

SPRING 2024



Wivenhoe Tennis Club

www.wivenhoe.tennis.club.org.uk

WINTER LEAGUE REPORT – Adrian Clark

This year's Winter League was completed on time, despite having the wettest October and the wettest February on record! Well done to everyone who played: they showed great forbearance in the face of atrocious weather at times! Spring Lane took all the titles on offer this year. Spring Lane A won the men's league, though Spring Lane C were only two sets behind. Spring Lane B came third, a few more sets behind.

In the Ladies' league, Spring Lane A won fairly convincingly, with Dedham A coming second.

In the Mixed league, Spring Lane B were run-away winners but there was a tie for second place between Spring Lane A and Kirby Red. In fact, this was a pretty hotly-contested league and it was not clear who was going to come second until the last couple of matches.

With the matches now over, Wivenhoe's floodlights are being replaced with new LED ones, so next year's Winter League matches should be bathed in beautiful not-quite-sunlight. Let us all hope that the weather will be better!

You can now follow us on Instagram:

@wivenhoetennisclub

Summer Leagues

The Colchester and District summer league is now underway. We have seven teams entered. If you are interested in playing, please contact the relevant captain:

Ladies' A: *Jamie Champion*

Ladies' B: *Claire Smee*

Men's A: *Jamie Champion*

Men's B: *Mark Wallington*

Men's C: *Steve Oldacre*

Mixed A: *Jamie Champion*

Mixed B: *Theo Richmond*

Friendly League captains are:

Ladies': *Denise Thompson*

Men's: *Paul Ketchley*

Mixed: *Christine Clark*

SUMMER EVENTS

We have another exciting programme planned for the season, including:

- Monday 6 May – Pickleball Launch event, 12-4pm
- Monday 27 May – Club Tennis Tournament, 12-4pm
- Sunday 9 June – Pickleball Tournament, 12-4pm
- Sunday 7 July – Family Fun Day, 12-4pm

If you are able to help with any of these events, please speak to a member of the committee (*see below*).

PICKLEBALL

The big new development for the club will be the introduction of Pickleball this Spring, starting with the Launch Event on 6 May and a tournament on 9 June. Many club members already play and Jamie has just qualified as a coach. We will be providing equipment and training sessions and have scheduled weekly Club Sessions (below). Do come and give this exciting new sport a try. Both Tennis and Pickleball are covered in annual subs.

THANK YOU

We are extremely grateful to

- R Baldwin Electrical for the installation of the new floodlights
- Kevin Bax for cleaning the courts and laying down the Pickleball lines
- Colchester Borough Council for a donation of £800 to provide the Pickleball lines
- Theo and Mark for re-roofing the shed
- The unnamed heroes who got the central toilet back up and running

CLUB SESSIONS

These are open to all members to come along and play a game, usually doubles, with whoever else comes to that session. You may like to plan ahead via the WhatsApp groups. The floodlights are available on dark evenings.

Tennis

Monday 1-3pm (Ladies)

Tuesday from 6pm

Friday 9.30-11.30am

Sunday 11am-1pm (University - PTO)

Pickleball*

Wednesday 12-2pm

Thursday from 6pm

Saturday 3-5pm

* *once courts are ready*

These sessions are covered by your annual subscription, as are court bookings made via ClubSpark.

WTC Committee 2024-25

President: *Brian Coyne*

Chair: *Sean Hayes*

Secretary: *Andrea Williams*

Treasurer: *Mark Wallington*

Coach: *Jamie Champion*

Match Secretary: *Rosie Pedlow*

Membership Secretary: *Mark Wallington*

Safeguarding: *Caroline Spencer*

Webmaster: *Adrian Clark*

Publicity: *Andrea Williams*

Pickleball: *Denise Thompson*

Committee member: *Theo Richmond*

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Our new partnership with the University struggled to get underway over the winter due to the logistics of arranging a community session in the bubble that our members could attend without joining the University Sports Centre. This has now been sorted and the sessions will commence on Sundays from **28 April**, 11am-1pm.

Another benefit of the partnership has been the recruitment of students into the club and the result has been some stunning match successes as Jamie outlines below in an article he wrote for the University recently.

Wivenhoe Tennis Club Empowers Essex University Students, Leading to Triumph

In a testament to the power of collaboration and community engagement, Wivenhoe Tennis Club and Essex University students have joined forces, resulting in a journey marked by empowerment, camaraderie, and triumphs both on and off the court.

The partnership between Wivenhoe Tennis Club and Essex University emerged from a shared recognition of the potential benefits of engaging with the university's diverse student body. The club, known for its commitment to fostering tennis talent and community spirit, saw an opportunity to extend its reach and impact by opening its doors to students eager to explore the sport. Wivenhoe Tennis Club wasted no time in implementing initiatives aimed at welcoming students into the fold. From discounted membership rates to tailored events catering to various skill levels, the club ensured that Essex University students had ample opportunities to participate in tennis, whether through playing, coaching, or volunteering. This commitment to inclusivity and accessibility laid the foundation for a partnership that would yield remarkable results. The summer of 2023 bore witness to the fruits of this collaboration, as Wivenhoe Tennis Club achieved unprecedented success across various leagues and competitions. From victories in district premier divisions to triumphs in national club leagues, the club's achievements underscored its prowess and determination on the court.

However, beyond the trophies and accolades, it was the experiences and testimonials of the students themselves that truly captured the essence of this partnership.

Rittik Anand, 1st Team Player: *"As a member of the 1st team, I had the pleasure of experiencing the thrill of competition alongside my fellow teammates. Winning the cup was a testament to our collective effort and dedication, and it remains a highlight of my tennis journey."*

Abby Fung, 1st Team Player: *"Our team dynamic was unlike any other; we truly felt like a family. The support and camaraderie we shared both on and off the court were integral to our success."*

Iryna, 2nd Team Player: *"Joining the second team allowed me to develop my skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. Every session was filled with laughter and camaraderie, and I am grateful for the friendships I formed."*

Amore Castelyn, 1st Team Player: *"The Summer of 2023 was a memorable one for our club. Despite the challenges we faced, our team remained strong and determined, buoyed by the unwavering support of our fellow club members."*

As the testimonies of these students attest, the partnership between Wivenhoe Tennis Club and Essex University transcends mere athletic achievements. It embodies the values of inclusivity, collaboration, and personal growth, serving as a shining example of the transformative power of sport in bringing communities together.

As we look towards the future, it is clear that the bond between Wivenhoe Tennis Club and Essex University will continue to flourish, inspiring future generations of tennis enthusiasts and fostering a legacy of excellence both on and off the court.

Jamie Champion
Club Coach