

Hi all

Normally at this time of year we are writing the newsletter and optimistically talking up the new tennis season. Scarily and surreally we are in a much darker place now. We have just concluded a tennis committee meeting (our first by conference call) to decide what actions we now need to take in response to the COVID-19 crisis and this e-mail is to advise you what we have concluded. Please take a few minutes to read it. Clearly events are dynamic and we will need to review things on an ongoing basis. The following applies effective immediately until we notify you otherwise:

- The club bar will be closed (a decision made by the Sports Club Exec Committee and supported by the Tennis Committee)
- Middlesex tennis has suspended all tennis competitions (adult, junior and vets) and we are also suspending the Kenton Winter League that we host for clubs in the area.
- Junior tennis on Friday nights is cancelled
- We know many people desperately want to maintain the outlet of physical activity otherwise they will go stir crazy and hence we would like to maintain the option for members to play whilst it remains viable. We ask that members (and parents) observe the following guidelines:
 - The risk assessment of whether to play is a decision you need to make and be responsible for individually – the committee cannot make any guarantees or commitments
 - If you do meet the governments “isolation” criteria (i.e. you have symptoms of the virus or contact with those that do have it, or have a health risk) please do not come to the club for the recommended isolation period.
 - Avoid physical contact: no handshakes obviously. Members may also prefer to play singles which is obviously a more isolated game than doubles. Singles will also be acceptable during social tennis hours on a temporary basis.
 - Juniors are the responsibility of their parents/guardians and we request that under-16s are not at the club alone without parental presence and oversight unless they are in a coaching session.
 - Key holders are reminded that if you open the gates you are responsible for locking them unless you agree with someone else that they will lock the gates. Also please lock up if you are the last person to leave.
- Coaching will continue pending any further government guidance: social distancing on an outdoor tennis court is much greater than in school classrooms. Of course ongoing participation is subject to personal or parental/guardian decision. Pupils will be asked to wash their hands before and after lessons and maintain a distance in small group sessions.
- We’ll take a view as things progress on when we can run club tournaments: a likely scenario is that we will need to push them back to later in the year.
- All the events we have planned in April are cancelled – e.g. Grounds Day, Quiz Night, Open Day, darts matches, the Winter League presentation evening and team practice nights.
- This is the time of the year when we ask members to pay their annual subscriptions. We realise that’s a difficult ask in the circumstances but we also want there to be a financially healthy club for us all to return to when this is over. There are unavoidable expenses (e.g. insurance, council tax, loan repayments) that still need to be covered even if no sport is being played and our lettings cease. We have reversed our decision to make an increase in fees (to help cover the investments in new courts) and will hold prices at 2019 levels. If you are able to pay the membership fees on time to support the club that will be really appreciated. Details will be sent out by Sarper later in the month.

If you have any questions please e-mail us on kentontennis@gmail.com. We pride ourselves on being a friendly club and want to look after our tennis community: if you are struggling (not just with tennis but other matters too) please feel free to contact us in confidence on the above e-mail and we'll see what we can do to help.

Please take care of yourselves.

Regards

Dave Clague

Kenton Tennis Club chairman