

BARNET WOOD

NEWSLETTER OF HAYES TENNIS CLUB

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HAYES CHARACTERS

RAJIV PATEL

FIRST CLASS RAJ AND HIS DOUBLE HANDED BACKHAND

Rajiv Patel is one of the best players at Hayes and a Cambridge graduate with a first-class degree.

He can't tell you, though, why he serves right handed and then switches to a left double-handed grip for his next shot.

Is it anything to do with having the same birthday, June 3, as Rafael Nadal?

Raj thinks it probably goes back to his childhood and trying to play with a racket that was too heavy for him.

"The two hands come from using my brother's racket we had in the house.

"There is no good reason why I switch from right handed serve to a left handed grip. It is just what felt natural at the time and I stuck with it."



RAJ SERVING IN A CRUCIAL MATCH

Raj's backhand can strike fear in an opponent as he sweeps fiercely into the shot which frequently lands deep and fast somewhere near the back line.

Hayes coach Dennis has a lot to do with Raj, who'll be 32 on June 3, turning into a very good player.

Dennis coached Raj for a long time at Park Langley Club and after he left and joined Hayes, Raj moved to Hayes, too,

and continued to receive coaching from Dennis.

Raj plays for our Men's 2 team in the Kent League and our Men's 3 Team in the North Kent League. Sometimes he fills in for the Men's First team. He also plays in the Mixed 2 team, recently predominantly with Janet.

Raj thinks that one of his best results in singles was one of his worst matches, after he got to the final of the Plate.

"I had never played before a crowd before and I could not control my nerves. I had a watch to monitor my heart rate and it was averaging 150-160 beats per minute and I lost the first set 6-0. I had to bring it back. I won the next two sets, I think, by 6-3; 6-4. I took long, deep breaths."

A tough doubles match he remembers well was in blustery Broadstairs where he partnered Phil Jopson and they won both rubbers.

Outside of tennis, Raj has had a distinguished academic career. It began in Royston Primary School in Penge, where there were 35 pupils in his class, and he was often taught by a supply teacher. After he left and joined fee-paying St Dunstan's he was in a class of 18 students.

"If you see the same teacher every day it makes a difference," said Raj.

The upshot was that he passed Maths GCSE at the age of 12. He succeeded in a host of subjects but St Dunstan's pushed him at Maths.

"There was no obvious reason I should be good at Maths. Both my parents are Indian. Mum was born in Kenya and Dad was born in Aden. There was a push from my parents towards Maths and Science."

Raj's father was in the Civil Service and later he worked in London Underground as Station Manager at Brixton.

Raj is aware that his father didn't get jobs because of racism.

"My mother didn't have the same problems because she worked for the State Bank of India as a bank clerk for 40 years.

"People of Indian origin aren't shy of work. My parents worked hard to make sure they had enough money to provide for the kids. Indian people are pushed to get academic qualifications. They are also pushed towards medicine because people respect doctors."

At 18 Raj went to Cambridge University and left with a First Class degree in Maths.

Now he works in a hedge fund in London as a researcher.

"I research and build systematic trading strategies for stocks and cryptocurrencies which ultimately get used as part of the wider fund's portfolio.

"The crux of it is to use data to create an algorithm for trading stocks and crypto currencies. The customers are simply investors who deposit their money with the hedge fund for us to invest on their behalf."

Soon Raj will be moving from Anerley to Coulsdon. As Raj is also a member of David Lloyd's club in Beckenham, will he be leaving Hayes? He said, "I don't intend to leave the club as I enjoy the team tennis and the club sessions but I may be around less often than I currently am."

On May 16 Hayes Men's Third team gave Bromley Wendover a spanking

Pete Stenning tells the story of a famous 6-0 victory

There were six of us in the team - three pairs- and everyone won 6-0. The match was played on our home courts at Barnet Wood. It showcased exceptional teamwork, skill, and determination from the Hayes players. I partnered Jamie Kay in the first pair. From the very



JAMIE AND PETE

first serve, it was clear we had a formidable chemistry on the court. Our communication and synchronization were impeccable, allowing us to dominate the opponents with a combination of powerful serves, strategic shot placements, and lightning-fast reflexes.

Our aggressive playstyle kept Bromley Wendover on their toes, preventing them from gaining any momentum. With a series of well-

executed volleys and perfectly timed lobs, we secured a convincing victory, winning our rubber 6-0.

Our second pair, James Dear and Dave Stirk, gave an impressive display of skill and teamwork. James's powerful serves, coupled with Dave's exceptional net play, created a formidable combination that Wendover struggled to contend with. James's precision groundstrokes kept their opponents off balance, while Dave's quick reflexes and deft touch at the net consistently put pressure on Wendover's defence. The pair displayed remarkable resilience in the face of Wendover's attempted comebacks, never allowing their opponents to gain an upper hand. With their impressive performance, James and Dave sealed their rubber with a dominant 6-0 victory.

The third pair, Raj Patel and Akash Saxena, completed our clean sweep. Despite facing a determined effort from their opponents, Raj and Akash displayed great tenacity and skill throughout the match. Their ability to adapt to different playing styles and strategies was a key factor in their success. Raj's powerful groundstrokes and well-placed drop shots kept Wendover on their toes, while Akash's court coverage and defensive skills frustrated their opponents' attempts to gain an

advantage. With their unwavering focus and excellent shot selection, Raj and Akash secured the final rubber of the match, winning 6-0.

This impressive victory for Hayes highlights the dedication and hard work put in by the players. The exceptional teamwork and communication demonstrated by all three pairs played a crucial role in their success. Each player showcased their individual strengths while seamlessly blending with their respective partners, resulting in a formidable force that Bromley Wendover simply could not overcome.

The triumph over Bromley Wendover serves as a testament to the talent and commitment of the players at Hayes. It not only reflects their exceptional skills on the court but also the camaraderie and unity within the team. The victory will undoubtedly boost our confidence as we move forward in future competitions, serving as a reminder of our capabilities and potential for further success.

Congratulations to the Hayes players for their outstanding performance in this match. Their dominant 6-0 rubber win is a testament to their skill, teamwork, and dedication. We look forward to witnessing continued success in the upcoming matches and tournaments. The game was all taken in good spirits and beers were on the go after the game and pints were flowing left right and centre. The victory was celebrated with Jacket potatoes expertly cooked by James's girlfriend and seasoned to perfection.

FULL SPEED FOR THE FINALS

Top Hayes tennis players are preparing for the 2023 club tournament beginning in early June and ending on Finals Day, Saturday July 15 starting at 13.00.

The keenest competitors are taking part in inter-club matches and club tournaments, ensuring that they're in peak form for the finishing line. Competitions making up the Club Tournament are Ladies Singles, Men's Singles, Ladies Doubles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. A Men's Singles Plate competition will be held for players who lose in their first match. Anyone wanting to enter the doubles but lacking a partner can ask Andrew McIver, who will try to find a suitable person to fill the role.

On May 13 a junior tournament based on the French Open was organised by Dennis the coach and resulted in a win by Dima who beat Ewan 11-9 in the final; and Ayush who narrowly beat Victor 12-10 in the Under 12s final. Sophia, Phil Jepson's daughter, won the Plate final. In the lead up to June 3, the closing date for entries, an American tournament was held on Sunday May 14, supported by a large cast of



competitors. The winners were Sandra, Raj and Steve.

This was followed by a BT/Hayes American tournament on Thursday May 25, which was won by Pete Stenning and Danny Skipp.

Hungry players and supporters turned up at Ginger in Hayes for curry at 6pm and were rewarded

with a discount for eating dinner early.

Two singles leagues originated by Karl Kelledy resulted in wins for Pete Stenning and Caroline Dear. A dozen players took part.

Underlying all this activity Club Treasurer Alan Lennox produced a report indicating continuing improvement in the tennis club's finances. The total amount received so far from tennis subscriptions had already surpassed the final total from last year, which was a good sign of continuing financial stability.

Phil Jopson and Dennis decided the next junior tournament would be held in June and included on the website.

The annual Warman beer festival could also be used to attract new members and children.

The beer festival is on Sunday August 27 in the club grounds.

After that, the men's Vets tournament is on Saturday September 9.

BELOW SEE HAYES TEAMS' RESULTS SO FAR

HAYES (KENT) LAWN TENNIS CLUB

TEAM RESULTS - SUMMER SEASON 2023

<i>Team</i>	<i>Pld</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>League</i>
<i>Men's 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>KL 6</i>
<i>Men's 2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>KL 7</i>
<i>Men's 3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>NK E</i>
<i>Men's 4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>NK J</i>
<i>Ladies NK</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>NK F</i>
<i>Mixed Midweek Vets</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>NK B</i>
<i>Mixed 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>KL 3</i>
<i>Mixed 2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>KL 5</i>
<i>Men's Vets 1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>NK B</i>
<i>Men's Over 60</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>NK B</i>
<i>Men's Over 70</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>NK</i>

SEE BELOW WINNERS PETE STENNING AND CAROLINE DEAR AND LOSERS WHO COMPETED IN THE NEW SINGLES LEAGUES INVENTED. BY KARL KELLEDY

	<i>Peter Stenning</i>	<i>Raj Patel</i>	<i>Akash Saxena</i>	<i>Anoop Srivastava</i>	<i>James Dear</i>	<i>Jay Ramamurthy</i>	<i>POINTS</i>
<i>Peter Stenning</i>		4-2, 4-2		4-0, 5-4	4-1, 4-0		6
<i>Raj Patel</i>	2-4, 2-4		4-1, 4-1	4-1, 1-4, 10-8			4
<i>Akash Saxena</i>		1-4, 1-4			4-2, 4-0	4-1, 4-1	4
<i>Anoop Srivastava</i>	0-4, 4-5	1-4, 4-1, 8-10				4-1, 4-1	3
<i>James Dear</i>	1-4, 0-4		2-4, 0-4			4-0, 4-0	2
<i>Jay Ramamurthy</i>			1-4, 1-4	1-4, 1-4	0-4, 0-4		0

	<i>Caroline Dear</i>	<i>Anand Kaliaperumal</i>	<i>Dean Higgins</i>	<i>Esher Nandra</i>	<i>Haydn Thomas</i>	<i>Karl Kelledy</i>	<i>POINTS</i>
<i>Caroline Dear</i>			6-3, 6-1		6-1, 7-5	6-2, 6-3	6
<i>Anand Kaliaperumal</i>			6-0, 6-3			6-1, 6-0	4
<i>Dean Higgins</i>	3-6, 1-6	0-6, 3-6				6-2, 6-0	2
<i>Esher Nandra</i>						6-2, 6-4	2
<i>Haydn Thomas</i>	1-6, 5-7					6-3, 6-2	2
<i>Karl Kelledy</i>	2-6, 3-6	1-6, 0-6	2-6, 0-6	2-6, 4-6	3-6, 2-6		0

Welcome to issue 4 of "Barnet Wood."

Please send all comments to

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