To all MCS Tennis Club Members,

Firstly I hope you are all keeping well, and looking forward to (hopefully) returning to tennis from 29th March.  This is still the date on the LTA website so fingers crossed!  I will of course reach out to you all nearer the time with further information.

So now onto the main reason for this mail.  One of the discussion points raised at the last AGM was around team selection, so decisions such as captains, who plays, selection criteria etc.  We held a committee meeting this week and discussed it at length and agreed how we would like to proceed on this as a club.  So if you are not interested in competitive tennis or playing in teams you can probably close this mail now, delete it and move on!!

Firstly the club captains.  These are positions selected at the annual AGM and in case anyone was not aware the captains are as follows:

* Men’s – Steve Meredith
* Ladies – Jackie Styles
* Mixed – Janet Brown

These captains are ultimately responsible for all matters regarding the league teams in their respective areas.  So any questions around selection, matches, expressing a desire to play matches etc should be directed to them.  If you don’t feel you get a satisfactory response then your escalation point is me, as Club Chairman.  Last year we had instances of a few quiet conversations and grumblings in the car park, phone calls to me from 3rdparties etc.  We don’t want that.  We are a friendly inclusive club so if there is anything anyone is not happy about, we need to know.  And I for one are more than happy to hear from any member about any issue or concern.

With regard to league teams we currently enter 3 Men’s, 3 Ladies and 3 Mixed teams into the H&W league this summer.  We decide before each league season (summer and winter) how many teams we would like to enter based on how many players we believe will want to play.  With injuries, holidays, unavailability etc we need to have a good squad of players to make each team viable.  So, on to selection…..

We as your committee have decided on the following approach for each set of teams:

Men’s and Ladies – the respective team captains will select the strongest teams possible for the A and B teams and look to have the C team as giving as many people who want it the experience of playing league tennis.  We have  a good number of people who want to play competitive tennis and we will use the C teams as a vehicle for achieving this.

Mixed – set up is slightly different for mixed teams as clearly there are half the number of men and half the number of ladies in each team, so in our 3 teams there are 6 men and 6 women (plus squads of course).  This makes it much harder to get our best players in teams and also use the C team in the same way as we propose for the Men’s and Ladies.  So the approach here is for the captains to pick their best available players in all instances.  Again, with injuries and holidays we hope to be able to give many players a game, but the approach is subtly different.

I hope that is all clear, if not please let me know and I will follow up.  Obviously this is something we can revisit before each league season entry so if we find it does not work we can be flexible around how we do it next time around.

So any questions, please let me know, otherwise take care and see you on court soon!

Kind regards

David