

Hi all

Apologies for another long communication but these are exceptional times and the content is important reading for our tennis members so please take a few minutes to read this.

It is good to see so many members back playing tennis over the last two weeks. All has been working well and social distancing is being maintained. We have reviewed arrangements and have also looked at membership fees. Changes are detailed below including the deadline for paying your membership fees if you haven't already.

Bookings

First a big thank you to Amy for doing a great job managing all the court bookings that have been flowing into kentontennis@gmail.com. We now have a clear picture of when the courts are popular so are narrowing down the times when bookings are required to the following:

- Weekdays: 5-8pm
- Weekends and Public Holidays: 9am – 6pm

Outside these hours there is no need to book as it is highly unlikely that all courts will be used. Before requesting a booking please check availability yourself at:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=a2VudG9uLnRlbnM5pc0Bnb29nbGVtYWIsLmNvbQ> and send the request at least 24 hours before you want to play (Amy checks the mailbox a couple of times a day but not every minute!).

Court usage

There was some confusion over our previous guidance that “*Where court space allows avoid playing on adjacent courts: e.g. if 4 matches are being played Courts 1, 3, 4 & 6 should be used*”. This does not mean courts 2 and 5 can't be used as well if 6 pairs want to play, just that it is sensible to leave an empty court between people playing if the courts aren't busy.

Going forward we will book all 6 courts if demand dictates except that we will leave an empty court next to the one being used for coaching.

Security

Please always keep the car park gates locked even if you and others are on-site. We have had people trying to access the club and some equipment theft so need to remain vigilant.

Visitors

We will now allow visitors subject to the following parameters:

- Only one visitor per member at any time, the visitor to be accompanied by the member whilst on site.
- Members wishing to bring a visitor must e-mail kentontennis@gmail.com in advance and provide the name of the visitor and, if in booking hours, make a booking.
- A £3 fee applies to each visitor per visit to be paid on-line into the club account with reference “YOUR NAME – Visitor”. If you don't have the account details, please request it in your e-mail.
- Maximum 3 visits per visitor. It would be great to convert visitors into members.

Coaching

Individual (not group) coaching is now permitted and with coaches following the LTA Covid-19 guidelines. In the short-term Justin will be delivering coaching at the club as James is in lockdown with his family in Lancashire. If you are interested in resuming or starting individual coaching please contact Justin (justin57p@gmail.com or 07948624941) and he can provide further details.

Membership fees and renewal due

We originally opened our 2020/21 membership before the lockdown began and a big thank you to all the members who have paid their fees. Clearly the tennis season is dramatically different than what we anticipated at the time and we have extended the joining deadline whilst we see how things evolve. Tennis has now resumed albeit in a more limited format, but we are optimistic that will be able to run some club competitions later in the year and expand activities. Financially we have a better idea where we stand with some funding being received that reduces our payment obligations to Kenton Sports Club and the refund of our LTA registration fees. Taking into account the reduced activities this season and the financial situation for both our club and our members, we have taken the decision to significantly reduce membership fees for this season for all age groups.

The full adult membership rate has been reduced from £260 to £160, and fees for all membership groups are reduced as detailed on, and can paid at, <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/KentonLawnTennisClub/Membership/Join>.

Please note:

- If you have any queries or want to pay off-line please contact Sarper our membership secretary at sarper.kenton@btinternet.com.
- If you are paying by bank transfer rather than through the website please also e-mail Sarper at the same time confirming the amount and date of your payment so we can reconcile our records.
- Anyone facing financial hardship and struggling to pay the fees can contact Sarper in confidence and we'll see how we can help.

In considering whether to re-join we would ask people to bear in mind that we are a club run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of our members and that whilst you may not get as much tennis this year your fees will help sustain us for the future.

The deadline for paying your membership is Friday June 5th. After this, only members who have paid for the 2020/21 season will be able to use the courts.

Members who have their paid membership before May 23rd

We don't want anyone to be disadvantaged for paying on time and therefore not benefiting from the fee reduction we have made. Our preference from an administrative perspective would be to provide an equivalent reduction off next year's fees (i.e. if you have paid full adult membership this year then your fees next year will be reduced by the £100 reduction we have made). However, if anyone would like a refund of the difference now please e-mail Sarper and we'll arrange for that to happen.

A few members have indicated they are willing to pay full fees this year to support the club. This is not expected but where people are happy and able to do so it would be really appreciated. We had planned to resurface courts 1-3 this year and had a number of quotes that suggest the cost will be approx £50,000. We can pay the majority of this from our sinking fund but due to Covid-19 factors Middlesex Tennis have closed the loan facility that we anticipated using to fund the balance. If we can avoid reducing our membership income too significantly this year then we hope to be able to proceed with that project next year.

Play safe and stay safe!

Regards

Dave Clague
KLTC Chairman