



KINGSTON BAGPUIZE WITH SOUTHMOOR TENNIS CLUB

KBS TENNIS'S AGM

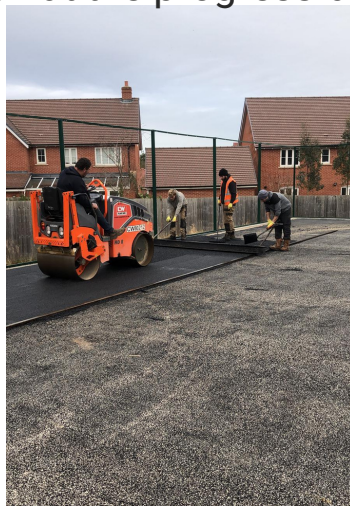
All Club members are cordially invited to attend the Club's Annual General Meeting at **8pm on Monday 22nd March on Zoom.**

The agenda can be accessed via our website. A link to the zoom will be emailed to all members on Friday 19th March.

NEW COURT UPDATE

The big news this week is that our brand new courts should be completed by the end of this week!

The tarmac is being laid, the digital gate is installed, floodlight masts are up - we are ready to go! Take a look at the progress below!



REOPENING

Last week, we formally announced that the Club will be reopening at 8am on Monday 29th March! All recreational tennis is allowed to resume which means:

- Open sessions will restart for singles and doubles
- 1:1 coaching is possible
- Coaching and formally organised activity can resume

We are still awaiting further guidance from the LTA but for full details on current guidance, please visit their website.

As a committee, we are committed to keeping our members safe. We will be in contact at a later date to outline our full plan for reopening and the measures we are putting in place which will be in close conjunction with LTA guidance.

MEET THE COACHES

This week, in a break from tradition, we are introducing our wonderful coaching team!

ED LARGE HEAD COACH/FOUNDER OF EXCEL TENNIS ACADEMY



Favourite Player: Lleyton Hewitt

Favourite Shot: Topspin Serve

One thing not many people know about me: I love motorbikes and cars and have built a few of my own over the years

"I was 14 years old when I first started coaching tennis and I quickly became qualified and running my own groups by 16. At 19 I was Head Coach at Witney Lawn Tennis Club and founded the Excel Tennis Academy when I was 21. My goal has always been to create opportunities for children to get involved and learn to play tennis easily and affordably. Coming from a non sporty family I had to find my own way to learn and compete and there were very few opportunities. Having to retire from playing at 26 and teaching full time at 31 due to lifelong issues with back pain was incredibly tough. I was fortunate to know this was always possible though and this drove me to work hard to build a business that allowed me to continue to work with people, create opportunities for children to learn to play and stay involved with a sport I love. I am proud of what the academy has achieved over the years and excited by the plans we have for the future."



TOM WILSDON COACH



Favourite Player: Novak Djokovic. He has taken tennis to a new level with his athletic ability around the court and is such a great guy with fans
Favourite Shot: Serve

"One thing not many people know about me: I fell onto one of the Wimbledon outside courts whilst attempting to catch a wild shot from Djokovic whilst he was practicing for The Championships. Very kindly received a signed ball from Novak's team for my efforts.

"I started playing tennis when I was 4 years old and absolutely love the game. I'm massively passionate about getting as many people playing tennis and really enjoy teaching the wide range of ages and abilities.

I became lead coach at KBS in August 2019 as part of the Excel Tennis Academy and have worked hard to grow the numbers to make a solid junior programme. I really enjoy working at the club and look forward to continuing to grow the junior and adult membership with the addition of the two new courts."

LTA AWARDS

As a Club, we were incredibly proud to have had two nominations for people very important to our Club at the LTA Tennis Oxfordshire awards which were held last Monday.

Each year, the LTA Tennis Awards highlight the incredible achievements and contributions of people across Britain. Launched in 2015 with the help of former LTA president Cathie Sabin OBE, the awards recognise the many thousands of inspirational individuals involved in tennis, dedicating their precious time and energy: including 25,000 volunteers, 4,672 coaches and 975 officials. The Awards also highlight the incredible achievements of some 22,000 schools, 2,768 clubs and over 9,276 LTA approved tournaments. The contribution of these individuals and venues helps to bring fans and players closer to the game we all love.

Tom Wilsdon, one of our coaches (who you just met above), was nominated for 'Coach of the Year'! Tom has put a huge amount of effort this year into building junior and adult numbers in coaching sessions! He is incredibly enthusiastic and he keeps his sessions fun and engaging! Off court, he uses social media to keep tennis alive by creating fun skills videos and also engaging with professional tennis.

We are incredibly proud to have Tom coaching at our Club! Well done to Tom for the nomination!

The other nomination we had, as mentioned in the previous issue, was our Chairman, Duncan Smith for 'Volunteer of the Year'. We are incredibly pleased that Duncan won his category and has been named Tennis Oxfordshire's Volunteer of the Year!

He said, "I am proud to be the recipient of this year's award, in a year in which communities have been reminded just how vital volunteers are, not just within sport, but to society. The project to develop our tennis venue has taken over 4 years but by the end of this month, the new courts will have been laid and in March, the LED floodlighting will be installed. I would like to thank Club members Pete Osman and Nigel Shaw for their encouragement and support, and to acknowledge that without an enthusiastic Club committee, we would not have realised our plans to establish a high-quality tennis venue for our local community."

Duncan will now go forward to regional awards. Regional winners are put forward for the LTA Tennis Awards, alongside winners from Tennis Wales and Tennis Scotland.



COMING SOON: 2021 TENNIS FESTIVAL

Every year, KBS Tennis Club hosts a 'Tennis Festival' where Club members have the chance to compete against each other in various categories! It's a great opportunity to test out the tennis skills you've been practicing all year! More details about the festival and how to enter are coming soon...