

Barnet Junior Hacker

The Barnet L.T.C. Junior Newsletter

March 2010

Editor – John Hall (Tel: 020-8482-0518) E-Mail: JohnH811@aol.com

Junior Night

Friday Junior Night will begin on **Friday 23rd April** and run until Friday 16th July, excluding 5th June (Half Term). It will also run after the Summer Holidays for a further 4 weeks from Friday 3rd September – Friday 24th September. Juniors of all ages and abilities are welcome to take part in organized singles and doubles match-play, supervised by one of the coaching team. Junior Night runs between 4.30 and 6.30p.m.

Junior Night is a great opportunity for all junior members to meet and play with a variety of opponents. Mini tennis members are welcome. When courts permit we will allow players with ratings to compete for ratings points. If you have a friend who might like to join the club you can bring him/her along to Junior Night for 1 free visit. After that they must join to attend.



Please could any parents, adult club members or student members who are willing to help organize Junior Night please ring or e-mail me. It's too much for 1 coach to manage especially if there are quite a few young mini tennis players there who need extra attention. The more helpers there are the better the event can be – don't worry if you can't help every week.

Free Junior Tournaments!

Once again there will be free junior competitions on Bank Holidays this year. See the Diary of Events on the back of 'The Barnet Hacker' for a list of these. The first one is on Easter Monday (April 5th) and details are on the Easter Events sheet. You can enter either by e-mail, sign-up sheets or entry form.

Junior Team Trials

We will be running teams in various leagues this year, and also arranging some friendlies. Team trials will take place on **Saturday 20th March at 3.00p.m.** These will be for 12 and Under, 14 and Under, and 16 and Under Boys teams. Please write your name on the list in the clubhouse or contact John Hall by phone or e-mail (shown above) if you would like to take part. Players who do not express an interest will not be selected.

Matchplay Days

Doug and I have already started running matchplay days to complement the coaching programme. These will be for all standards of play, but to take part players must have a British Tennis Membership and rating. Players will be put into teams and take part in singles and doubles matches. The singles matches will count towards ratings. We are now allowed to use a 20 minute timed formula for matches at 10.1 and 10.2 level so that gives us the chance to get lots of matches played. At 9.2 level and above we will need to use other formats. If any parents would be willing to help with refreshments on these days, please let me know.

Congratulations!

I have recently received a list of the number of matches played by every junior with a rating. The top 5 are listed below. There is a full list on the junior notice-board.

1. Luke Jupp	53 matches
2. Robert Kraushar	52 matches
3. Stephen Williams	48 matches
4. Andrew Hamatsos	47 matches
5. George Vivian	39 matches

Barnet L.T.C. is currently 14th in Middx. for juniors playing 6 or more matches. That's good, but I'm hoping we can break into the top 10 this year!

New Coaching Awards and Matchplay

We are introducing some new ideas into our coaching sessions this year, to help increase motivation. There will be a 'Player of the Week' award in group sessions for the player who puts in the most effort. The trophy is kept for a



week then handed back at the next session. We are also working on an awards scheme based on achieving certain skills. This will also be a good indicator on who is ready to move up to another group, and should motivate players to practice more to improve their games. Now we can count 20 minute matches for ratings results this will give us the chance for pupils to play more meaningful matches within their coaching sessions. All feedback is welcome on these new ideas.

Please now turn the page for even more junior news!

Road to Wimbledon

We will be running a **Road to Wimbledon** event this year for boys aged 14 and under (born 1996 or later). The final will be on Saturday 15th May. Qualifying rounds will be held starting in late March or April. Players will arrange their own matches – the event may be knock-out or round-robin depending on the size of the entry. The winner and runner up go through to the county finals to play against successful boys from other clubs. More details and an entry list will appear on the junior notice-board – closing date for entry is 20th March. You can also enter via e-mail to JohnH811@aol.com – entry is free!

Junior Court Rules

I thought this would be a good opportunity to remind you of the rules regarding court priority. Adults have priority on courts apart from court 7 which is a designated Junior Court. Juniors have priority over adults on this court. On some occasions when court 7 needs to be used (for example, when a club match takes place on Claytex) an alternative Junior Court will be given, and indicated by the Junior Court sign on the court fencing. There is no Junior Court available for the first 8 weeks of Ladies' and Men's Night (Tuesday and Wednesdays from 6.30p.m.). Court 8 is also a junior court when it is not being used for coaching. When any coaching is taking place there is only 1 Junior Court in operation.

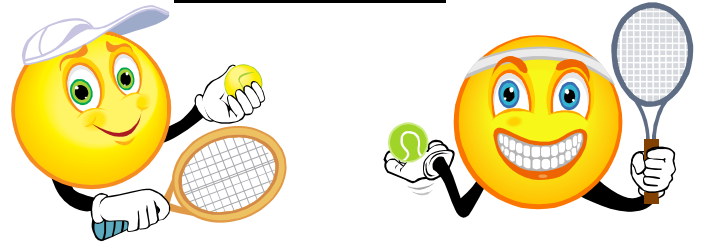
Please be fair with court usage on the Junior Court. No singles play should take place if all the courts are being used and other juniors are waiting to play (ask the players waiting to join in for a doubles). Players should only play for 1 set if others are waiting. If players are practicing and not playing points then they should play for a maximum of 20 minutes and then let others come on. Juniors with senior status count as adults so **do not** have priority on junior courts. If an adult is on court with a junior then they would count as juniors in terms of court priority. Only a maximum of 4 players per court are allowed on court at once. It is not permissible to take on large groups of players, with waiting players milling around the sides and back of the court. This can lead to players who are not part of the group being excluded. All waiting players must wait outside the fences.



Finally, please treat the club property with respect and do not leave litter around the clubhouse and courts.

Unbelievably some players are still leaving chewing gum on the courts when they finish with it. This damages the courts surfaces and is very unpleasant for the person who treads on it!

Double the Fun!



Another brand new event starting after Easter – I'm calling it the Doubles Challenge, and here's how it works. First of all, and you might have guessed this part, you enter with a partner. If you don't know anyone to enter with but want to take part then let me know and I'll see if I can match you up. Pairs are grouped according to ability. This may take the form of several divisions, leagues, or even a ladder, depending on the number of entries.

Players arrange their own matches within a certain time period. Each match consists of 2 x 20 minute singles, with the 2 players waiting timing the match. If the score is tied at 1 match all the players pair up to play a match tie-break doubles shoot-out to decide the winner! A longer format can be used at quiet times when other players are not waiting. A full list of rules will be posted on the notice-board. Mini Tennis players can enter, although their format may be slightly different. To enter please write your name on the list on the Junior Notice-board or e-mail your entry to JohnH811@aol.com – if you need a partner just write 'Partner Wanted'.

Competition for All

Although we have a very active competition programme at the club, there is also a wealth of other tournaments you can enter at other local clubs. To get the most out of competition you should try to play against players of a similar standard. To help with this competitions are graded from 7 up to 1. Space does not permit a full explanation of all the different grades. Please go to the L.T.A. website and see the section on 'Choosing the Right Competition' for more details. A copy of this will be on the Junior Notice-Board or in the dispenser. Please ask me or Doug if you need any guidance with your tournament entries.

Parents Evening

Please return the Parents' Evening application form which is being sent out. It would be great to see you at the meeting and hear your views, so please come if you possibly can. The role of the parent in helping young players is enormous and has many aspects. I'm sure the meeting will benefit coaches, parents and players. Don't forget there's **free** social membership of the club for parents of junior members - we have a bar, Sky TV and there's lots of great tennis on view too!