



Banbury Lawn  
Tennis Club



## **The Golden Season's Club Tournament - Finals!**



**11 am Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

This Sunday, 10th September, marks the culmination of our club summer tournaments with the Finals set to take place across all the events (singles, doubles and mixed, plus plate events).

*Match Secretary Rod Haddrell writes (modestly):* The Men's Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed events have seen some excellent matches and it is quite clear that players have really enjoyed the competition. For the most part, we have been able to accommodate holidays, injuries and work commitments etc and drive 9 championships to a final - just about on schedule. It's been an uplifting experience to watch you eagerly grab hold of the need to organize the games between you on the various WhatsApp groups that we set up, and even have people pushing for the Plate draw to be produced so you could play even more matches!



The great weather this week has helped to allow the inevitable catch up of games into the latter stages of the tournament and, whisper it quietly, it may even hold long enough to help us celebrate a feast of tennis on our Finals Day. Nice, also, that the US has put on a Grand Slam event to provide us with the dessert of their men's final taking place that same evening!

Under the scrutiny of the Chairman Rob Gray (giving some legitimacy to the term "Seeding Committee"), your club's Banbury Tennis League Match Secretary's seedings (mine) have indeed worked themselves out in almost every match.



The result is that the 2 men's top seeds - Matt Dale and Elliot Hunter - will meet in all 3 finals! (barring an upset in the doubles semi-finals yet to be played at time of writing).

As a result, and with the competitive element of your Club craving further opportunity, it was natural to run some Plate events so that those only on the fringe of greatness could have another go at battling to reach a final. The Plate event concept has also given the opportunity for 2 recent members - the talented ladies Ellie Corby and Pia Marie Ramirez, who joined after the closing date of the main competition - to contest another ladies' singles final.



Whilst there will be no questioning the players' fitness with this demanding schedule, it is only fair that we try to schedule some rest for the multiple finalists in between their own finals. I've tried to work this so that players in other finals at least get to watch some of the other events.

Therefore, at the time of writing, (subject to any change):

**Men's Singles Final (1100):** Matt Dale v Elliot Hunter

**Ladies' Singles Plate Final (1200):** Ellie Corby v Pia Marie Fernandes

**Ladies' Singles Final (1300):** Sunny Alsaker v Shirley Bevan

**Men's Singles Plate Final (1330):** *To Be Decided*

**Men's Doubles Final (1430):** *To Be Decided*

**Mixed Doubles Plate Final (1500):**

John Hamer/Penny Simpson v Rod Haddrell/Shirley Bevan

**Men's Doubles Plate Final (1600):** *To Be Decided*

**Mixed Doubles Final (1630):**

Matt Dale/Caro Thom v Elliot Hunter/Jenny Spiers

**Ladies' Doubles Final (to be played at a later date):**

Ruth Parle and Val Swann v Jenny Spiers and Caro Thom



Players will be able to arrive from 10 a.m. if they wish to practise or to complete any matches that may still remain. Play will be on Courts 1-4 and we should be finished by 6pm. There will be some light refreshments available but please also bring along what you fancy and perhaps some savoury sweet snacks to put on the table to share. If you're spectating and not playing that might include an adult drink or two!

Additionally, although trophies and large cash prizes (cash still to be released by Jeremy Hunt) will be awarded, could former trophy winners have a rummage around for any big wooden winner's plaques and return them on Sunday....?



It's been an honour to try to produce a set of tournaments that our club players deserve. For when we do it again next summer it would be good to hear your ideas for what worked well and what could work better next time!

*Rod Haddrell*

## Coaching



Your Committee is most pleased to announce that, 2 days ago, we agreed to enter into a services contract with Rosie Clark Tennis Coaching (RCTC). This contract will provide our club with professionally organised and comprehensive coaching that meets all of our needs.

Rosie will join us as Head Coach and her team will provide us with LTA-accredited tennis professionals whilst also blending together with our own existing coaches. Rosie herself is an

LTA Level 3 Coach and the deserving title holder of the Oxfordshire Development Coach of the Year 2023.

It is probably best to read more about Rosie and RCTC [here](#). Suffice it to say, we are looking forward to future coaching that is more encompassing, more efficiently organised and accounted, improves participation whilst also increasing overall skill levels. Furthermore, we are aiming to publish a slightly-



delayed but restructured Autumn Training Programme on our web site in the immediate future. Please keep an eye out for the changes.

In summary, this is a major initiative for our club and one that we hope ushers us closer to the professional and personal trends of modern coaching, whilst including the latest communication and accounting technologies. We welcome Rosie and her team to our club!

### **Defibrillator**

Following a suggestion at our AGM 2 years ago (thank you, Lyn) we have successfully lobbied Banbury Town Council to install a defibrillator on the Pavilion wall.



Whilst administering CPR, if possible, the first priority is to Ring 999. The emergency medical operator will ask you if the patient is conscious and breathing. If appropriate, they will give you the code to insert into the keypad above the handle. Open, attach and turn on: you could save a life.

Whilst on medical matters, please remember there is a first aid kit hanging up on the notice board in the club house. Details of even minor incidents should be recorded into the adjacent accident book, please.

### **Your Committee & AGM**

As we achieve 50 years we need our Club to thrive for the next 50, too. Whilst we have a new Head Coach, we again have vacancies for a Secretary and an Entertainments Officer. Neither of these posts is particularly arduous – perhaps taking meeting minutes or organising the fish & chips van occasionally. However, they all contribute to “the collective good” and relieve some of the load from your existing and future committee members.

Our club – being a social tennis club – can only be as rewarding as we, as a team, collectively make it. Sure, we can all book a court when we want. But it takes more than that to run a social club, too. Yes, we'd love 2 officers to stand forward at the imminent AGM but we'd also really appreciate more “officers without portfolio”; they will help us develop new ideas and areas, too. Please come and join us.



The AGM is set for 7.30pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September in the Pavilion, which is next to the defibrillator!

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Pavilion  
7.30pm  
Wednesday  
27 September

As well as the usual summary of events and accounts, we may need to vote in some minor changes to the Rules and Constitution to clarify the inclusion of professional tennis coaching. Moreover, we look

forward to introducing Rosie to our members and for you to ask questions and to put forward ideas.

## Summary

Fifty years of club tennis is a magnificent achievement. Whilst there have been some important developments it is easy to lose them into the mists of time. Fortunately for us, a founder member – our illustrious John Hamer – has taken the time to record his thoughts and remaining memories onto paper (actually, into digital media). We will be publishing that record before the AGM – and entertaining it is too.

We'd love to see as many members and their families at the tournament this Sunday. It promises to be a glorious day, in more ways than one. - Happy Tennis!

