



PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER – JULY 2021

It is rumoured that summer has started but a look outside most days reveals rather too many grey clouds for my liking. In addition, it has been colder than average. However, my thanks are due to everyone for playing lots of tennis, the squash courts are back in use and the bar has seen very encouraging turnover. This has been helped by both the football Euro 2020 competition and Wimbledon fortnight, but also the choice of beers. Purity beers are deservedly popular and our club has now attracted the attention of the local CAMRA!

PRESIDENT'S DAY: President's Day on June 27th was very successful thanks to the marvellous organisation of the tournament by Lisa Eyre, ably assisted by Sally Sheen, a delicious tea delivered by our new café partners, RJS, and the enthusiastic response from the players and invited guests.

The floods that hit Dorridge immediately before the tournament were a great concern as the rain water that collected on the cricket field sluiced off across our courts 7 and 8 causing the carpets to ripple. My huge thanks to Charles and Ken for moving into action to get them repaired in time for the tournament – with only minutes to go.

The weather just about held and we had a great afternoon of fun, competitive tennis in which 32 members participated. Congratulations to Noele Stevens and Mike Falzon, winners of the 2021 President's Cup tournament. Runners-up were Helen Beech and Roy Turner (you can see his disappointment in this photo!).

TOURNAMENTS: President's Day heralded the start of the annual tournaments. The full tournament draw, schedule and score sheets for all events (Open and Handicap) are now in the clubhouse. Please note that we will not be using paper booking sheets this year - all court bookings need to be done on Bookit alongside non-tournament players to give all members access to the courts throughout the summer.

Consequently, the tournament is being spread over a longer period this year but please do not leave it to the last minute to play your matches. The first-round matches must be played by Tuesday July 27th, so please ensure you allow enough time (particularly for handicap matches) to complete your match as you will not necessarily receive an extension if you run out of time. This is in order to ensure that all players have the best possible chance to complete their matches. If you have any issues arranging a match, please contact the relevant referee at least 5 days before the play-by date for that round.

Please take a few minutes to review the match etiquette (including clothing), handicap scoring rules and a summarised version of the various schedules. I would also remind everyone to return the balls to the clubhouse after use in the trays that are provided.

EVENTS: There will be a “Super Sunday of Sport” on the 11th of July at the club. Starting at 1pm we are hosting one of the top men's 50+ teams in the country - New Silksworth of Sunderland. An intense match is expected so it should make interesting viewing. The match is on courts 6 and 7 so the adjacent grass area can be used.

At 2pm the Wimbledon men's final will be on the big screen and, of course, at 8pm, the Euro 2021 final kicks off. All welcome in the clubhouse to support England!

CAFÉ: I look forward to welcoming Jody and Rich, operating as RJS Catering, who will be opening and operating the café in the function room from July 12th. Initially they will open the café from 9.30am on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 1pm 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.

Please support Rich and Jody and your club as we aim to make this an important part of the social side of KDRC – offering a fantastic range of teas, coffees, cakes and pastries.

WIFI: We apologise for the difficulties caused recently by the failure of the wifi system which prevented the EPOS system from working. We are now changing to BT for internet and are signing up to BT Sports on Friday 16th July. While we hope that all goes smoothly, it may have some impact on the booking system and the bar payment system. While Friday tends to be one of the quieter days of the week, we ask members to bear with us as the upgrade to the system will provide a far better service for members than we have at present.

SPONSORSHIP: The sponsorship team led by Steve Dann, ably assisted by Gail Seymour and Anne Dann, has made great progress in finding sponsors and advertisers for the club. We have contacted a number of local, and national, businesses and have already attracted three sponsors in our first week of activity. I am very grateful to Steve and the team for all their hard work and am confident that we can attract a lot more sponsors to help the club's finances and achieve the goals that we have set ourselves in taking the club forward.

If any members wish to advertise their businesses, or sponsor the club, or know anyone else who might be interested, please contact either Steve Dann or myself. We don't want anyone to miss out on the opportunities available.

SALLY-ANN: As we all approach a period of almost normality - the bar is open and hopefully all the Covid signs can come down as soon as guidelines allow, I would like to re-introduce Sally-Ann Shaw our Club Administrator.

Sally-Ann started in July last year and is getting to know the nuances of the club, which has been much harder as restrictions seemed to be changing week by week during that time. Initially, it was hoped that she would be at the Club for a couple of hours each day to deal with members' queries and assist in the running of the club. However, that is not proving

practical as we are so pleased to welcome back Pilates and the cafe will be opening from Monday 12th July.

Sally-Ann will be in the clubhouse two mornings a week on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9.30 and 11.30am. She will be working part time from home on the other days and dealing with your emails as and when they come in.

Her main duties will be to assist members with any queries they may have relating to the booking system, floodlight/guest fees, fob issues and replacements, existing membership queries and any general enquiries. Please contact her by email on admin@kdrc.info.

KEN MILLER: Ken Miller, our groundsman, has told us that, at 75, he no longer wishes to work six mornings a week. Given that Ken has worked for the club for thirty-eight years, I guess that we should not be surprised that Ken would at some point wish to retire, but that day was never really expected as he has become part and parcel of the club! I want to pay tribute to Ken's loyalty and diligence over the years and his fantastic service often goes unnoticed by the members.

Ken not only maintains the courts to a wonderful standard but he also cuts the hedges (including the ivy), clears ditches, unblocks drains in the car park and many other things. Charles Pontifex is now on the hunt for a replacement for Ken and if there are any gardeners/handyman/court machine operatives out there who would like to take on this role, or know someone else who might, please let Charles know as soon as possible. Ken is due to work reduced hours in August and will then see how it goes, but typically does not want to leave us in the lurch!

FINALLY: Let's hope that the lockdown ends successfully on July 19th. I would remind members that sweeping of the courts will resume from that date. I am looking forward to the return of the warm weather so that we can all enjoy the club's many activities to the full in the coming weeks.

Steve Williams
July 2021