

First Serve



Chandos Lawn Tennis Club Newsletter April 2011

Welcome to April's edition of the Chandos newsletter. Oh, spring has arrived and what a relief after a long and very cold winter! So much to look forward to! The Ellesse adult and junior tournaments are taking place in July and August respectively. Plus, the long awaited annual Club Tournament, where you get the opportunity to test your playing skills against other members culminating in Finals Day on Sunday 19 June begins in early June. The Middlesex League matches get underway this month and, once again, we have 5 Men's and 5 Ladies teams entered. Middlesex Cup

and Aegon matches also get underway (don't forget to check the fixtures at www.chandosltc.com for court availability) captained by Natalie Neri and Gunther Darkey.

Membership renewals are taking place at the moment so the office is even busier than usual! If you don't have a renewal form, please do contact the office.

Lastly, good luck for the season ahead and to Andy Murray - roll on Wimbledon!

[Laurel Alper](#) - Editor and Club Secretary

Quiz Night at the Club

On Sunday 13 March, Chandos hosted a quiz evening led by super quizmaster, Toby Holman. We had over 60 people and served a choice of pizza or salad nicoise followed by chocolate fudge cake, apple and blackcurrant crumble with ice-cream, strawberry mousse and jumbo chocolate & strawberry swiss rolls.

It was a challenging quiz with Suzanne Viner's team eventually winning. Thanks to Don who worked really hard setting up the room and Ruby and Linda who made the most yummy desserts. Thanks to Rafael who helped Linda in the kitchen. Lastly, thanks to all the members who supported the event.

Guest Fees

We welcome guests of members' to the club. We would ask you to please sign your guest in and pay prior to playing. If the office is closed, there are "Guest Fee" envelopes located by the office. After signing-in, just pop

the envelope through the office letterbox. Please remember that members' can only bring the same guest to the club up to 4 times during the membership year (31 March - 1 April).

Online Bookings~Summer Season

The summer season began on 1 April and the online system has been adjusted accordingly! Please note, if it is raining you can book courts on the day either from your own computer (desktop or mobile device) or from the club's terminal. Please remember that, if the courts haven't been used the hour before you want to play, the lights will come on within 5 minutes of you booking a court. However, if the lights have been used previously, they will automatically go off 5 minutes past the hour. If you book a court after 5 minutes (i.e when

the lights have gone off) it will take approximately 20 minutes for the lights to come back on. If you book a court when the roof is closed and then it is opened (due to good weather) at the time of your booking, please contact the office within 24 hours to obtain a refund. Please do read the FAQ's for the online booking system (only takes a few minutes) found at www.chandosltc.com for fuller explanations of the booking rules. Please don't hesitate to contact the office, if you have further queries after reading the FAQ's.

Club News

Changing of Indoor Court Bulbs



A bulb blew in mid-December and the company couldn't get to us until mid-February to change it! Hard to believe, but, there are only 2 companies in the UK with the engineers and necessary equipment to change the indoor court bulbs. We had to find a solution, and, we have! From now on, our groundsman, Don, will change the bulbs as and when

necessary and within 24 hours. Chandos has purchased scaffolding to enable Don to reach up to 80ft in order to change them. It was hugely frustrating for you, the members, having to play without the correct lighting and for us, in the office, who were continually badgering the company to come and being told they had no-one available!

Ball Machine

Chandos has purchased a ball machine so if you don't have a partner to practice with, why not have a go! It costs just £6 per hour. The machine is stored in the shed. Just ask at the office or one of the coaches who will give you access. All you need to do is sign when you take the machine and again when you return it (by the office). You can pay at the office

and when it's closed, just pop £6 in one of the brown envelopes on the desk and post through the office letter-box. There are sockets on the posts outside courts 1 and 4. You can set the speed to suit your play and if you need some practice drills or any help, please don't hesitate to ask one of the coaches.

New Coffee/Tea Machine

As you have probably seen, our new coffee/tea machine arrived in early March. The coffee is far superior to what we had before and was tested by various members before we bought it! We hope it will compensate when the canteen is closed. There are various cof-

fees available from expresso's to latte's and a delicious mocha and hot chocolate drink. Please note that the machine does not give change and accepts all coins bar the £2 coin. Also, please choose strong/mild strength and sugar before pressing your drink option.

Hitoshi Abe

Edward Freedman, our Club Committee Chairman and Suzanne Viner, a long-standing member and our Veteran's Team Captain contacted Hitoshi Abe who moved back to Tokyo with his family. Both were concerned about him and his family after the devastating earthquake and subsequent tsunami. We were all thrilled to hear that, although he was on the 31st floor of a building on the day the quake hit, he escaped unharmed. He was

very shaken and it took him some 5 hours to get home that night. Hitoshe says he really misses his time at Chandos (he left in 2009) and has unforgettable memories. His wife, Kazuko and mum are fine too and luckily his daughter is studying in London at the moment.

Hitoshi is certainly missed at the club and we are simultaneously relived and delighted that he is safe and well.

Irene's Back!

I am absolutely thrilled to inform you that Irene, who previously worked in the canteen for many years, has returned to the fold. Irene left around this time last year and, if truth be told, we've never quite managed to replace her and I am so looking forward to seeing her on Fridays and Sundays! Irene will also be helping out with match meals and

during the frenetic summer at the club. For those of you who don't know her, Irene is a fabulous cook and specialises in Malaysian cuisine. Utterly tempting! Please pop by the canteen and say hi! By the way, she's also a great tennis player and has been a long-standing player in the ladies 3rd team.

Club News

Annual Club Tennis Tournament



The annual club tournament will, once again, be organised by Sultan Gangji. The sign-up sheets will be on the club notice-board at the end of May and we would encourage you all to have a go! It's a great opportunity to pit your

wits as well as your playing skills against other members. Some players will be seeded so everyone's in with a chance! Email notification will be sent to all members nearer the time (coaching members are not eligible).

Busy Match Season Starts Soon!

As many of you will know, the busy Middlesex League, Aegon, Middlesex Cup, Ellesse and Club tournaments are about to begin. There are times when court access will be restricted. Please check the club's website, www.chandosltc.com for all fixture dates.

Courts are particularly busy during the Ellesse and Club tournaments. We try our very best to keep courts free, at all times, for members but you are advised to check availability during these times. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the Club Secretary.

Coaching Membership

Our coaching membership category is now a year old! Coaching memberships are available for members who wish to only hit with a coach. This could be an individual or a doubles lesson. This category is available Mon-

day through Fridays. A coaching membership is less expensive than paying the £6 guest fee each time you have a lesson. For more information, please contact Club Secretary.

Membership Directory - Now Online

For many years, a membership directory was published and sent by post to all members at the start of the membership year for ease of contacting other members. Now, the directory can be found via the online booking system. You can also amend your personal contact details. However, the online system and our membership database are not compatible so, please do still inform the office of any con-

tact changes. We can also change your online details for you. This is a useful aid for contacting other players to arrange games. Please be assured that only members of the club can see member details. Please see the online FAQ's at: www.chandosltc.com for access to the directory.

Thanks Don ~ Groundsman

It's long overdue to pay tribute to Don, our reliable and efficient Groundsman. Don's duties include looking after the courts, grounds, helping with food stocks and storage and general maintenance. This year he has added opening and closing the bubble roof and changing lightbulbs. If you see him hanging

off the roof, don't worry, he has full safety harness and equipment. Don recently spent dark hours in the basement re-varnishing our garden furniture including all 21 benches! He had to work in the basement as it was too cold outside this winter! He keeps the wheels rolling and is a valuable member of the team!

Tennis News

Pete and Gunther - Joint Head Coaches



Chandos is delighted to announce that, with immediate effect, Pete and Gunther have taken on the joint responsibilities of Head Coach with administrative support from Laurel. Some aspects will fall on different shoulders - Pete will concentrate on mini-tennis programmes and Gunther on squads. Pete will continue to oversee all the Ladies teams

and Gunther all the Men's. The club aims to have plenty of Pro-Am's and mini-tournaments which Pete will organise. Please feel free to contact Pete or Gunther with any suggestions you may have. We are sure this will be a great partnership as the huge workload involved will be shared and we all look forward to working together for the members.

2 New Coaches

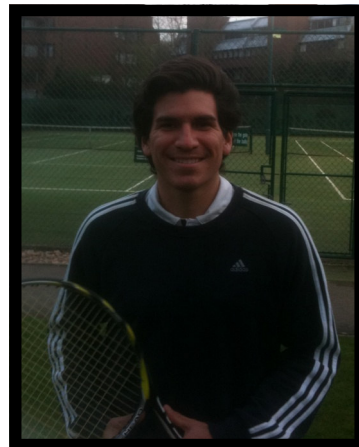
We are delighted to introduce 2 new coaches to Chandos, one home-grown and the other

an experienced and well-travelled player. Please find further details below.

Luis Gomez - New Coach

Chandos would like to welcome our new coach, Luis Gomez to the club. Our well established coaches tend to get booked up during busy times i.e. evenings and over the weekend and we couldn't service all the enquiries so, after a long and thorough search, we are delighted to introduce Luis. Luis hails from well established tennis-stock! His uncle is Andres Gomez, the French Open Champion '90 and former world no. 4 and his cousin is Nicholas Lapentti, former world no. 6. Luis, himself, has represented Ecuador as a junior and was ranked no. 5. More recently, he has coached in Australia, Canada and Ecuador so has plenty of experience. He is Tennis Canada coach level 2 qualified. Luis charges £20 an hour for lessons.

If you would like to book, please call him on 07788 514851 or email: luifer_gomez@hotmail.com.



Sizya - New Hitting Coach

Many of you will know Sizya from when he was one of our extremely talented juniors. Now, as a young man, he has started work at the club as a Hitting Coach. He is available mainly on Thursdays, Fridays and the weekend but do call him for other days as he has a few slots available then too. Sizya is committed, friendly and will definitely improve your play! He has been ranked in the top 10 Junior national tennis rankings from 12&U to 16&U age groups, He is a County Cup 18&U player and also a regular in our Men's 1st team. Sizya has also worked as an Assistant Coach in our junior programmes and would be perfect for practise with our younger players. He is very reasonably priced at just £15

per hour. He can be contacted on 07955 422536 or you can email him at: sizya@live.com.



Match News

Special Thanks to Suzanne Viner



Chandos would like to thank Suzanne Viner, the ex-Ladies 2nd team Captain. Suzanne was captain for many years and worked extremely hard organising the players and sorting out fixtures. Sadly, due to personal commitments, Suzanne had to resign at the beginning of the season although she has re-

tained her Veteran's captaincy. Suzanne remains a firm member of the club and I'm sure she'll be playing in our annual Club Tournament and giving the juniors a run for their money! A huge thank you Suzanne for all your hard work over many years.

Ladies Nat Vets Inter-Club Championship

On Saturday 26 March our Ladies National Veterans 40+ played in the Inter-Club Championships against Chiswick Riverside at their club, captained by Suzanne Viner. I am delighted to report that Chandos won convincingly by 4 rubbers to nil. With thanks to Suzanne and the other players,

Daniela Strebel, Ani Slaughter and Linda Rennie. A great result especially as it was the 40+ category and the players qualified for the 50+ category!

Men's Aegon 1st Team v Ipswich Sports Club

On Sunday 3 April our Men's Aegon 1st team, captained by Gunther Darkey was scheduled to play Ipswich Sports Club at Chandos. Unfortunately, the Ipswich Sports Club team had a few problems, one of them being extremely

late for the match and, consequently, a walk-over was granted. The players for Chandos were: Gunther Darkey (Captain), Pietro Ansaldo, Artiom Kolpakov, Sizya Kivanda and Chris Anguelov.

Team Captains

A big welcome back to our regular team captains and to the new ones! Team captains have a committed job ensuring players are available for matches, organising practice sessions, collecting match money and generally supporting the players. It takes organisation and a lot of hard work to ensure things run smoothly. Good luck for the coming season guys and a huge thank you from the club. The Men's captains are: Aegon, Middlesex Cup & Middlesex League 1st team, Gunther Darkey. Middlesex League 2nd team, Pete

Quek. 3rd team, Paul Melikian. 4th team, Mark Freedman and 5th team, Jonathan Salt. The Ladies captains are: Aegon, Middlesex Cup & Middlesex League 1st team, Natalie Neri. Middlesex League 2nd team, Lise Szigeti. 3rd team, Lisa Kagan. 4th team, Shelley Floyd and 5th team, Henriette Levring. Ladies Veterans 40+, Suzanne Viner. With thanks to Pete who oversees all the teams and Vince who looks after the Ladies 2nd and 3rd teams.

Junior News



On Sunday 3 April our Chandos junior U12 boys played in the Aegon League against Lensbury. The team were: Alex Zuckerman, Fortis Simons, Thomas Belin and Thomas Rigny. Our Chandos junior stormed to victory

winning decisively 1-6. May I take this opportunity of thanking Mark Simons, the junior team captain who looks after the boys.





Junior News cont.....



Ellesse Junior Tournament

The Ellesse junior tournament begins at Chandos on 1 August sponsored by Ellesse and referred by Brenda Stewart. Application forms will be available online via the LTA website in June and details will be emailed to all junior members and mini-tennis players nearer the time.

Mini-Tennis Summer Term

The new and updated Mini-Tennis and Squad Junior programme starts week of 25 April and runs right through to Saturday 9 July. There are a few minor changes from the winter programme so please check the application form. You will find the form online at: www.chandosltc.com which you can download and send in payment by cheque or you can call the office when we can take payment by credit card. If you are unsure which session is suitable for your child, please contact one of our Head Coaches, Pete Quek (pqten@yahoo.com) or Gunther Darkey (gunthergee@aol.com). Our Junior Academy is well established and perfect for introducing your child to tennis as well as helping more advanced players reach the next level.

Easter Holiday Camp - Extended Time

Our Easter holiday camps begin on Monday 11 April and end on 21 April. We are running an extended camp from 930 to 3pm for ages 9+ of intermediate level due to popular demand. Camps are suitable for all levels, from complete beginner to the more experienced player. Certificates are awarded at the end of the week on the final day of the camp. Please note, payment is required prior to the course starting to avoid disappointment. Please call the office to pay by credit card or download the application form from the website: www.chandosltc.com and send in payment by cheque. If you have any questions about the camp, please email: coaches@chandosltc.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Junior Team Captains

The club would like to thank, Mark Simons, Kara Dressel. James Freedman and Richard Laciny who, respectively, look after the junior girls and boys teams. Apart from the time they spend arranging fixtures they support the players, travelling with them to matches and have been committed to the players and club for many years. Thank you for all your hard work. Thanks also to Pete, Head Coach who oversees the junior teams.

Girls U16 v Gosling

On Saturday 2 April, our Girls U16 junior team took on the girls of Gosling at Chandos. Unfortunately, we lost the match but put up a valiant fight! The Chandos team were: Emily Laciny, Zahra Naqvi, Eva Giannopoulos and Darryl Reyes. Many thanks to Richard Laciny for looking after the team and all his hard work with the juniors. Both teams enjoyed sandwiches and crisps after the match provided by Ruby.



Chandos Stalwart's

It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to our long-standing stalwart's of the Club. Some of these senior players have been members for some 25 years and play regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This merry group are led by Ron Frankel who diligently arranges games enjoyed by all. Then these lovely gentlemen entertain themselves with lunches provided by their favourite cook, Ruby. Ron Frankel (Hon. Captain) has written a brief history:

The Chandos Seniors were formed by Ron Frankel some 10 years ago. Most of us have been members for over 25 years and longer! We play for about 2 to 3 hours about 3 or 4 times a week and start at 1pm whatever the weather.

Sometimes we even sweep the snow away so that we can play! Quite often we are the only ones playing and the other six courts are empty. There are some mashiganas who even play in shorts!

Our combined ages add up to 1,131. From 65 to 83 years old.

These very experienced players use their own balls as they are very particular about the

bounce! (Tennis balls, of course)! We find they bounce higher and are easier to hit. The drop shots and lobs are getting harder to return but it makes good exercise for us. There are 15 players at present. We prefer to play on the Astroturf courts as we notice that many of the younger players in the Club now wear knee bandages. Let's hope they can still compete when they get to our age!

The Seniors are: Ron Frankel (Hon. Captain), Alex Sofizide, Alan Brenner, Maurice Monina, Michael Shafran, Aubrey Woolfson, Ronnie Hendon, Gerald Viner, Leon Viner, Max Lerner, Warren Boston, Geoffrey Ognall, Joe Berliner, Richard Keller and Paul Mercado. We welcome new members but we have a long waiting list.

Thank you Ron and all the players for supporting Chandos for all these years. It is lovely seeing you play each week.



From left: Ron Frankel, Michael Shafran, Peter Butters, Joe Berliner, Maurice Monina, Alex Sofizade, Aubrey Wolfson, Ron Hendon



Discounts for Members

Newsletter Submissions



Let me extend an open invitation to all members to submit articles for the newsletter. We are keen for any member stories, reports on adult and junior-matches or tournaments that you par-

ticipate in. Pictures are also welcome, so please bring your camera along to the club and record some Chandos history! Just email your story/article or pictures to laurel@chandosltc.com.

tennisnuts.com

A great opportunity to buy tennis gear at discounted prices from tennisnuts. Members can claim a 5% discount (excluding balls, shuttles and machines) online or in store at tennisnuts.com. This is on top of already discounted web prices on raquets, shoes and

clothing (you will see the discounted prices). Members can log on at: <http://www.tennisnuts.com/shop/clubs/html>. User name is: Chandos and the password is: discount.



Euro sports has a long established relationship with Chandos and we are delighted to let you know that we have negotiated a 10% discount on all items (must produce membership card at point of purchase). Furthermore, all racquets over £100 are subject to a 20% discount. Please note sale items are not discounted. Euro Sports is a family business which was established in 1976. They are primarily a racquet and cricket specialist but also carry an extensive range of other sporting equipment. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience that is becoming increasingly rare in the sporting arena and provide a traditional service. Dip Patel, owner, is the longest serving stringer at Wimbledon and has strung tennis rackets for the top players for nearly thirty years. Euro sports carry a vast range of tennis racquets,

footwear, clothing and accessories. They also stock cricket equipment and clothing throughout the year.

Euro Sports was one of the first UK stockists of the groundbreaking MBT shoes and carry the full range.

Euro Sports is located at 1 New College Parade, Finchley Road, Swiss Cottage, NW3 5EP

Telephone: 0207 586 5897

Email: eurowswiss@aol.com

Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30-18:00 Sun 11:00-17:00

Parking: Although Finchley Road is a red route, you can park in the 1 hour boxes provided between 10.00 and 16.00 Mon to Sat with no restrictions on Sundays.

Editor: Laurel Alper. Thanks for additional reports to: Pete Quek, Gunther Darkey, Richard Laciny, Suzanne Viner and Ron Frankel, Thanks to Don for pictures. All submissions and correspondence to: laurel@chandosltc.com