

Pit Farm Tennis Club Newsletter

August 2026

Please take a moment to catch up on all the latest news and results from the club.



Club Tournament Report by Tim Martin, Club President



Some people may regard it as a chore to be expected to spend most of finals weekend at the club when we all have such busy lives and so many other demands on our time. I don't agree. It is a privilege to spend most of my weekend once a year at our wonderful tennis club and to have the opportunity to watch some really top class tennis on both days as well as to talk so many members and to the talented participants in the various matches. Before writing about the matches I have to say that the 'vibe' around the club throughout the weekend was great with everyone enjoying both the tennis and the beautiful weather. Weekends like this remind me how humbled I am to have been elected President of Pit Farm Tennis Club. It would be wrong too not to mention how great it was to see Derek back at the club on both days. He received the warm welcome from all that he richly deserved.

The weekend started with the **boys' singles** and, having reached the semi finals of the men's event, it was no surprise to see **Oscar** secure a convincing victory. However his

opponent, **Carlos**, who also enjoyed some success in the main draw, both in singles and doubles, played plenty of good tennis of his own despite his defeat. It is not hard to imagine these two meeting in the men's final in the future.

The **women's final** followed and although **Yuri** and **Bridget** did not match the length of their marathon struggle last year it was still a closely fought affair with many long, testing rallies which could have gone either way. Bridget was delighted to avenge

last year's defeat in two close sets and also to get the job done in time to travel to Suffolk for a wedding later in the day from which she returned to play in the ladies doubles final on Sunday, of which more later. Her stamina and energy, much like the quality of her tennis, can certainly not be questioned.



Next came the **boys' doubles** and another match up between **Oscar** and **Carlos**. Oscar was partnered by **River** who could not have looked happier when they clinched victory after a second set tiebreak, in fact I'm not sure he has stopped smiling yet. Carlos and his partner **Thomas** also contributed hugely to a really good match and can be proud of

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their performance. The lunchtime entertainment was provided by an enthralling **mixed doubles final** which swung this way and that throughout its duration. **Thom** and **Yuri** won the first set, lost the second and probably won't want to be reminded that they not only



The finalists had not even met each other before their match and now that they both know a lot more about each other's games, it seems likely that there will be more titanic struggles between them in the future.

Sunday's proceedings kicked off with the **men's doubles final** which always seems to be a feast of big serving, powerful hitting and skilful volleying. This year it was no different and **Tim** with his partner **Greg** who, like him, we are delighted to have recently welcomed back to the club, secured a straight sets win against **Alex** and **Owen**. Alex and Owen's level was exceptional and would, I think, have been enough to comfortably see off any other pair in the club but Tim and Greg, after a slightly nervous start in which Greg lost his first service game, took the standard to a level which has rarely been seen at Pit Farm. I was blown away in particular by Greg's hitting from the back of the court on both sides and by Tim's volleying and, as a keen doubles player myself, they seem to be playing a completely different sport to the one in which I participate.

lead 5-2 in the decider but also had a match point on serve. **Dawn** and **Alex**, last year's runners up, were not to be denied though and they upped their game to take the third into a decisive tie break from which they emerged victorious. This match was one of the real highlights of the weekend with the result in doubt right up to the final point and Dawn's joy at its conclusion was testimony to how much it meant to Alex and her and to their appreciation that things could easily have gone against them.

Saturday's matches concluded with a fiercely contested **men's singles final** which pitted **Tim's** skill and superb all round game against **Ethan's** power and youthful exuberance. I can't remember to which club member I have to give the credit for describing this match-up as court craft and strategy against champagne tennis but I think that was a very apt description. It was the bubbly exuberance of Ethan that triumphed this time after three hard fought sets.



The last two finals began at the same time but the first to finish was the **girls' singles** in which **Bella** successfully defended her title against **Emmerson**. This was Emmerson's first appearance at a finals weekend, she grew stronger as the match went on, and I hope that she will gain confidence from



this and come back to challenge again in the future. The weekend's final match was the **women's doubles**. **Bridget** and **Dawn** took a tight first set before **Karen** and **Yuri** surged into a 4-0 lead in the second. Unfortunately, at this point Dawn, who had injured her arm in the warm up and bravely played through the discomfort for a set and a half, was in too much pain to play on. This was not the way that Karen and Yuri would have wanted to win nor the spectators to see the match end

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but it simply wasn't possible for Dawn to continue. The only upside I can think of is that it ensured that every adult who played in more than one final over the two days won at least once. This sad end to the weekend did not stop many of the spectators and indeed players from staying to enjoy each other's company and the evening sunshine.

This report would not be complete without thanking Club Captain Alex for running the tournament this year, Matt, Ed and others for manning the barbecue on Sunday, Caroline, Phil and Richard D for their work behind the bar, all those who provided food and drink over the weekend and, of course, every club member who came down to support the event by spectating at any point. I would like to finish in a similar vein to how I started by celebrating not just how fabulous a weekend it was but what a special club we are all lucky enough to belong to. Thank you to everyone who plays a part in contributing to this.

Tim Martin - Club President.

August is a good month to ...

Book your child's place at our first Competitive Summer Tennis Camp.

Led by **Ashley Mount**, the **Competitive Summer Tennis Camp** is a one-week intensive programme designed for committed junior players who compete, or aspire to compete, in competitive tournaments. The camp is one week in duration, Monday to Friday, with options to book this summer for:

17 - 21 August or 24 - 28 August.

- 8 to 10 year olds. Orange ball 11am to 1pm
 - 10+ year olds. Yellow ball 1pm to 3pm
- Ideal for players already participating in league or tournament tennis.

For members £30 per session per player for a 2-hour session each day.
Total cost for week £150.

For non-members £37 per day per player for a 2-hour session each day.
Total cost for week £185.

Click the button or email ashleymount87@gmail.com for more information or to book your child's place. There are only a few spots left so book now to avoid disappointment.

Click [here](#) to book.

COMPETITIVE SUMMER TENNIS CAMP



Led by **Ashley Mount**

Byfleet players & Bella, Michaela and Emmerson



Give a shout out for team spirit!

Our U16 girls' team continues to enjoy a fantastic summer of competitive matches against local opponents. In their recent fixture against Byfleet, the team narrowly lost 4-2, but Emmerson, Michaela and Bella delivered an impressive performance. They worked brilliantly together, remained positive throughout and showcased the continued progress they have made with their shot-making, tactics and teamwork.



August is the perfect time to...

Celebrate our first Pickleball Tournament at Pit Farm!

A huge well done to everyone who took part in our inaugural Pickleball Tournament, and congratulations to our worthy champions, Bridget and Richard. Once everyone had mastered the art of staying out of the kitchen, we were treated to some fantastic rallies, impressive shot-making, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the event.



With some players completely new to the game and others meeting their doubles partners for the very first time, everyone embraced the challenge. As the event progressed, players quickly learned the rules, discovered each other's strengths (and weaknesses), and worked together to develop some impressive teamwork, resulting in some excellent pickleball and highly competitive matches. The tournament culminated in a thrilling final between Group 1 winners Tim and Alex and Group 2 winners Bridget and Richard. It was a fast-paced, closely contested match that kept spectators entertained from start to finish, with Bridget and Richard emerging as deserving champions.



A special thank you goes to Tim for organising such a successful event, and to Gary and his team for expertly running the matches, keeping score, and ensuring everything flowed seamlessly throughout the event. A big thank you also to River and Riley, who stepped in at the last minute to represent our junior players with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. It was wonderful to see players and spectators alike embracing the spirit of the game, making our inaugural Pickleball Tournament a memorable occasion. We hope this is just the beginning... and look forward to many more Pickleball Tournaments at Pit Farm in the years to come.





The last Minis and Juniors sessions are on Wednesday 5 August, then we will be back (on the bank holiday) on Monday 31 August.

August is a great month to...

Recommend Pit Farm Tennis Club to a friend...

We're almost halfway through our membership year and, from 1 September, all new members can take advantage of 50% off our membership fees, paying only for the remaining six months of the membership year. Whether someone is looking to play socially, compete, or get back into the game, we have a membership option to suit everyone. We also have a handful of spaces still available in our popular Junior coaching sessions. If you have friends, family or colleagues who are looking for a friendly, welcoming tennis club – or are keen to try a new sport – please spread the word and encourage them to get in touch. We'd be delighted to welcome them to the club!



Grab a FREE group coaching session for new joiners!

We're now offering a complimentary group coaching session with Ashley as an introduction to the club, along with an invitation to attend a trial Club Session. It's the perfect way to meet other members, enjoy some tennis, and get a real feel for everything the club has to offer. To find out more or book a place, please contact Caroline – membership.pitfarm@gmail.com

Congratulate our 2026 Q2 Box League Winners

A big thank you once again to Thom and Karen for organising our box leagues, and congratulations to everyone who took part. Please see below for our latest round of winners...It's fantastic to see new players making their mark on the winners' board, as well as our talented juniors continuing to develop and climb their way through the leagues. We love seeing the enthusiasm, friendly competition and community spirit that the box leagues bring to the club. If you'd like to sign up for the box league please contact vaneveryhome@gmail.com

Box	Winner	Special Mention
A	Thom Van Every	Ali Scrimgeour
B	Luke Middlemass	Angus Uren
C	Gerald Smith	Laurence Fletcher
D	Tom Klein	Michael Macpherson
E	Liz Hill-Smith	Alastair Leach
F	Tim Shea	Laurence Willis
G	James Barry	Leo Rowe

Look good on court!

We're excited to be introducing a new range of Pit Farm Tennis Club sportswear and accessories and welcome your feedback. Please take a moment to view the sample items on display in the clubhouse and share any comments or suggestions with Dawn Davies at pitfarmsec@gmail.com The collection will feature PFT Club branding, with optional personalised initials, and will include a range of practical, high-quality items that members will find useful both on and off the court. We hope to introduce the first pieces for purchase on our website in the coming months and look forward to creating a range that truly reflects our club community.



A thank you to Ian Kenyon by Tim Martin

Many of you will already know that our treasurer, Ian Kenyon, has recently stepped down from his role due to ill health, handing over to Ghada Abuali to whom we are all grateful for taking on this post. Ian has worked with us on the committee in this position for just over two years and has not really been in the best of health for the entire duration of that time. However, no one would know this from the time, the hard work, the dedication and the thoroughness with which has performed all his duties and more besides. He has also been a huge help to Ghada in the handover of his duties and I would like to express, on behalf of the committee and indeed the whole club, a massive thank you to him for his work. Pit Farm Tennis Club owes Ian a huge debt of thanks for his service as club treasurer and I know too that our examiner Richard found him a pleasure to work with. On behalf of us all, I would like say a huge thank you to Ian.

Veterans' Tournaments



We are pleased to be able to confirm some of the dates of our upcoming veterans' tournaments:

- **mixed veterans doubles - 4 October**
- **men's veterans - 11 October**
- **women's veterans – tbc**

These tournaments take place as a one-day event and are open to members aged 50 or over. Entries will, as last year, be by email but please do not send Tim (who is organising both) anything yet - just keep an eye on your inboxes as he shall be sending out an email with further details and inviting entries later in the month or in early September. For the doubles you can enter individually (and will be matched up with someone) or pick your own partner. Good luck to all!

The Wakeling Cup



Formerly known as the Weldon Cup, the Wakeling Cup 2026 will take place on **12 September** and is open to all members and all ages. A sign-up sheet will be available in the clubhouse over the coming weeks, so keep an eye out if you'd like to take part. We wish the very best of luck to everyone who enters!

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS:

Please ensure both the clubhouse and the entrance gate are securely closed when leaving the premises, especially if you are the last to leave.

And finally, for those of you who have made it this far... Please keep an eye on your inbox over the coming weeks for our upcoming membership surveys. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and we would really appreciate you taking a few moments to share your thoughts. Your insights help us understand what's working well, where we can improve, and how we can continue to make the club the best possible experience for all our members. Thank you for taking the time to be part of shaping the future of our club.

See you on court!

Your Committee 2026-2027

Tim Martin – President • Ghada Abuali – Hon Treasurers • Dawn Davies – Hon Secretary
• Alex Orr – Chair • Alex Webb – Club Captain

Other committee members: Richard Dvorsky, Laurence Fletcher, David Gould, Matt Jones, Nicky King, Bridget Parker, Phil Rowlands, Karen Smith, Paul Taylor, Thom Van Every, Cephas Vazquez-Howard, Barney Whiteman and Matt Wilkinson.
Non-Committee: Liz Hill-Smith – Welfare Officer, Caroline Rowlands – Membership Secretary, Richard Morris – Examiner

Contact: pitfarmsec@gmail.com

