



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2021

I should like to sincerely thank members for their support for the bar now that it has re-opened. It plays such an important role in the running and financing of your club, especially with the negative impact of the lockdown. It has not been easy to operate under the restrictive Covid rules and the hard-working Bar & Social team led by Della Weston deserve our thanks in getting the new EPOS system in place and engaging our bar staff of Steve and Sophie who have helped us return to a modicum of normality. The choice of beers has also been inspired! I am looking forward to the day when all the restrictions are lifted and we can enjoy using the clubhouse and bar as we did in the old days.

CAFÉ CULTURE: I made it one of my goals as President to increase the use of the club's function room via increased social events and the possible addition of a daytime café. I am delighted to say that we have found someone who would like to operate a café with us. They are Jody and Rich, operating as RJS Catering, who are looking to start on July 12th and will initially open from 9am to 5pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 1pm to 5pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We will run these times for an initial three weeks and then we can see if there is scope for extra opening times or longer hours to be implemented.

I am very excited by the prospect of having an all-day café on site, following on from the Courtside Café activity pre-lockdown. Jody and Rich will be offering teas, coffees, (homemade) cakes and other goodies and the intention is to make the clubhouse a buzzing place for everyone to relax in and enjoy during the day. I urge everyone to support this new venture and make it a long-term success.

FOOTBALL: The Euros also provide us with a great opportunity to use the clubhouse before the café opens. Come and join us at the club to see the matches on the big screen in the function room. The next event will be England's big match versus Scotland on Friday 18th June at 8pm. The bar will be open and there will be filled rolls for sale. Enter the Euro sweepstake for just £3.50 and you could win a box of 24 craft lagers from all participating countries. Due to current Covid restrictions it may be necessary to limit numbers at some games so please register your intention to be there on the list in the clubhouse beforehand.

SQUASH AND RACKETBALL: Your new Squash & Racketball team under Bruce Hopkin has also started very strongly. In addition to the restarting of the leagues on June 1st, there are a large number of other exciting initiatives under way. We are pleased to welcome our new squash/racketball coach Ali Jafari to the club. Ali has extensive experience in coaching and is passionate about developing people's ability and enthusiasm within the sports. He is

coaching some of the best junior talent in the country and is looking to use our courts to train them. This will help to raise the profile of KDRC and attract more players to our club.

I would encourage members to take the opportunity to engage with Ali to enjoy the coaching opportunities provided at the club. He is available for individual coaching on Wednesdays and group coaching on Thursdays and also junior mornings at the club on Saturdays.

As we are now actively recruiting new members the squash and racketball section would welcome any tennis member coming along to try (especially intermediates & juniors who already have this included), e.g. the Squashfit on Thursday evenings at 7.45 pm. In addition, club evenings are due to start shortly – so watch for announcements.

‘MEET THE COMMITTEE’: We thought that it would be a good idea to have a session every quarter so that members can meet the committee to discuss anything about the club that they are unhappy with, need information on or just want to have a chat about. The first of these meetings will be on Tuesday 22nd June at 6.30pm, just before the England match against Czech Republic.

All committee members will be on hand to meet either individually or to answer any questions as a team. Your views are always welcome and we would love to see you in the clubhouse before the Euro match to answer any of your questions.

PRESIDENT’S DAY: President’s Day on June 27th is now well into the planning stage. Thank you for the great response when the booking lists went up – the list is full and there is a waiting list but, as so often happens, there may well be drop-outs before the day so, if you are not on the main list now, do not despair as you could well find yourself playing on the day.

Lisa Eyre is organising the tennis tournament and I look forward to providing teas for all players and invited guests. We understand that, even if the current Covid restrictions are not lifted before then, the tournament will still be able to go ahead in its current form with seating in the function room meeting the current social distancing rules. Teas will be provided by RJS Catering - so you can have a taste on what will be offer in the café from July.

CLUB ATTIRE: I should like to remind tennis members of the clothing rules as there has been an increasing number of people not adhering to them. At K&D we are trying to maintain our tradition in that players must wear predominantly white tennis kit (shirts and socks) in the summer months - although coloured tracksuits may be worn from October to March. Coloured tennis shorts or skirts are acceptable. Non-marking tennis shoes must be worn.

Club kit is available and a price list and contact details can be found by selecting “Policies...” at kdrc.info.

PAYMENT FOR LIGHTS: The committee would like to remind players on courts 5 and 6 that, when the floodlights are being used, then players on BOTH courts must pay for the lights. There is a red light on the floodlight pylons to remind players on that court that they have

not yet paid. Please use the booking system to pay rather than settling behind the bar in cash.

BAR MATTERS: The current form of good weather has happily resulted in many members enjoying an after-match drink outside on the terrace. I would just ask those people to return their glasses inside the clubhouse when they leave and, if they have taken any chairs outside, to also return them inside when they are no longer required. Under the Covid rules, members are no longer allowed to go behind the bar - only the trained bar staff.

We apologise for the difficulties caused recently by the failure of the wifi system which prevented the EPOS system from working. We are currently looking to upgrade the existing system to avoid further problems. However, we should be grateful if those members who were unable to pay on the evenings of Friday 28 May and Saturday 29 May could settle their bar accounts as soon as possible with Della.

FINALLY: Let us hope that the recent good weather holds for the summer, that the government releases us from so many of the current Covid restrictions such that we can move freely once more, and that we all, including our home nation football teams, do ourselves proud in the forthcoming games and tournaments. Have a great June!

Steve Williams
June 2021