Pit Farm Tennis Club Newsletter

November 2026

Please take a few minutes to catch up on tournament and league results, discover our new online kit shop and learn the proper way to grip your racquet.

November is a great month to…

Treat yourself!

SHOP NOW

Freshen up your tennis wardrobe with our new range of club tops, shorts, skirts and hats. Whether you're serving aces or smashing it from the baseline, make sure you look the part while you play!

www.serioussport.co.uk/teamstores/pit-farm-tennis-club



Celebrate team spirit

Pit Farm Secretary, Dawn Davies, would like to say a huge THANKS to the Chaucer 1st Mixed Team who topped Division 1. With thanks to: Bridget Parker, Yuri Murantani, Karen Smith, Alex Webb, Ivan Campbell-Ferguson, Fred Johnson, Luke Middlemass, Luke Mockler – well done everyone on a great team performance.

Congratulate our Box League winners

Congratulations to our deserving Box League winners for Q3, and some brilliant play from our runners up.

Box	Winner	Runner-up
A	Fred Johnson	Thom Van Every
B	Gerald Smith	Tim Campbell
C	Richard Rowe	Patrick Webb
D	Michael Hughes	Paul Browne
E	Laurence Willis	Sam Parker
F	James Barry	Marie Wheeler
G	Wallis Lam	Eloise Devereux

If you'd like to join the Box League or find out more about it, please email Thom – vaneveryhome@gmail.com

Thank you to Karen, Laurence and Thom for making the league such a success and creating such an enjoyable experience for our members.

Train with your team

We're launching NEW Team Training sessions for members representing the club. Led by Head Coach Paul Kozak, these FREE sessions will focus on improving your game, developing team tactics and preparing for matches.

Session details:
When: Generally the last Friday of each month
Time: 8pm to 9.30pm
Cost: Free
Places: Limited to 8 players per session

Upcoming sessions:
Friday 30 October: Men's Team
Friday 27 November: Ladies' Team
Friday 11 December: Mixed Team
The three-month rotation will then repeat, with Men's training in January, Ladies' in February and Mixed in March. Please note that December's session is earlier than usual due to Christmas.

How to book:
Contact Paul by messaging 07538 571149 to register your interest. Paul will allocate places based on playing standards, aiming to group players of similar abilities.
If a session is full, you'll be added to the waiting list for the next available session.

Read Tim's tournament report



The first two Sundays in October gave club members aged 50 or over the opportunity to compete in the Mixed veterans' tournament on 4 October and the Men's competition on 11 October. Holding these events at this time of year always brings with it the risk of matches being disrupted by inclement weather so we were indeed fortunate that both Sundays brought bright sunshine, pleasant temperatures and perfect playing conditions. The mixed tournament was also lucky to have Pit Farm club legend Derek coming to spectate. It was wonderful to see him looking as well as ever and his love for the club was shown by the fact that he was there before play began and stayed until, indeed beyond, the very end.

In Group One, Diana & Patrick won all their three matches to take their place in the final but not without some stiff competition. They were taken to 7-5 in two of the three matches although they did enjoy a more convincing victory against Liz & Frank who, nevertheless, still finished second in the group by defeating the other two pairs - Alex & David and Louise & John. Group Two winners Dawn & Jim were also taken to 7-5 before winning a close first match against Jaqueline & Jonathan, but then had more comfortable victories against Karen & Stephen and Gemma & myself to seal their final spot.

In the final, Diana & Patrick took an early lead and never relinquished it to run out 6-2 winners in a contest full of good tennis played in a great spirit. Many congratulations to them and well done too to runners up Dawn and Jim who, I believe, had never played together competitively before. All eight pairs, however, have reason to feel proud of their efforts, even the two pairs who were defeated in all three of their matches should take much satisfaction from the fact that they both took the eventual finalists to 7-5.



Many thanks to all of you for your participation and especially to David Long who arrived at the club for a relaxed afternoon of Sunday club tennis but then kindly agreed to play in the tournament following a late withdrawal due to illness.

The Men's tournament matched the Mixed not only in the marvellously unseasonal warmth of the weather but also the exceptionally high standard of tennis. For the second successive Sunday Patrick topped Group One, this time in partnership with Thom. The table topping pair only lost three games in total in their three matches against Frank & Jonathan, Nick & Tim J and Aram & Gerald, signalling their intent to secure the title after successive final defeats in the last two years against Giles & Haig who were unable to compete this year due to injury and being out of the country respectively.

Group Two winners Barrie & Matt were similarly impressive in their matches. Having lost their first game, they then won twelve in succession to take their first two matches before overcoming a sterner test in their final encounter against Jim & Stephen to take their place in the final. In the other group matches Jim & Stephen, Alastair & Dave and Richard & myself each enjoyed one win and one loss to all finish joint second thus leaving honour satisfied all round.

… continued …



Barrie & Matt and Patrick & Thom chose to play a best of three set final and at several points in the first set it looked as if the match would go all the way. However, despite some excellent play by their opponents, Patrick and Thom countered with some tremendous tennis of their own to tenaciously cling on to an early break of serve in the first set and take it 6-4 and then went from strength to strength to win the match by claiming the second set 6-2. Very well played to both pairs and congratulations to Thom and, once again, to Patrick who after a number of defeats in the final of both the Men's and Mixed tournaments over the years, completed the veterans' double. Thanks once again to all participants in both these tournaments, it is a pleasure to organise them each year and I never fail to be impressed by the quality of tennis on display. I even occasionally surprise myself by playing a few decent shots of my own - ask Jim and Stephen about my volleying in the men's match against them or, if you have a few hours to spare, ask me. Many of you will be aware of my fondness for limerick writing so, to finish, here is one I wrote for Patrick which he was keen for me to include in this newsletter.



Finals used to give
Patrick some trouble,

His victory dreams
turned to rubble,

That's all in the past,

He's a winner at last,

He's just done the
Pit Farm Vets' double.

by Tim Martin

Please save the dates…

Prevent injuries!

Please join us for a presentation and Q&A on common sports-related shoulder and elbow injuries, prevention and when to seek treatment.

By: Mr Keightley, Upper Limb Orthopaedic Surgeon, Mt Alvernia Hospital

When: Thursday 21 January at 6.30pm

Where: Pit Farm Tennis Club Clubhouse





Follow us on Instagram and Facebook and YouTube Find us here: www.pitfarmtennis.co.uk



Coach's Tip of the Month

How tightly do you hold your racquet?

Have you ever thought about your grip and how tightly you hold your racquet? Have you watched some of the top players (Roger is probably my favourite example) and wondered why they make the game look so easy? One important but often overlooked aspect of tennis technique is how firmly we grip the racquet.

On a scale of 1–10 (1 being very loose), how tightly do you grip yours? Many players grip harder than they need to.

Our aim is around a 2–4. This takes practice, but even dropping from a 6, 7 or 8 to a 4 can make a big difference.

Why loosen your grip?

More racquet head speed. A relaxed grip allows a freer swing and greater racquet head speed.

Easier topspin. A looser grip helps the racquet move naturally through the ball, making topspin easier to generate.

Injury prevention. Reducing tension can help ease strain on your arm and body.

3 tips to loosen your grip:

1. Let your non-dominant hand do more. In your ready position, let your non-dominant hand support the racquet. This reduces pressure on your dominant hand and helps you change grips more quickly.
2. Release your dominant hand between shots. Briefly taking your hand off the racquet reminds you to relax and encourages a better ready position.
3. Slide your dominant hand down the handle. Holding the racquet lower creates a longer lever, helping you develop a looser, more fluid swing. For an extra challenge, try taking your little finger off the bottom of the handle, too. Be prepared to sacrifice a little control, particularly when stretched or playing difficult shots.

Give these tips a try. You might be surprised by the difference a little less tension can make! Good luck and, as ever, happy tennis!

pk@paul.tennis

Club makeover

Another thank you, this time to our hard-working Ops team for overseeing all the improvements to the club over the last month or so. Our courts have been cleaned, our changing rooms redecorated, our clubhouse spring cleaned and a new recycling system has been put in place for rubbish and used tennis balls. Please can everyone work together to keep our clubhouse and grounds tidy. For those that cook in the ktichen, please refrain from pouring oil and fat down the sink. The drains cannot cope!

Former champion

Thank you to Honorary Member Richard Clarke for sharing the sad news of the passing of Lady Lyn Weatherill. A former member of Pit Farm Tennis Club, Lyn was a talented and dedicated player who won numerous singles and doubles championships after joining the club in 1949, following her marriage to Bernard "Jack" Weatherill (who was Speaker of the House of Commons 1983 to 1992). Lyn enjoyed competing in Pit Farm's spring tournaments, which attracted international players, including future Wimbledon finalist Judy Dalton, who became a close friend.

For those who wish to learn more, about Lynn, click **here** for her full obituary.



And finally… a thanksgiving service for the life of our former treasurer, Ian Kenyon, was held at Christ Church, Guildford on 16 October. The service was attended by some club members and all members may also like to know that Pit Farm made a donation to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham in memory of Ian and in recognition of his contribution to the club.

Best wishes,
Your Committee 2026-2027

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

Other committee members: Richard Dvorsky, Laurence Fletcher, David Gould, 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

LTA TENNIS FOR BRITAIN SAFE TO PLAY REGISTERED VENUE 2025/26