

BARNET WOOD

NEWSLETTER OF HAYES TENNIS CLUB

ISSUE THREE MAY 2023



HAYES CHARACTERS

CLIVE CUSHEN



LESLEY & CLIVE CAMEL-

HOW CLIVE BECAME PRESIDENT

How do you become a President in this day and age? How about being a PhD in Quantum Physics, having an outstanding backhand and a father who founded a sports club?

Clive Cushen 77, President of Hayes Tennis Club, has all those assets and a few more besides.

Need I mention travel to Jordan and tea plantations in Darjeeling and helping to run a sculpture cooperative with high society contacts in Croydon.

Clive's Dad founded a sports club called Mayfield in Palmer's Green, North London, believe it or not, when he was 14 years of age.

It came about when his Dad and a few friends started playing football and cricket on a local green. Mayfield is today an impressive sports club, of which Clive's Dad became President. Sadly he died at the young age of 46.

Mayfield, however, lives on as a tennis club with a large array of courts and facilities for players of all abilities and disabilities. Its centenary is in 2025.

Clive's family moved to Bexley when he was 8 but remained strongly connected to Mayfield. His father played cricket for the club most weekends every summer and Clive played for the club from the age of 11.

Clive said, "I was a keen sportsman and good at Maths and Physics. I went to Nottingham University and did a PhD in Quantum Physics in 1970. From my thesis I wrote a paper with my supervisor based on the thesis, and after I left I reconnected with the university 40 years later. When Clive's son googled his father's name he discovered his paper was being recycled. Clive got back to his former supervisor. The upshot is that 50 years later Clive gets regular citations, at least 12 a year, that are relevant to quantum physics, such as computers, lasers and the like.

From 1970 Clive's career was in IT and technology until 1985 when, with one of his colleagues, he set up a consultancy, working with firms such as ICL and BT until 2003. For 5 years after 2003 he worked for the National Grid, for example on controversial new schemes for energy prices.

Clive started playing tennis as a lad in school. He was a keen footballer and cricketer and captain of basketball. In his early 30s. Clive joined a local club in Elmers End called Westbury. He ended up running it and later sold it off. When he was 50 Clive joined Hayes Tennis Club. He became President 18 months ago, after Ian Jackson sadly died.

Clive has two grown up sons, Robert and Tom, in their 40s who could be good players, but they do other things. He also has a grandson Alexander who'll be 4 in May, so maybe there's hope there.

A cartoonist friend called Tony did a saucy poster which is shown here featuring Clive on his 40th birthday. Clive is also pictured with his wife Lesley riding camels in Jordan. He is widely travelled, not least to tea plantations in Darjeeling, India. Adding a final touch to his achievements outside of his tennis and family life, Clive helped run a sculpture cooperative in Croydon, which won contracts from Westminster Abbey and Windsor Castle.



A SPRING IN OUR STEP

Hayes Club was making progress on several fronts as Spring arrived this week. Felicity, Hayes' Chairman, welcomed a new positive spirit.

She told the Newsletter, "Spring has arrived at last, the courts have been treated and are ready for play. We have a full program of matches, tournaments and events, coming up starting with Dennis's junior tournament on Sat.13 May followed by an American Tournament on Sunday 14 May."

She added that the League singles matches run by Karl Kelledy were well under way. Any member who wanted to join in should contact Karl.

The committee had been busy formulating a five year plan for the future wellbeing of the club.

Felicity said, "If you have any ideas, or you would like to help with events sponsorship or fund raising please contact Clive Cushen or Karl Kelledy.

" We have several new members, please make them welcome and encourage your friends to come along to a club session if you think they would like to join in."

Dennis, the club coach, said that to celebrate the 2023 French Open at Roland Garros, he was organising a round robin tournament for both boys & girls on the lower courts with a main finals and lucky losers Plate Final .

A treasure trove of prizes and medals, donated by the LTA and others, was featured online for the lucky winners. The coach's plans were discussed at a meeting of the club committee on April 26.

Club President Clive Cushen introduced the 5 year plan which had been prepared by Karl Kelledy and himself and circulated to all committee members.

He invited the Committee to own the overall plan and suggested that individual actions should be owned by the members responsible.

The plan should also be an essential agenda item at all future committee meetings and progress documented as bullet points in the minutes. The overall objective was at least to double (and retain) club tennis membership within 5 years.

Felicity reported that John the Groundsman had re-joined after a brief spell in a new job; we had requested that he should spend more time on the tennis courts than previously,

Club treasurer Alan Lennox said most members had renewed so far. It was also good that several members who had joined for the first time last year at £99 had renewed at the full price applicable this year.

Clive told the Newsletter he believed the club had half a dozen very good players under 40, such as Rajiv and Akass, plus influential leading figures like Karl Kelledy and coach Dennis Saunders. Clive said he hoped that Karl's and his 5 year plan could persuade Nigel Gallagher and his colleagues that Hayes Tennis Club has realistic ideas to get things done. So the top people in Warman Sports Club, who own all the courts and assets, might loosen the purse strings.

HAYES MATCH FIXTURES

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO SEE ON THE WEBSITE FIXTURES AND RESULTS COMPILED BY ANDREW :-

Hayeskenttennis.org.uk

Welcome to issue 3 of “Barnet Wood.”

Please send all comments to

anthony@doranpressagency.co.uk