



Newsletter

A tennis club for everyone

Spring 2024

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NEW MENS TEAM

We are entering a 5th Mens Team into the Liverpool League, captained by Andy Halliwell, who will advise on pre-season practice and selection sessions soon. In the meantime, please contact Andy to express your interest in joining the squad.

The letter from our outgoing president on the inside page mentions the revised management structure which was recently established to take the club forward, comprising 28 roles... 3 of which are contracted (coach, groundsman, cleaner) and the remaining 25 being filled by some 23 member volunteers including one vacancy.

The graphic opposite illustrates who is currently responsible for these various roles, all of whom can be approached directly by members about any and all matters within their particular remit.

The structure includes a 5-person 'management team' which consists of:

Ian Cowhig – who accepted the new role of chairperson and is already known to many members. He joined the club three years ago and is a keen sports allrounder.

Tony Gaynor – who has taken over responsibility for the club's finances and can regularly be found playing both social and league tennis.

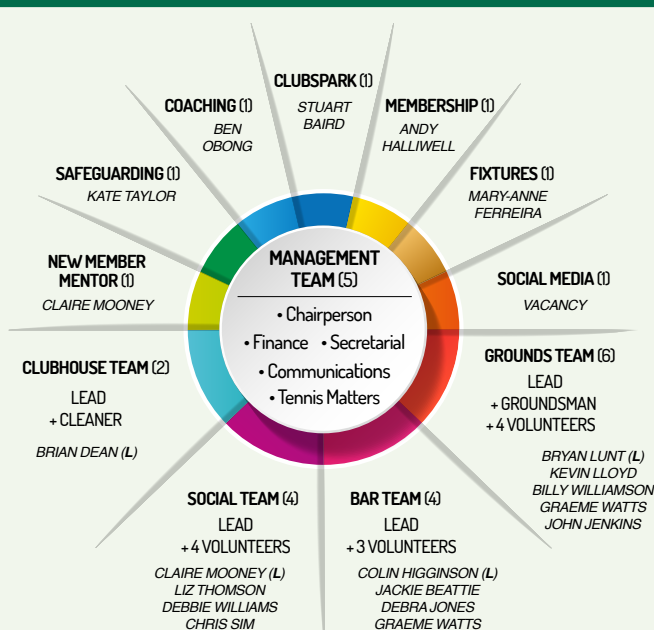
Chris Kelsall – a familiar face, who now looks after a diverse portfolio of responsibilities falling under what was previously the 'club secretary' banner.

Paul Milligan – who continues to manage club communications and marketing.

Greg Doran – has accepted responsibility for taking a 'holistic' view of all tennis matters arising across the club. He is assisted by the club captain Mike Barker.

If you wish to contact any of the team their individual contact details are on the club's website. Alternatively, you can email them collectively on info@georgiadesign.com which is directed to all the above.

Structure



Would you like to attend a management team meeting?

In the interests of transparency we'd like to invite any member, who so wishes, to attend and observe one of our periodic management team (directors) meetings. These generally take place on a midweek evening between 7pm–9pm at a variety of different locations in the region and our intention is to limit attendees to 2 members on each occasion. Contact info@aughtonlawntennisclub.co.uk

The 2024 ...

AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held in the clubhouse on Tuesday 12th March and thanks go to all who attended... the bar certainly did some brisk business!

Alongside the usual business of the AGM there were a majority of "For" votes to support and approve an updated version of the Club Rules, to support and approve the new membership rates for the forthcoming year (up by an average of 5%) and to appoint Ian Cowhig and Tony Gaynor from the management team as new directors.

Full minutes will become available in due course.

Membership Renewals

The membership rates for 2024-2025 are as follows.

- Adult - £220 ... or £240 via SO
- Collegiate - £95
- Junior - £48
- Parental - £58
- Pickleball - £55
- Social - £20



Please check your email inbox for further details from ClubSpark including how to pay.

Tournament Dates

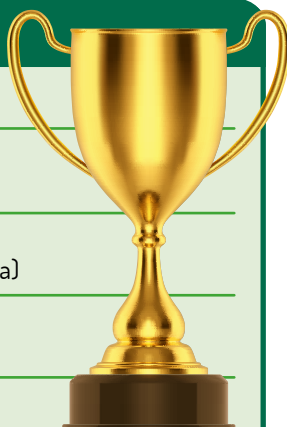
Dates for the following in-house tournaments are:

American Tournaments - Open to all members
Sunday 21st April and Sunday 23rd June

Quasquicentennial Trophy - Ladies Invitation
Either on Sunday 1st or Sunday 8th September (tba)

David Ibison Trophy - Gents Invitation
Sunday 25th August

More details will follow nearer the time.



Court Bookings

As members will know, bookings for courts are made via ClubSpark. When you make a booking you are reserving a **specific court** at a **specific time**.

Therefore, can we politely request that everyone be respectful to their fellow members by surrendering the court they are playing on if it has not been pre-booked or, if you have actually booked to play on a different court.



SOCIAL MEDIA



Your Club Needs YOU



The management team are acutely aware of the important role which social media can potentially play in promoting the club and its facilities, particularly in attracting new members. The club currently have a Facebook presence but, whilst there are occasional posts of interest to members on there, we are not actively using Facebook to 'spread the word'.

Equally, we are not currently using any other social media platforms.

Could you (or someone you know) take on this invaluable role? Probably an hour or so per week from the comfort of your own home would suffice. You must of course understand how to maximise the impact of social media within the local community and surrounding area. You will also have access to the Latest News section of the club's website, to make periodic updates. If a small budget is required (for say paid advertising) that would also be available.

Contact us for more details.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Quiz Night on 15th March which was a great success with profits going into club funds.

Upcoming Social Events 2024

May 19th
Open Day



September 21st
Bongo Bingo

December 14th
Christmas Party



2016 – 2023: A Reflection on Change

Dear Members,

I first came to the club 'in utero' when my mother played tennis here over 70 years ago and the photo shows her sitting with my elder sister outside the Tea Hut... pre clubhouse!

I left the club (and the area) in 1973 when I was married and rejoined in 2013. In 2016 I was asked by the outgoing President if I would stand as new President, subsequently proposed by the committee and elected by the membership at the AGM. Into my second year ALTC celebrated its 125th (quasiquicentennial) anniversary and Ben Obong was recruited as our Head Coach... now a level 5 LTA coach... he has transformed junior tennis at ALTC.

Throughout my presidency I've had the opportunity of working with some extremely talented and extremely hardworking committee members, all of whom have always had the best interests of the club at heart. Working together there have been many achievements with, for example, upgrades to a now 64-year old clubhouse (!) but undoubtedly the most significant has been the delivery of our new all-weather courts, together with various refurbishments to other courts and the surrounding grounds.

A small strategy group of four committee members (with key skills and experience in business, finance and forward planning) worked tirelessly to get this major development off the ground. During the development period there were architects to consult, plans to consider, financial profiling to undertake, arboreal and other surveys to conduct, planning permissions to obtain and of course... finance to find.

We also had to adapt rapidly to the constraints of Covid, arranging various meetings (including an AGM and an EGM with the membership) and during this time other committee members, past and present, took on roles to help make it happen... ultimately progressing to the commissioning and then overseeing of the works themselves.

I am extremely grateful to them all for their time and efforts and would like to formally thank them here. I was so proud when the new courts were officially opened in August 2022 by the LTA President and when I turn the corner behind Court 1 and look across all of our courts, I know it has been worth the numerous hurdles, hoops, and obstacles.

So, as I leave my post as the very last President, I am minded that the club exists in a magical conservation area but, one which costs us significantly to maintain of course. We have recently evolved from a charitable trust into a limited company, with a revised management structure, comprising a small but very able core-management team, who are supported by many dedicated volunteer members in key roles. I wish them all and our new Chair the very best... you have my utmost and ongoing support.

I hope that those who established Aughton Lawn Tennis Club 132 years ago would also be proud of what has been achieved during times of adversity. I'm quite sure my mother would be.

Helena Culshaw



ALTC Coaching and League Review 2023



Coaching - Juniors

We have various weekly junior squads that are available to book on through link below...

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BenjaminObongCoaching/Coaching/Junior>

Coaching - Adults

The launch of our adult programme will commence shortly. Sessions will include Cardio (for All), Rusty Rackets (for beginners/improvers) and Team Training for our various teams in various leagues.

Any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone (07871908187) or by email (benjaminobong@icloud.com)



Mens League

- **1st and 2nd teams** were dogged by injury and there were too many narrow defeats. As a result both teams were relegated. In 2024 they will be playing in divisions B & C respectively. Special mention to Chris Jones who, despite being captain of the 2nd team, had to step up and play the whole season in the 1st team whilst still winning 33% of his matches
- **3rd and 4th teams** were both promoted, well done to the captains Gary Stevens, Andy Halliwell and their loyal squads of players for a successful campaign. These teams will now play in divisions E & F in 2024.

Ladies League

- **1st team** was promoted and will play 2024 season in division A.
- **2nd team** had a successful season and it was great to see some younger ladies playing league tennis for the first time. They retained their placing in division D.

A special thank you to Michaela Higginson who captained both teams, her mantra of 'organisation and communication' is a great example of how to run a league squad.

Southport League

- **1st team** struggled with injuries and tough competition. Well done to Eve Twist, Katherine Bentzen, Jessica Awoyole, Susan Welch and Jan Sullivan who gained most of our sets won during the season. Also, a special mention to Aidan Parr who at just 13 years old stepped up to help the team, playing some great tennis. They will play the 2024 season in A division.
- **2nd team** were unfortunately relegated but, with a bigger squad expected for 2024 we hope for promotion.

Social Tennis

Two American Tournaments, the Quasquicentennial Trophy and the Bison Trophy were all run successfully last year... thanks go to organisers Diane Wilde, Janet Peacock, Helena Culshaw and Paul Milligan. It was especially pleasing to see the Club Championships Finals Day (organised by Mike Barker and Ann-Marie Peterson) take place with glorious weather and a healthy section of the membership on site to watch some superb tennis.

Brian Dean captained the social tennis team with a number of honourable draws and has agreed to continue in this role in 2024. We anticipate that friendly competitions will alternate on Friday evenings with home matches being played by the newly formed Mens 5th team. Thanks also go out to Andy Halliwell, Diane Wilde and Janet Peacock for organising the midweek social tennis.

Junior Tennis

We had 8 various junior teams in the Lancashire League and Southport and District Leagues. With this we had 4 divisional winners and 2 runners up. Well done to all the kids who represented the club throughout a really positive and successful season.

Special Recognition Awards

(At The S&D Junior Awards Night)

Jacob Fagan: For still only being 10yrs off age, Jacob competed for our 10&U, 12&U and 14&U teams, help winning the league for both 10&U and 14&U teams.

Aidan Parr & Lewis Miley: For both winning over 90% of their matches over the season.

Lancashire Summer Leagues 8&Under Team 4th Division (Winners!)

Well done to our 8&Under Team who won their Division.

Players: **Scarlett Hart, Charles McGaw, James Farley, Lucas and Luis Cowan.**

Southport & District Summer League

10&Under Mixed Team 1
1st Division (Winners!)

12&Under Mixed Team 3
2nd Division (Runners-up)

10&Under Mixed Team 2
1st Division (Runners-up)

14&Under Boys Team 1
1st Division (Winners!)

12&Under Mixed Team 1
1st Division (4th)

16&Under Boys Team 1
Division 1 (4th)

12&Under Mixed Team 2
2nd Division (Winners!)

