

Hi all

This is an update following my mail on Wednesday – it's a long mail but if you are considering playing tennis in the next few weeks please read this thoroughly. Please also read the message from the Kenton Sports Club Executive Committee at the foot of this mail.

As a result of new government COVID-19 directives the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) have issued revised guidance which we are implementing.

Closure of changing rooms, toilets and tennis hut

The LTA guidelines state:

All tennis clubhouses and similar social facilities (including changing rooms and toilets) should be closed as soon as possible. Courts however can remain open for use to help ensure people remain active, subject to strict social distancing and hygiene practices being employed.

Hence as of this morning all buildings, including the tennis hut and toilets are now closed to members.

Recommended social distancing and hygiene measures include:

- *Players should wash hands before and after a tennis session without exception – as our indoor facilities are closed you can use the tap on Court 1 or preferably bring your own alcohol gel or soap*
- *Use new balls where possible and don't share rackets – note no club balls will be provided*
- *Activity should be in line with the Government's advised social distancing measures at all times (defined by Public Health England as spending no more than 15 minutes and not within a 2-metre distance talking to someone), including when arriving to and departing from a court*
- *Avoid touching your face*
- *If you are not confident that you can adhere to the social distancing guidance when undertaking tennis and coaching activity in doubles format, you should only play singles*
- *Players are advised not to change ends during play (suggest at least don't pass close to each other)*
- *Ensure no physical contact between players during warm-ups or games*
- *For the full guidance see <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/tennis-news/news-and-opinion/general-news/2020/march/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-venues/>*

Rationale for keeping courts open

Many of our members have expressed their view that they would like to continue playing tennis and this is supported by the LTA:

We all know tennis is a unique sport which has many benefits – the main one being health and wellbeing. While the LTA has suspended its organised activity, the Government have currently indicated that physical exercise (including grass roots coaching) that takes place at a safe distance from others and in safe exercise environments is something that can continue at this time. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has specifically advised us that tennis is one of the best examples of social distancing in practice, and so should be encouraged as long as the guidance permits.

We will of course close the courts immediately if advised to do so or the government announces a lock-down.

Coaching

Coaching is continuing in a revised format in line with LTA guidance – e.g. smaller groups, social distancing, children not touching the balls except with their rackets and hand washing being enforced. James has shared details with parents and guardians.

Access and security

All other activities (nursery, rentals, bar, other sports) have ceased on the Kenton site so it is essential that we as the tennis section ensure the site remains secure and in particular that the car park gates are locked. We have communicated many times over the last few years that a car park key is available to members (for a £5 deposit) to guarantee access to the courts and we have over 40 key holders. With no nursery and more limited coaching the site will be locked much of the time so if you haven't got a key holder in your group that is planning to play, you may not be able to get access.

All key holders are requested to strictly implement the following:

- If you open the gates you personally are responsible from locking them when you leave
- The only exception is when another key holder is present. In that case you can leave them to lock the gates only if you have positive affirmation from them that they have their key with them and will take responsibility for locking up.
- In all other cases you must ask anyone else playing to stop and exit the site when you want to leave so you can leave the gates locked. If anyone objects please let me know.

Thank you for your cooperation on the above. It's very difficult times and as a committee we are doing our best to protect our members whilst allowing some tennis to continue. Obviously everyone needs to make their own judgment on whether to continue playing or not but we believe the right thing for the club to do is to adhere to government and LTA advice. Any questions please e-mail us on kentontennis@gmail.com.

Regards

Dave
KLTC Chairman

MESSAGE FROM KENTON SPORTS CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hi,

Given the Government advice yesterday we have to follow this and close Kenton Sports Club from today for at least a month which will be reviewed as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic develops.

Currently guidelines from the LTA are that tennis courts are still allowed to be open to provide access for people to outside activities as long as social distancing is maintained and levels of hygiene are observed. As long as we can provide this facility for our members we will maintain this and will follow LTA guidelines which are changing daily. Tennis members must diligently maintain security of the site as well.

Kenton Sports Club is a small business and as such we have continual outgoings which need to be covered. We appreciate that the individual sections also run on membership incomes and this may be severely dented in the coming months. We will do everything within our capabilities to ensure that the club remains viable so we can all resume our sport once this is over. On that note I would be very grateful if any members who are in financial affairs or government offices who would be able to give us advice on how to access funds that are being made available by the government for small businesses if we need to supplement our funds.

Our priority is the health and safety of all our members and we hope that you all are safe and well through this awful situation. As the situation develops we will keep our members informed as government guidance changes.

Best wishes to all our members from Kenton Sorts Club Executive Committee