

Pit Farm Tennis Club

November 2025 Newsletter



The VETS - MEN'S & MIXED by Tim Martin, Club President



The last Sunday in September and the first one in October saw the first two of our three Autumn veterans' tournaments, open to members aged 50 and over.

Despite a forecast of dry weather the men's event began in slightly damp conditions which fortunately did not last. Group One was won by Giles and Haig with the combination of Giles' ferocious ball striking and Haig's superb all-court game and athleticism proving to much for all their opponents. Richard and myself briefly threatened to challenge them when taking a 2-0 lead in our set but they simply upped their performance level and won the next six games to confirm their place as group winners. Group Two also saw one pair win all three of their matches in relative comfort - Thom and Patrick - their closest rivals proving to be Alastair and Dave, and so the stage was set for a repeat of last year's final between the two group winners.



Patrick, Thom, Giles & Haig

The rain made an unwelcome return for the first part of the final, at the conclusion of which Giles and Haig ran out as winners for the second consecutive year. Although the score line may have looked a little one-sided those of us that were there to watch the match can attest that many of the games were closely contested and could have gone either way. Congratulations to our reigning champions on defending their title and well done to our brave runners up.

The mixed event saw Dawn and Steve dominate Group One, dropping only a handful of games en route to the final. Group Two was a little closer but group winners Bridget and Frank emerged victorious in all three of their sets. As with Group One there were some really tight matches between the other three pairs, in fact three sets in the group stages went to 7-5 and I felt that the standard of the play this year was comfortably the highest it has been since I began to play the event. The final was competitive from the first serve to the winning match point. At 3-3, with the set on serve, it looked as if it could go either way but at that point perennial champions Dawn and Steve found the extra gear that all winning pairs have, broke serve, and went on to successfully defend their title. Congratulations once more to them but also to runners up Bridget and Frank.

Both of the events were played in a competitive spirit, but at the same time there was a wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship throughout the afternoons. This was evidenced by the fact that most of the competitors stayed to watch the two finals although this may



Bridget, Frank, Tim, Steve & Dawn

have also been something to do with the delicious cakes that were baked for both events by my wife Nicky, many thanks to her for this.

Thank you to all of you who supported both events by playing in them. You all played well and contributed to the success of the tournaments. Seeing that both events were both successfully defended by the holders, those of us that have already reached 50, or will have by Autumn 2026, have just under a year to pick our partners and get practising to see if we can unseat them next time.



The VETS - WOMEN'S by Bridget Parker, Club Captain

The Women's Vets event took place on a chilly, cloudy afternoon, but that didn't dampen our spirits or the fun. Dressed in all the colours of the rainbow, everyone discovered their partners as they arrived at the club. The round-robin format, with sudden death on the second deuce, ensured we all finished at the same time. As promised, bubbly and cake were enjoyed after the presentation. Congratulations to our winners, Nicky and Alice (in purple), and our runners-up, Marine and Bridget (in blue). A big thank-you to everyone who took part with such great spirit!



Bridget, Nicky, Alice & Marine



Mens Division 1 2025

For more Chaucer League results click [here](#).



	Team	PL	W	D	L	PO
1	Oxshott	6	4		2	40 Champions
2	Pit Farm 2	6	4	1	1	35
3	Bourne	6	5	1		34
4	Merrow 2	6	2	1	3	26
5	Onslow 1	6	2	1	3	20
6	Godalming 1	6	1		5	18
7	David Lloyd	6		2	4 (1 x w/o)	11

Team Promotion by Andrew Mundell

It is with great pleasure I am reporting that Pit Farm Tennis Mens 2nd team has gained promotion to the Chaucer League's Premier Division for next season once again. Yes, it will be challenging, but good to know we got there on merit. There has also been success in the Surrey League where we topped our division and will be promoted up two divisions.

All this would not have been possible without the continued support and total commitment of players, of whom I am very proud, and cannot thank enough for all their sterling efforts. The players involved have been: Ivan Campbell-Ferguson, Luke Mockler, Fred Johnson, Tom Ellis, Ed Freeston, Jonathan Freeston and Patrick Sullivan. Also thanks too, to Haig Bathgate and Richard Dvorsky for their contribution.



November is a great time to...

Celebrate our **BOX LEAGUE WINNERS!**

The competition was intense in our latest Box League, which ended 30 September.

Huge congratulations to all our winners, and a massive thank you to **Thom** and **Karen** for organising the league and keeping things running smoothly — no small feat with 58 players involved.

Div A Winner Ivan Campbell Ferguson, special mention Fred Johnson

Div B Winner Stephen Bilbe, special mention Stephen Ralston

Div C Winner Ethan Newbold, special mention Barrington Jordan-Snedden

Div D Winner Murat Puskulcu, special mention James Firth

Div E Winner Michael Goncharuk, special mention Jim Langan

Div F Winner Minglin Zhou, special mention Baris Puskulcu



The current league session started 1 October and runs until 31 December. Good luck to all taking part.

November is also a great time to **get fit**, stay healthy and improve your tennis. Did you know tennis is one of the best sports for your physical and mental health! It gives you the best of both worlds – cardio and power. The running and constant movement work your aerobic system, while the quick, explosive shots use anaerobic energy. That combo boosts heart health, improves brain function, and lowers your risk of heart disease. Win-win-win. Get fit and have fun with all the **playing opportunities** at Pit Farm Tennis Club.

Click [here](#) for our Winter Courts Timetable.



Pick up some **new tennis skills** this month too! Check out all the fantastic coaching sessions on offer at the club with our Head Coach, **Paul Kozak** and Senior Adults Coach **Ashley Mount** by clicking [here](#) for more information.



Click [here](#) for Group Coaching Sessions Timetable.

Your Club Needs You!

How to Run a Club Session — Keep the Rally Going!

Our club sessions are at the heart of what makes our tennis community so special — friendly faces, good games, and plenty of laughter.

With Derek now enjoying a well-earned retirement, we'll be sharing the running of our Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday sessions on a volunteer basis — just until we find a new Club Session Coordinator/Steward.



This is a great opportunity for everyone to pitch in and help keep our successful club sessions going strong! Whether you're welcoming players, helping with mix-ins, or keeping an eye on rotations, your support makes sure every session runs smoothly and stays enjoyable for all.

The Role of a Session Volunteer

Each session benefits from having one or two friendly faces to keep things ticking along. You're not "in charge" — just there to help things flow nicely and make sure everyone feels included.

Here's what that looks like:

- Welcome everyone — especially new or returning players.
- Help mix players in — encourage balanced fours.
- Keep an eye on court flow — prompt rotations as needed.

A sign-up sheet will be in the clubhouse where you can add your name to volunteer for a session.

The more members who get involved, the lighter the load — and it means everyone only needs to help out now and then.

Session Guidelines (Keeping Play Smooth)

Keep games flowing — if no one's waiting, play a quick tie-break before rotating. Use the same brand of balls for each session where possible — Slazenger/Head Tour in summer, Wilson/RS in winter.

Please don't use club balls for general play outside of club sessions.

Tuesday Nights — Stay for Dinner!

After Tuesday sessions, join us for dinner in the clubhouse — usually cooked by David Gould for just £3 or sometimes a pizza night.

A great way to relax, chat, and celebrate another fun evening of tennis!

Together We Make It Happen

Our club thrives because of its members — your energy and willingness to help out. By volunteering, you're helping bridge the gap until a new coordinator is found and keeping our courts full of friendly rallies, laughter, and great tennis!

by Matt Jones, Committee Member



Love tennis? Turn your passion into pounds by coming to work at Pit Farm Tennis Club. We are looking for a Club Steward and new Junior Coaches - so read on for more details, and please share with anyone you think might be interested.

Club Steward

Role

- arrange playing 4s for adult members during social mix-in club sessions
- manage the tennis ball allocation/distribution during social sessions
- welcome potential new members who are attending club sessions (to try out the club)
- whilst on duty also undertake some house-keeping duties eg clear any loose tennis balls from courts and grounds, placing in the tennis ball bin and ensure club/grounds are generally tidy

Hours of work:

Tuesday & Thursday 5-8pm

Saturday & Sunday 1-5pm

14 hours a week

Salary: £15/hr

Please send a covering letter and CV to pitfarmsec@gmail.com to apply.



Junior Coach

Are you 14 or older and passionate about tennis? Have you ever thought about getting involved in coaching?

Our Head Coach Paul Kozak is always looking for enthusiastic young players to join the coaching team. It's a fantastic opportunity to develop your tennis, planning, communication and leadership skills. Plus gain valuable work experience while giving something back to the sport and the club. Coaching also counts as a great volunteering role if you're working towards your Duke of Edinburgh Award.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please contact Paul Kozak at pk@paul.tennis or call 07538 571149 to learn more about the hours, wage and how to get involved.



A coaching position at Pit Farm Tennis Club will give you valuable skills and experience to include in job and university applications.



We need you!

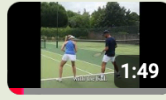
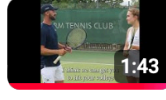

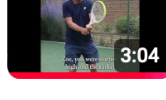

Follow us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) for all the latest news and updates from the club. If you're a team club captain, please send us match results and photos. Or if you would like to rub in a recent Box League win, share your scores and we'll post these too. Tag @pitfarmtennis or email membership.pitfarm@gmail.com

Follow us on  [Instagram](#) and  [Facebook](#).

Watch us on YouTube



Our online coaching videos continue to entertain and educate our members and YouTube viewers further afield. Ashley's 'How to Return a Serve' video had over 1k views in just a few days, and Paul's masterclass in serving is continuing to be watched, with over 2.3k views and counting. If you haven't checked them out yet, be sure to head on over to our YouTube channel where you'll find short but effective lessons on winning shots and strategies. Click [here](#) to watch and follow our social channels for new Pit Farm Tennis coaching videos over the coming months.

- 1  **Pit Farm Tennis Coaching - How to Return a Serve**
Pit Farm Tennis Club 1:49
- 2  **Pit Farm Tennis Coaching - How to Volley**
Pit Farm Tennis Club 1:43
- 3  **Pit Farm Tennis Coaching - Improve your Serve**
Pit Farm Tennis Club 2:15
- 4  **Pit Farm Tennis Coaching - The Backhand Path**
Pit Farm Tennis Club 3:04
- 5  **Pit Farm Tennis Coaching - The Split Step**
Pit Farm Tennis Club 1:50

Minis & Juniors Update by Jim Holloway, Juniors Captain

Due to losing the light in the 5-6pm midweek coaching session all red ball players (mini & junior) will play with orange ball in the 4-5pm sessions. The 5-6pm sessions will be for yellow ball players only. This follows what we have done historically and allows for the best use of the court timings.

Save the date! Christmas Social planned for **Weds 10 December** during the regular 4-6pm coaching slot. All Minis and Junior players, coaches and parents welcome. Snacks, drinks, on-court games, prizes and Christmas cheer will be provided. More details to follow.

There will be a break for coaching sessions over Christmas. The final weekday coaching session will be **Weds 17 December** and it will re-start again on **Mon 5 January 2026**. The final Saturday session will be the **Sat 13 December** and it will re-start again on **Sat 10 January 2026**.

We would like to encourage more matches being played in the singles orange and yellow box leagues so we will extend the playing period until the end of the year. It's a really good way for players to practise and play some point-based matches in addition to the coached sessions they attend.





Be sure to save the date
for our **Christmas Party**
- there will be food,
drinks and dancing
– **13 December.**



Tickets go on sale Monday
3 November at 9am.

Please note

Floodlights

The auto switch off is at 9.30pm Mon - Sat and at 6pm on Sunday. If the floodlights auto switch is off, please make sure you also turn off at the switch box before you leave the site, otherwise the floodlights will auto turn on during the night and annoy our neighbours.

Access gate - for security/safety please can you shut the access gate after entry/exit as a mag lock is now in place. The code (required for entry) will be updated this month and will be sent out to members in a separate email. There is a push button located on the wall by the gate for exit.

Balls - the club will provide tennis balls for club sessions only. Not for general play. Six new tubes of balls will be opened every Saturday, to be used for club sessions until the following week. Please ensure the balls are returned to the rack in the clubhouse after each club session. You are welcome to use your own balls at club sessions or the balls in the black containers located in the clubhouse for general play.

Guests at Pit Farm Tennis

Please note, as a member, you may bring a guest to play with you, but please adhere to the club rules:

- Only one guest per member is permitted at a time.
- Each guest is allowed a maximum of 6 visits a year.
- **The guest's name must be included in the court booking.**
- Please add your guest's name to the visitor book in the clubhouse.
- You will need to pay the guest fee before playing. This can be paid in two ways:

Online:

Bank: Lloyds

Name: Pit Farm (Guildford) Hard Court Tennis

Sort Code: 30-93-74

Account number: 00171127

In person:

Put the cash in an envelope clearly labelled with your name, your guest's name and the date. Put this in the guest fee box in the clubhouse.

- The cost is £5.00 for seniors and £2.50 for juniors.
- Members may bring their children for £2.50 per visit, with no limit on the number of visits.

It is with great sadness that we regret to inform you of the deaths of two long-standing Pit Farm members, Steve Rowden and Hereward Taylor. They will be much missed by all those who knew them and our thoughts are with their family and friends at this sad time.

Best wishes,

Your Committee 2025-26

Tim Martin – President • Gary Wicks – Vice President • Ian Kenyon – Treasurer

• Dawn Davies – Secretary • Cephas Vazquez-Howard / Alex Orr Co Chair • Bridget Parker – Club Captain

Committee: Barney Whiteman, Jim Holloway, Jonathan Freeston, Jackie Shaw, Laurence Fletcher, Matt Jones, Paul Taylor, Phil Rowlands, Ruth Iles, Thom Van Every.

Non-Committee: Liz Hill-Smith – Welfare Officer, Caroline Rowlands – Membership Secretary, Richard Morris – Examiner

Contact pitfarmsec@gmail.com