5 junior prizes - including a free 1-hour lesson with David (30 minutes for juniors) along with flood light cards, balls, and goody bags.

Please also spread the word to friends and family who may be interested in joining the club.

Richard Haines

Membership Secretary

[richardhaines72@aol.com](mailto:richardhaines72@aol.com)

07718 581906

CLUB SURVEY conducted by: Richard Haines - [Richardhaines72@aol.com](mailto:Richardhaines72@aol.com)

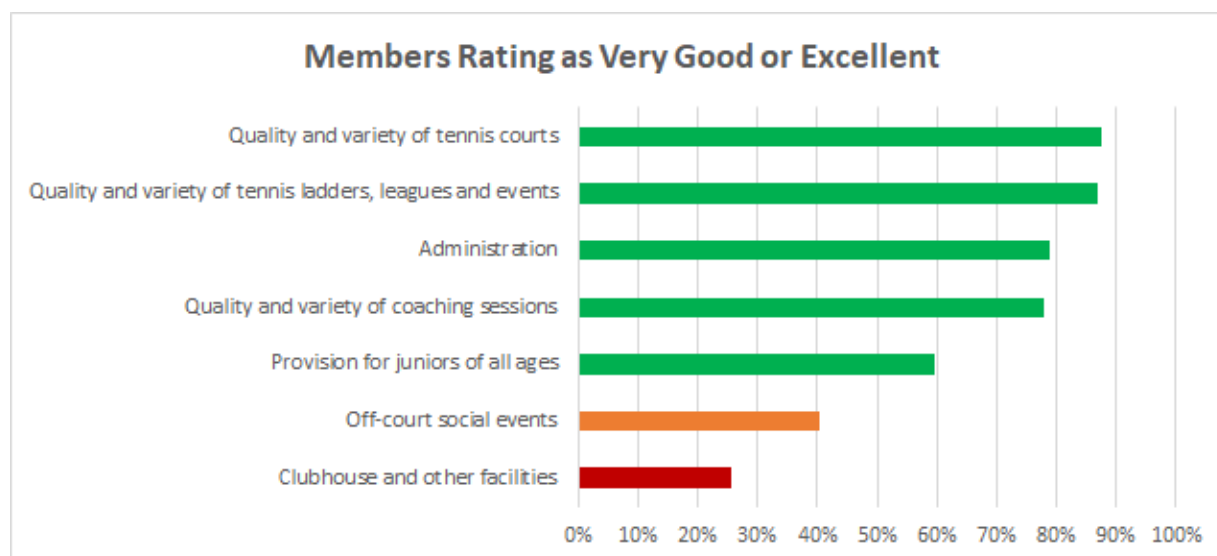
*Big thanks to all those who completed our club survey - this has provided us with a useful insight in to what our members believe we are doing well, as well as what we could do better. This will help us when making those all-important decisions around investing in our club and facilities.*

*As you can see from the results below, we scored highly in a number of key areas, including the "quality and variety of our tennis courts". But even here we recognise there is room for improvement - having recently resurfaced the Euro Clay court and acquiring new tennis nets for the coming season. Furthermore, we will continue to accumulate funding to ensure the courts are regularly maintained, renovated and resurfaced to achieve our high standards.*

*Despite the very positive scores, there were two areas that stood out as needing improvement - our off-court social events and the club house - with 20% to 30% suggesting these could be better. As we come out of lockdown (and the weather improves) we'll be able to run more social events, including our ever popular BBQ's. We also recognise there is an opportunity to spruce up the club house*



*(inside and out) to make it a great place to hang out when you come off court, so this is something we'll definitely look at.*



**WELFARE OFFICER - Karen West** [karennwest43@gmail.com](mailto:karennwest43@gmail.com)

<https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding-protection/>

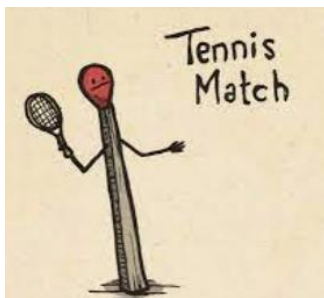
<https://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/about-lta/safeguarding/safeguarding-update-05.06.20.pdf>

The LTA emphasises that it is the responsibility of all members to be familiar with and employ the policies of their club. This was highlighted at last year's Safeguarding Audit on 7th January 2019. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with our Data and Safeguarding policies.

Full details of our policies are available in the clubhouse and on our new Website [www.Watfordtennis.co.uk](http://www.Watfordtennis.co.uk) - Safeguarding Policy, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Safe and Inclusive Code of Conduct and Photography and Filming Best Practice Guidance.

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Welfare Officer, Karen West on 07971 464277 or [karennwest43@gmail.com](mailto:karennwest43@gmail.com)

You have the right to find out what personal information the Club holds about you and to seek to amend it and/or have it deleted. If you have any queries about this privacy policy, how we process your personal data, if you wish to exercise any of your legal rights or have queries about any of our policies please contact our Secretary, Fran Barham, Tel: [07809 656052](tel:07809656052)- 44 Nortoft Road, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks: SL9 OLD



## FIXTURES and MATCHPLAY

From Hannah Watkins: [hanwatuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hanwatuk@yahoo.co.uk)

Match Secretary

Update on Match Play

### **Ladies National League, County Round**

The team consisted of Hannah Watkins, Emma Wilson, Jessica Wilde & Anca Carman. They played against Letchworth Tennis Club on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The format consists of a singles and doubles 2 sets & a 10 point tie break if 1 set all. The team had a comfortable win and everyone played some excellent tennis. Well done ladies. Next match is at home on 16<sup>th</sup> May against Welwyn, 11am start.

### **Harris Cup Ladies over 40's**

The ladies are playing Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May away against Cuffley. The team is Jane Walker, Hannah Watkins, Tina Pendry & Emma Wilson. This team have 3 matches left to play after this match.

### **Watford & District League.**

Teams & Captains have been confirmed with the league organisers and we are now waiting to receive the fixtures. These will resume from the start of June- September. We will let you know the fixtures as soon as we have them. The captains will then organise the matches, teams & confirm court bookings with Hannah;

### **Teams:**

#### **West Herts Mens Teams**

**West Herts Mens A** - Captain Mark Harris

**West Herts Mens B** - Captain Simon Thomas

**West Herts Mens C** – Captain Peter Rees

**West Herts Mens D** – Captain Neil Mantrippe

#### **West Herts Ladies Teams**

**West Herts Ladies A** – Captains Jane Walker and Tina Pendry

**West Herts Ladies B** – Captain Christine Thomas.

#### **West Herts Mixed Team Info**

**West Herts Mixed A** - Captain Hazel Lupton

**Mixed B** – no team entry this year

**West Herts Mixed C** – Captain Sheila Ashman

### **Herts County League**

Friendly this year, matches to be played starting in June – September. It is being given a different name, TBC. We will let you know the fixtures as soon as we have them. The captains will then organise the matches, teams & confirm court bookings with Hannah;

#### **Mens Herts County league**

**Mens 1<sup>st</sup> Team** – Captain Derek Walker

**Mens 2<sup>nd</sup> Team** – Captain Peter Rees

**Mens 3<sup>rd</sup> Team** – Captain John Woods

**Mens 4<sup>th</sup> Team** - Captain Jeff Benveniste



## **Ladies Herts County League**

Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> Team – Captain Tina Pendry

Further Updates:

- The 2020/2021 Men's Seniors Over 65 event will be played to a conclusion (NB: all other Winter 2020/2021 Seniors events - both Men's and Ladies - have been cancelled)

### Next Autumn/Winter season

- All competitions (Ladies Seniors, Men's Seniors, Winter National League) are expected to run as usual, with the addition of an over 70s category in the Men's Seniors.

### 2022 summer season

- All competitions (The Herts League, The Summer National League, The Harris Cup) are expected to run as usual.



### **FLOODLIGHTS**

There will be a list on the Clubhouse door of who holds a stock of cards and the various times during the week that you are likely to be able to purchase them.

**CLUB SOCIAL SESSIONS: Ben Gill - [benbengill@hotmail.com](mailto:benbengill@hotmail.com)**

Welcome, my name is Ben Gill and I have been part of West Herts for many years. It is a great club with a friendly atmosphere. I am part of the team that run a social evening on Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm and Sunday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm. It is a great time to escape work or build up your appetite for your Sunday roast!

We play in good spirits, plenty banter, and friendly rivalry. We plan to increase opportunities of social play once COVID-19 restrictions ease with mini tournaments and BBQ

Come down one evening and join in, you will be very welcome!

## “Fun Friday” Junior Nights



We are looking to run “Fun Friday” Junior Sessions aimed at bringing together junior members at the club for social and match play with their peers. It’s also a great opportunity for parents to get to know each other and get involved with junior tennis and tennis club in general.

These sessions will be free to attend during most weeks, however, if we have any pre-scheduled coaching sessions, you will be notified in advance of the required minimal charge for these sessions.

We will be running two trial sessions on 4 June and 11 June to gauge interest from club members. The sessions will run from 6.30 – 7.30 pm and are open to all junior members. However, due to limited capacity, we will be enrolling on first come first serve basis.

If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Kanupriya at [kanupriya82@gmail.com](mailto:kanupriya82@gmail.com) with your **child’s name, parent’s name**, and please send Kanu best **contact numbers** as well when responding to the juniors session? Please clearly indicate the sessions you would be able to attend (4 June, 11 June) and if you are available to help during the sessions. To make this a success, we need help of parents and other members to run these sessions and make it fun and engaging for junior members.

***Also, please note, at least one parent must stay at the club whilst their child is in the session.***

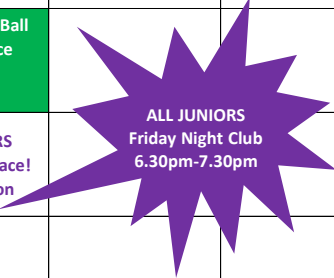
**We hope many of you will be able to join and enjoy the Junior nights!**

**Kanu**



## COACHING SCHEDULE (UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED)

David can be contacted on [07940 428310](tel:07940428310) or email Dave Shann ([davidshann666@gmail.com](mailto:davidshann666@gmail.com))

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p><b>ALL Sessions</b> (except for Sunday Drop-ins) need to be booked in advance by contacting <b>David Shann</b> on <b>07940 428310</b></p> <p>The Junior colours refer to the junior balls that move slower and have less bounce than a standard tennis ball. Use by age depends on each child, but as a guide, Orange is for under 10 year olds and green for 11+. For even younger children we also use a slower red ball.</p>						<p>ALL Juniors Drop-in Session 1 9.30am- 10.30am £5</p>
						<p>Ladies Coaching 10am - 11.30am £8</p>
<p>Junior Green Ball Performance 4.15pm – 5.15pm £8-£10</p>						
<p>Junior Orange &amp; Yellow Ball 5.15pm – 6.15pm £8-£10</p>			<p>Junior Yellow Ball 5pm - 6pm £8-£10</p>	<p>Junior Green Ball Performance 5 – 6pm £8-£10</p>		
<p>Junior Orange Ball 6.15pm – 7.15pm £8-£10</p>	<p>Junior Orange Ball 6pm – 7pm £8-£10</p>	<p>Adults Rusty Rackets Session 1 6pm - 7pm £8</p>	<p>Junior Yellow Ball Performance 6pm - 7.30pm £12</p>	<p>ALL JUNIORS Watch this space! Starting Soon</p>		
<p>Men's Coaching 7.30pm - 9.30pm £10</p>		<p>Adults Rusty Rackets Session 2 7pm - 8pm £8</p>				

## Contact us

Address: 8 Park Ave, Watford WD18 7HP

Title	Name	Email
Co-Chairman	Jeff Benveniste	<a href="mailto:jeffben@btinternet.com">jeffben@btinternet.com</a>
Co-Chairman	Neil Mantrippe	<a href="mailto:neil.mantrippe@sky.com">neil.mantrippe@sky.com</a>
Honorary Treasurer	Roger Killick	<a href="mailto:rogerakillick@gmail.com">rogerakillick@gmail.com</a>
Honorary Secretary	Fran Barham	<a href="mailto:fabfrannybarham@hotmail.co.uk">fabfrannybarham@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Match Secretary	Hannah Watkins	<a href="mailto:hanwatuk@yahoo.co.uk">hanwatuk@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Head Coach	David Shann	<a href="mailto:david.shann@ntlworld.com">david.shann@ntlworld.com</a>
	Terry Hugill Graham	<a href="mailto:terrymhugill@googlemail.com">terrymhugill@googlemail.com</a>
Social Secretaries	Babs Farry	<a href="mailto:Barbara.farry@gmail.com">Barbara.farry@gmail.com</a>
Ladies Captain	Christine Thomas	<a href="mailto:christinemthomas@icloud.com">christinemthomas@icloud.com</a>
Men's Captain	Neil Mantrippe	<a href="mailto:neil.mantrippe@sky.com">neil.mantrippe@sky.com</a>
Social Tennis Captain	Ben Gill	<a href="mailto:Benbengill@hotmail.com">Benbengill@hotmail.com</a>
Grounds Secretary	Peter Rees	<a href="mailto:pmrees@tiscali.co.uk">pmrees@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Sports Club liaison	John Malpas	<a href="mailto:john.malpas2@ntlworld.com">john.malpas2@ntlworld.com</a>
Membership Secretary	Richard Haines	<a href="mailto:Richardhaines72@aol.com">Richardhaines72@aol.com</a>
Welfare Officer	Karen West	<a href="mailto:karennwest43@gmail.com">karennwest43@gmail.com</a>

