

December 23

Newsletter

As our Centenary Year draws to a close, I thought to reflect on the past twelve months, recalling how remarkable it has been, in particular the marvellous and memorable marquee event. Thanks again on your behalf to the Centenary Committee Members who worked hard organising this and the other events. They are Louise Blakeborough, Ian Campbell, Kathy Campbell, Philip Corning, Richard Holberton, Jeff Saunders, Laura Morton, Chris Smith and Minglin Zhou.

Thanks also on your behalf to others including club committee members, who work throughout the year to keep the club running smoothly. There is a lot of activity ensuring this happens undertaken by such as ball-changers a changing, coffee suppliers supplying, towel changers laundering, flowerbed maintaining....and a partridge in a pear tree!

Like the swan cruising across the water, there is a lot of unseen activity under the surface which makes club management look easy. So, if you can spare a little time in 2024 to help keep the club running efficiently and our costs down by limiting the external help we need, do please let me, the secretary or club administrator know – many hands make light work.

Returning to 2023, we mark the Centenary Year end fittingly by looking to the future with the opening of our new 7th court at 2.15pm on Saturday 16th.

Which reminds me that more thanks are due to David Clarke for helping me get the 7th Court Project underway; David Clegg for his expert guidance with the first application to GBC for permission to build the court and with the successful appeal against rejection, then the successful application for variation of a planning condition allowing us to have a clay surface - the first in Guildford. Also, thanks to David Luscombe who has skilfully managed the court construction project with a minimum of disruption to our playing and social activities. How would we have managed without the three Davids? All Kings!

More thanks – to the Horizon Leisure Directors who agreed that we could access the 7th court construction area through their land behind our clubhouse which made the project so much easier. Imagine the distraction if construction traffic had needed to cross in front of our clubhouse – it would have made for an uncomfortable and distracting few months.

And so, as our Centenary Year comes to an end having, thanks to Alison Craze, looked back at the past one hundred years*, we now look to the future and hope that it will be good for our 400 adult and 300 junior members and their families. Here's to the next hundred!

Finally, best wishes from me, the club committee and our groundsman Rod and his dog, for a Happy Christmas and New Year!

Adrian

Photos of committee members can be found on the club's website
<https://www.merrowtennis.com/committee.html>

*Copies of the short history of MLTC are still available at alisoncraze@googlemail.com





PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

7TH COURT

GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16TH
2023
AT 2.15PM

This will be followed by
Jorge and Cosmin
playing the first games
on the artificial clay.

There will be
mulled wine and mince pies too!

Looking after the 7th Court

So that we look after the 7th court and to minimise the artificial clay being transferred to other areas of the club we ask you to adhere to the following:

- Do not play in very wet conditions.
- Tennis shoes to be worn on the court.
- Clean your shoes before and after playing to avoid contamination of the tennis court surfaces.
- Drag the provided mat side to side across the whole court after playing.
- Balls that fall between the fence and the building will be collected by ground staff at a later date. Do **NOT** try to remove them from within the court.
- Balls that fall beyond the fence at either end of the court can be collected via the gates.

Enjoy the new court!

Junior Yellow Ball Ladder

As a club we are trying to encourage the juniors to play matches. The Junior Club Session on a Friday is going from strength to strength and we are going to start a Junior Yellow Ball Ladder towards the end of January. The matches will be two FAST4 sets plus a Match tie-break.

If you would like your child to take part in the Junior Yellow Ball Ladder when it starts, please email Alison on merrowltc@gmail.com by **19th January**. We plan to use an app called Tennisrungs which we are successfully using for our adult ladders. On the app will be your child's name and the parent/guardians email address. Parents will need to contact other parents to arrange matches for their children. More information will be provided once you sign up.



The [LTA Advantage Wimbledon Ballot](#) closes soon. Encourage your members to Opt In today, allowing them to attend the best Grand Slam tournament of the year.

The deadline to opt in is **23:59** on **Sunday 14 January 2024**.

OPT IN TODAY

Opt In for the LTA Wimbledon Advantage ballot has now opened and will be open until 14th January. This ballot is for club members with an LTA advantage account (it replaced the ballot that the club used to run itself). Balloting for tickets for the 2024 LTA Advantage Wimbledon Ballot starts on 5th February 2024 and closes on 14th March 2024.

To Opt In

- log in to your Advantage account
- then click on MyBenefits on the left hand side
- Once there, click on “The Championships, Wimbledon”
- Then click on “LTA Wimbledon Ballot Opt In”

Then you are done!

To be eligible for the LTA Advantage ballot, an advantage member will need one of the following active memberships up until the opt in deadline:

- Play+ (13 years or older for Junior Play+)
- Compete (13 years or older for Junior Compete)
- Fan+

The public ballot for Wimbledon has already closed and successful applicants in the public ballot will start to be notified from now.



EXCLUSIVE TENNIS MEMBER OFFER

As part of our continued support for the community we, at Horizon Guildford, would like to continue the exclusive offer of the discounted rate of £34 a month with no joining fee to members of the tennis club. Please note there will be a small price increase to £37 from January to new members only, in line with our annual price increases (present member prices remain at £34).

With the colder weather and darker nights now upon us, we would like to offer all tennis members a free day pass valid until 31st December to cover full use of our facilities including gym, classes, pool, sauna and steam room.

To take advantage of this special offer, please contact myself, Anita Kidgell, Sales and Membership Advisor on 07547 103933 or 01483 971588 and I will be delighted to secure your trial and potentially talk about membership for yourself.

Anita Kidgell

Group Coaching

This is a reminder to contact Jorge by **Wednesday 20th December** on munozejorgemartin@yahoo.com if you wish to rebook onto the spring term coaching programme. You will receive a confirmation email from the Clubspark system by Wednesday if you have already emailed Jorge. Invoices for coaching fees will be emailed out at the start of January before your/your child's first lesson. Please make payment within 14 days of receiving the email.

Save the Date!

Curry & Quiz
NIGHT

FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024

FOOD: KATHY - SIMPLY DELICIOUS

QUIZMASTER: RICHARD HOLBERTON

More details will be shared in the New Year



WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES A

Merry
CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR!