

## Camber Newsletter January 2011

Everyone made more regular tennis a New Year's resolution? Seems like a few of you have as there have been great turnouts on Thursdays and Sundays for the last couple of weeks. Even if you're not playing more tennis, please read on for some great upcoming socials and first news of the annual Barcelona tennis holiday...

### Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will take place a little earlier in the year than usual, on Sunday 20 February. It's your chance to catch up on what's going on behind the scenes, check the accounts and to quiz the committee if you want to. There's also the election of officers and the setting of subs for the forthcoming year - see separate notice enclosed for the full agenda. It's an important day so please come down if you can (tea and cakes will be available as incentives). Along the same lines we are still looking for a volunteer to be property manager - if anybody thinks they might be able to help please contact Chris or Pete (see back page).

### Membership Renewals

Once the subs have been decided it will be the renewal period. We always have a problem with subs dribbling in well after the end of the subscription year (31 March) so this year we are proposing a discount for prompt payers. Watch out for a letter following the AGM!

### Tournaments

Please note that the dates for both of this year's big tournaments have been set. Please put them both in your diaries now!

For the handicap tournament (where in theory everyone has an equal chance of winning), the closing date for entries and the draw will be on Friday 29 April (to coincide with an American Tournament and Supper Club - see Events section), and Finals Day on Saturday 28 May.

For the main tournament the closing date and draw will be on Wednesday 17 August and Finals Day will be Saturday 17 September.

### Bar Prices

There have been small increases in the prices of certain drinks following complaints that they were too cheap [shouldn't that be "as a result of VAT increases"? - ed]. Bitter and large bottles stay at £2.80, but small bottles are increased to £2.20 and glasses of wine to £2.70.

### Court 3 Update

As you know by now, Court 3 was given a new lease of life last year with a modern 'artificial clay' surface and has been attracting admiring looks from passers-by ever since (it might have been the players, but that seems less likely). At the last AGM we also promised that we'd look at getting floodlights for the new facility and work has been proceeding apace with that. We have recently put in applications for both planning permission and funding support and expect to hear back in a matter of weeks on both. So

we might be able to report back at this year's AGM, and hopefully it will be good news on both fronts.

Many thanks to new member Ryan Fuller who has given us invaluable support entirely free of charge via his planning consultancy; I would have no hesitation in recommending them for any planning needs which you might have in a private or professional capacity - see [www.fullerlong.com](http://www.fullerlong.com).

### Appeal for Lawyers!

We are about to renegotiate/renew our lease on Camber's land and we may need it to be given the once-over by someone with legal training - if you or a friend/colleague would be willing to help (on a voluntary basis!) please contact Chris (see back page).

### Annual Dinner Report

By general consensus this year's Annual Dinner was the best for many years. An impressive 50 attendees packed into the clubhouse, and witnessed an absolutely inspired speech from Theresa including a full-on Dame Edna Everage impression. There was high emotion as Pete was awarded a lifetime service award and was, for once, shocked into total silence.

And all rounded off with a hugely popular Member of the Year award to Mark Challen, who was also too choked to say a proper thank you on the night but submitted the following 'acceptance speech' by email:

*"It was a real honour to receive the Member of the Year trophy last Saturday. Looking at the list of names above me on the trophy redoubles my sense of honour. I really appreciated the way that you made the presentation itself. And I was relieved that no speech was expected - thought I'd put these few words of acceptance and appreciation into an email.*

*"You spoke about the ethos of the club - the club is owned by the members. All members are encouraged to contribute. As a new member joining a sports club for the first time in my life a couple of years back, I did so with some trepidation. The idea of the club being a sort of cooperative was certainly attractive to me. I have been happy to contribute when and where I have been able to as an 'ordinary' member. I certainly appreciate the time and effort put in by committee members, without which the club would fail to function, and without which members such as myself would not be able to contribute their bit.*

*"I am very happy to accept this award. I feel the honour is in a way shared with all the other 'ordinary' members that contribute what they can, when they can and share the ethos of the club."*

Touchingly, Mark concluded:

*"I might want to share the honour but I'm keeping the trophy."*

The dinner also featured the fruits of 'Project Mongoose' - Camber's first Annual Dinner disco which was kept secret from the Chairman for fear of him vetoing it - the look on his face when the penny (finally) dropped was worth the admission cost alone...



Pete's Lifetime Achievement Award being officially presented the day after the dinner by Councillor Helen Hayes

## Events

The events diary has been freshly spruced up and is looking good. As ever, if there is something you'd like to see, and/or would be prepared to organise, please let us know - there will be plenty of help and support available.

- Friday 11 February      **Poker Night**  
The baize is ironed, the chips are counted and the poker faces are being practised. Welcome to Camber's poker night. All standards are welcome: there will be instructions for new players followed by a friendly 'double chance' tournament. £12 gets you a meal and entry to the tournament (with prizes). Cash games to follow if there is demand! Sign up sheet available now or reply to [events@tennis-at-camber.org](mailto:events@tennis-at-camber.org).
- Saturday 5 March      **Camber Goes To The Dogs**  
Long suspected of course, but now official as the Bar Secretary leads a raid on the Wimbledon greyhound meeting. A package will be arranged to include entry, a meal and a race card/programme. Please speak to John for more details (see back page).
- Friday 8 April      **Karaoke and Cocktails**  
Simple in conception and very probably excruciating in the execution, but even I will admit that this is likely to be an entertaining evening.
- Friday 29 April      **Double Bill - American Tournament...**  
A one-day mix-around doubles tournament to celebrate (or, if you prefer, avoid) the royal wedding. All standards play together and the system has a degree of in-built handicapping (although not, this time, featuring Champagne!). Followed by...
- Friday 29 April      **....and Supper Club**  
A meal to be cooked by one or more of the members on a theme to be determined (molecular gastronomy anyone...?). Fine wines too. As close as Camber gets to a civilised evening's entertainment.
- Planning Ahead      **Handicap Finals Day - Saturday 28 May**  
**Main Tournament Finals Day - Saturday 17 September**  
**B\*A\*N\*G™ Fireworks Night and Bonfire - Sat 5 November**  
**Annual Dinner - Saturday 26 November**
- Trips Away      **Camber Ski Party (Austria) - departs 2 April**  
**Tennis Week (Barcelona) - departs 24 July (see below)**  
**Beer (and Golf) Weekend - TBD**

## Please help to make New Members welcome!

As Mark admits above, joining a tennis club is not always easy and most of us whose memories are still intact can probably remember a similar experience. As we move into Spring we will hopefully get some potential new members down, and everyone can help encourage them and then make them feel welcome by just chatting to them or maybe buying them a drink. Please do your bit!

## Tennis Opportunities at the Club

As the weather warms up we are going to attempt a revitalised Ladies' Night, probably on Tuesdays, and also a Singles Competition in some form (open to all). Please speak to Alex (see back page) if you are interested in either of these.

And we are always looking for more players for teams for matches against other clubs - if you are interested please let the men's or ladies' captain know (see back page).

## Tennis Week in Barcelona

This year's 'away week' is 24-31 July 2011 at a clay-court tennis club near Barcelona. For anyone who hasn't been before we generally go for an all-inclusive deal for which the approximate itinerary is: eating (breakfast, wine discouraged); two hours of tennis coaching in small groups; eating (lunch, wine optional); poolside snoozing; two more hours of coaching; eating (snacks); drinking (sharpeners); eating (dinner, wine compulsory); after dinner amusements and occasionally drinking, then, err, repeat. The occasional beach trip, local fiesta, late-night sea bathing and even additional tennis are also possible.

The whole thing comes highly recommended for general entertainment and it is also very likely to improve your tennis (non-playing partners are also welcome). For more details speak to Dave (see back page).

## Golf Weekends

While we are on extra-curricular activities you should be aware that Camber has an active, if not particularly talented, golf contingent. The occasional away weekend is held and there's a possibility of one in April - please speak to Chris if you are interested.

## Apparel

The next order for club apparel will be on **28 February**. Any item from the suppliers catalog <http://www.whittakerseembroidery.co.uk/> can be ordered with the club's logo emblazoned in either vinyl or embroidery. The past orders have been severely delayed by us accepting peoples' orders after the closing date, so I am afraid we will no longer be able to do so. Contact Dave for more information.

## Contacts

Finally here's a quick reminder of the club's key contacts - Please feel free to raise anything about the club with us.

Chairman	Chris Smith	<a href="mailto:cs@anperocapital.com">cs@anperocapital.com</a>
Treasurer	Judy Wright	<a href="mailto:judith758wright@btinternet.com">judith758wright@btinternet.com</a>
Club Captain	Jo Penny	<a href="mailto:jo-penny@supanet.com">jo-penny@supanet.com</a>
Bar Secretary	John Stephens	<a href="mailto:john.stephens31@btinternet.com">john.stephens31@btinternet.com</a>
Secretary	Liz Somerville	<a href="mailto:lizsomerville@hotmail.com">lizsomerville@hotmail.com</a>
Membership	Alex Mills	<a href="mailto:strawberrymills@hotmail.com">strawberrymills@hotmail.com</a>
Property Manager	Pete Coleman	<a href="mailto:peter-royston-coleman@supanet.com">peter-royston-coleman@supanet.com</a>
Men's captain	Gianluca Santoro	<a href="mailto:gs72@hotmail.com">gs72@hotmail.com</a>
Ladies' Captain	Hilary Collins	<a href="mailto:hilaryc_uk@yahoo.com">hilaryc_uk@yahoo.com</a>
Head Coach	David White	<a href="mailto:david.white@tennis-at-camber.org">david.white@tennis-at-camber.org</a>
Camber on the web		<a href="http://www.tennis-at-camber.org">www.tennis-at-camber.org</a>
Camber on Facebook		<a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/London-United-Kingdom/Camber-Tennis-Club/134393784395?v=app_2344061033#!/pages/London-United-Kingdom/Camber-Tennis-Club/134393784395?v=info">http://www.facebook.com/pages/London-United-Kingdom/Camber-Tennis-Club/134393784395?v=app_2344061033#!/pages/London-United-Kingdom/Camber-Tennis-Club/134393784395?v=info</a>