



Hockley Tennis Club Newsletter

April 2021

Let's look at the positives

Further to Boris's route to freedom the signs are looking good as more of us get the jab and restrictions being relaxed in phases.

So we can now play tennis once more, Adam and the coaching team are keeping a close watch for any further changes as we progress through April so look out for more updates if the situation gets better. The status at the start of April is:

Update on COVID restrictions:

Further to the Prime Minister's update on 22nd Feb the LTA have produced the following guidance on what is permitted from 29th

March but with outdoor tennis only permitted:

Social play: singles and doubles play permitted with rule of 6 to be observed

Coaching: groups permitted within safe number limits with but no limit on 1:1 clients in a day

Organised group activity: adult and junior play permitted but with number of adults limited to the safe capacity of the facilities/venue, 12 adults max per court and max of 15 juniors recommended at any one time. No socialising before or after sessions.

Competitions: permitted for adult and junior single/double matches, numbers taking place determined by draw size, venue size and risk assessment by organisers. No socialising before or after the event.

Spectating and supervision: spectating not allowed, in case of juniors only one parent/guardian per player.

Social distancing to be maintained before, during and after all outdoor tennis activities

Clubhouse only to be used for emergencies and turning on/off floodlights with past sanitising/mask rules to be observed if entered

Under current HMG guidelines **from 17th May**, a further relaxation allows a maximum

of 30 adults for organised sport outside events and rule of 6 or two households indoors. **Indoor coaching for juniors groups permitted.**

Now the courts are fully open for outdoor use please continue to follow the guidelines issued by Adam and the coaching team. As a gentle reminder, please check on the Club website to book court slots to make sure you don't turn up only to find the courts fully occupied and please only **turn up 5 minutes** after your slot and leave 5 minutes before your end time; with no socialising after. (Sorry to be a bit dogmatic but it's all in our best interest)

The bar and clubhouse: it is hoped that from 17th May the bar will be fully open again but with limitations on numbers permitted in the clubhouse, once more details are revealed by HMG then we can look forward to the social side of the Club emerging once more. And if all goes to plan, on 21st June all restrictions will be lifted.

Update on match play

L&W league matches: currently planned to start in May

Essex League matches: currently planned to start in late April

Summer finals: the aim is to start the 2021 finals ASAP during April with finals held on weekend of 17/18th July

Winter/handicap finals: a full competition commencing October 2021 with finals in March 2022.

Mid-term coaching camps: at the moment no half term coaching/fitness activities/camps are planned during the Easter break due to limitation on junior numbers permitted with the hope once restrictions are lifted then such sessions can commence once again.

Friday Evening Bar Forum: as indicated above the Boris plan is for a progressive lifting of restrictions on social gatherings, outdoor groups can meet from



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12th April to socialise in limited numbers (30) while remaining seated. So the bar will be open on the evening of Friday 16th April to serve those sitting on the patio, weather permitting, but social distancing within groups of 6 will be in force. The bar team is preparing the bar for re-opening fully in May when the forum can get up to speed and share all the gossip and news that has been so missed for the last 4 months or more.

Did you know?

The Club has at least 30 Trophies /cups, some are replacements for earlier trophies but sadly in some cases the locations of a few are unknown at this time. Many of the cups are displayed on the top shelf in the Club bar area for members to view. Below is a bit of history/background on some of the cups.

The Ladies Championship Cup – this cup was presented to the Club by the Club's first President, the Reverend Alan Hugh Gardner MA in 1927 (purchased from Maplin & Webb



with markings s P5582 JJ/V Told) and awarded to the winner of the summer ladies championship tournament. Mrs Dorothy Wright won the cup in 1928, 1929 & 1930 with Dorothy being allowed to retain

the cup after 3 consecutive wins as per Club rules of that time. In 2005 the cup was returned to the Club by a surviving member of Dorothy's family as a fitting memory to Dorothy's achievements. Dorothy's husband Harry and his sister Edith were all founder members at the Club and in the late 1930's lived in what was described as the "White House," at the top of Folly Lane – namely Costards Woodwards, George Mower's earlier residence for some 20 years.

The current Ladies singles championship cup



bears the names of winners since 1953 until present day but unfortunately the post 1930's cup has not been found to date.

1927 – The Men's Championship Cup – this



was also presented by the Reverend Alan Hugh Gardner MA (purchased from Maplin & Webb again), awarded to the winner of the **summer men's championship**

tournament. The cup has winners listed from 1927 to 1935 with additional cup bases with follow-on winners.

The Innell cup and President's cups for table tennis - there was a very active table tennis section within the Club with 46 members fielding some 6 teams but in 1984 the top men's team relocated to join the Hadleigh Table Tennis Forum. Although table tennis was still played at the Club after 1984, it became a social activity rather than league competitions. Bert Innell who played in the table tennis teams and was the licensee of the Bull pub in the 1950's & 60's; (this is where Club members met after tennis matches and before the current clubhouse was built) and it was during this period the Innell family presented the Innell Cup to the Club to be awarded to the **men's championship table tennis finals** and it is believed a **Presidents cup** was awarded to the **ladies championship table tennis finals** mirror imaging the President's cup for the ladies tennis singles award. Location of these cups is unknown.



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Men's Summer Doubles - An interesting cup which bears the inscription "Shoeburyness & District Lawn Tennis League gents Singles now Hockley LTC Men's Doubles"



This was the Shoeburyness & District Lawn tennis League Gents singles cup, HLTC was a member of this league but the Shoeburyness league was terminated at the end of 1957 – HLTC obtained the cup in 1958 to become its men's summer doubles tournament cup. On

the reverse of the cup are names of Shoeburyness single winners covering the period 1935 to 1939 and then 1950 to 1957. Hockley LTC obtained the cup after 1957 and using it as the cup for the men's summer doubles since 1959 with multiple bases carrying the winner's names.