

# The Backhand

Summer 2006

The Newsletter of Worcester Lawn Tennis Club



## Floodlights

Well they are here at last, the new light meters are in operation and the lights are available for use now. There will be an official opening and switch on later in the year as the nights draw in. It was originally planned for June or July but the nights are so light then that there would be little point.

There are warning lights that flash on the lamp posts when there is 5 minutes of light time left. These flashing lights have also been installed for the existing lights on courts 4, 5, 6 and 7. When the lights go out there will be a short period that some lights will remain on so that there will be no more fumbling in the dark.

If the lights go out you **MUST** wait 15 minutes before switching them on again. This is to allow them to cool down. The bulbs are very expensive and switching them on before they cool down could cause them to blow.

## **CLUB OPEN DAY**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2006**

**10.00am - 5.00pm**

*Please come along and play tennis, we had a good turn out last year with members playing social tennis with prospective new members.*

*The April open day was great, 30 visitors came and as a result we introduced 12 new members.*

*Introduce a friend and **GET A DISCOUNT** off next years membership*

*Ask a committee member for details*

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## **PRESIDENTS CUP**

**10.00 am**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

**Come join in the fun. When you arrive your name will be drawn with a mixed partner. Play 4 games with and 4 games against your partner in a round robin tournament. The number of games you win will decide your overall position and the top two couples play off in a final. Last years event was a hoot with some great tennis (and some not so great) but at least I tried!**

**Don't forget - the more the merrier and there may even be a BBQ.**

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED**

**TO ATTEND**

**THE ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**

**AT THE WHITEHOUSE HOTEL**

**WORCESTER**

**ON**

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006**

**Watch for details in clubhouse**

## **More social tennis ?**



**Friday evenings 6.30 – 10 and Sunday afternoons 2 – 5 turn up and play**

## **OPEN MIXED TOURNAMENT**

**We are looking to run an open mixed tournament at the club on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006.**

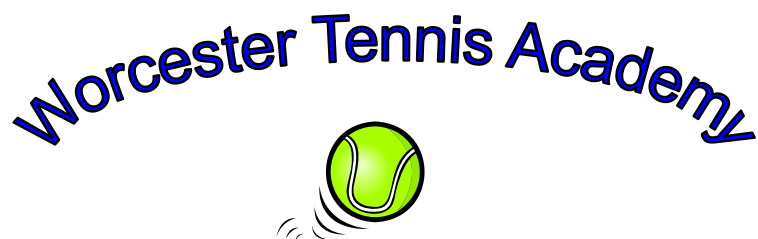
**We will advertise this event regionally but your help is vital.**

**Please spread the word to attract players from other clubs and support this event.**

**An excellent opportunity for non-team members to challenge for a team place!**

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## Worcester Academy Update

As always....lots to report in this edition....

Many of our juniors have been busy representing the club in the Junior National Club Leagues. These are inter club matches where the juniors play as a team against other clubs – special mention should go to our Under 14's team (Michael Shipley, Ilya Rasovic, Oliver Hills and Ben Tolhurst) who were runners up in their group and narrowly lost out to Bromsgrove in a bid to go through to the next stage. Our Boys Under 16's and Girls Under 16's teams are still taking part in the event and we wish them the best of luck for their upcoming matches.

As I'm sure all of you are aware the club now has 7 floodlit courts which is a massive step forward for the club. As a result of this and continued growth on the coaching program we will be introducing another junior coaching night as from September 2006 – this will be Fridays. On this night we will be looking to cater for all the mini tennis levels and the older juniors too. So all those interested please keep an eye on the junior coaching board.

Our U10 development squad that we told you about in the last newsletter is running full steam ahead now with all our promising juniors receiving regular coaching as well as participating in competitive events. Another step forward for us is that we have arranged for Daniel Thorp (a top LTA coach) to help us out in an advisory role with regards to our juniors and how we can do the best for them – we're very much looking forward to getting Daniel involved at the club and using his expertise to the clubs advantage.

Looking ahead to the summer holidays, we have junior summer holiday camps taking place on 3 separate weeks this year as they proved to be so popular last year. The dates are as follows:

- Week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> July
- Week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> August
- Week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> August

For all those interested, please check the coaching notice board for more information and also application forms. Anyone wishing to book a place on any of the summer holiday camps can contact Jon or Nick on 07968469995 or 07831718775 respectively. Book early as spaces will be limited!

We wish you all a successful and tennis filled summer – and look forward to seeing you all on court at some point soon!!!

*The Coaching Team*

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## Plans for the future

**How do you think the club is doing?**

**Well the committee is looking to keep the club moving forward, making positive changes so that we remain a premier tennis club.**

**This all comes at a price and we have almost finished the project of floodlighting the courts 8, 9 and 10. The cost of this has been in the region of £35,000.**

**Next on the agenda is painting the court surfaces. This will cost the club in the region of £8,000 and we hope to complete this project this year.**

**Other projects are planned depending on costs, which will include an upgrade of the old floodlights which are beginning to fail.**

**So where does the money come from?**

**Geoff Lee has been the treasurer for several years now and the club owes him a big thank you for keeping track of the accounts. Our sinking fund has been growing steadily over the last few years whilst we have been making plans.**

**The annual membership fees are in line with other club fees in the area but at the moment our membership numbers are slightly down on previous years. Social events such as quiz nights etc bring in a little but as they say "every little helps" so keep supporting them!**

**The cost of the electricity supply has increased because of the upgrade for the extra lights but we will try to keep the cost of floodlighting to players at £1 per 15 minutes.**

**Not all your subscription stays at the club. There is a fee to the LTA for EACH playing member. This stands at £9.40 for adults and £3.05 for juniors.**

## A QUIZZICAL EVENING

In April we had a very successful quiz night. I would like to thank the 10 teams that turned out.

The rounds were hard fought, the gloves were off, but in the end it was a mixture of youth and experience that proved to be the winning combination.

Ray Needham joined forces with the Browning family and won the much coveted first prize.

The quiz made £70, and the bar took £200. Events like this help, not only to support the club, but to keep the social side of the club alive.

We were asked to run another quiz so it must have been okay. Well the next quiz night will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. If you missed out this time then join us for the next one.

## **BAR ROOM JOKES**

Courtesy of our resident barman, comedian and all round entertainer Brian Fieldhouse.

**Q** What were Neil Armstrong's first words when he stepped onto the moon?

**A** There's no way the cow jumped over here!

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Advice given to a newly wed couple:

To her:

Men are like floor tiles – lay him right at first and you can walk all over him for years.

To him:

Women are like wheelbarrows – very easy to upset and bloomin' difficult to push.

Thanks Brian don't give up the day job!