

# Kenton Tennis Newsletter *March 2019*

## Introduction

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A new summer season of tennis is approaching and as ever we have lots of opportunities for members to enjoy competitive and social tennis. We have plenty of inter-club team tennis with 5 Men's teams, 3 Ladies' teams and a multitude of junior teams entering Middlesex league competitions, plus the Team Tennis (previously Aegon) League, 2 Mixed Veterans teams and the Middlesex Cup to play.

Our club tournament has ~20 categories of entry, ranging from minis to veteran tournaments and we'd encourage members of all standards to join in. **Finals Day is Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>** so please mark that in your diaries with the presentations and buffet to follow on Saturday evening. We'll continue to organise regular American tournaments in addition to the weekly adult and junior social tennis slots. Our club coach James will also be running an extensive group and individual coaching programme throughout the season and summer camps during the holiday.

Off the court we just had an excellent quiz night, the intra sports club Friday night darts league continues and further social events are planned including an International Evening on May 3rd. For juniors, our monthly junior socials remain very popular, with a variety of sporting and non-sporting entertainment in addition to tennis.

Ours is a club for members run by members. Making all the above happen requires a huge amount of work from our committee and other volunteers, all of whom generously give their time for free and most who have full time jobs. To keep things going we need everyone's support, e.g. helping out at grounds days, open days (our next one is on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>), captaining teams, junior socials etc. Beyond this our volunteers roles can be made much easier if members are responsive, for example:

- Please pay your membership fees promptly by the end of April rather than making the committee have to chase you for this: debt collecting and stopping people playing is uncomfortable for both parties.
- Arranging teams is a hard job for our captains. Please be available as much as possible for team matches (the fixture dates are available now) and respond quickly to messages from captains asking if you/your child is available (a quick yes/no is often all that is required).

We have recently upgraded our website and membership system to run on the LTA Clubspark platform (**come down from 2.30pm Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> to find out more**)- a big thank you to the Norman family for making this happen. Aside from a more sparkling website the big change you will notice is that our membership will be driven by on-line enrolment and payment system that is secure and GDPR compliant. See Sarper's email for more details.

The club has recently undergone a routine LTA Safeguarding audit. Thank you to all those that responded to the LTA Safeguarding survey. Overall the audit results were good but we do need to make members more systematically aware of our safeguarding policy. This is printed and displayed in the hut and on our website. Peter Pilides is our safeguarding office and has undertaken LTA safeguarding training. If you have any safeguarding concerns, or any other queries about our policy, Peter should be the first point of contact:  
[peter.pilides@btinternet.com/07884262527](mailto:peter.pilides@btinternet.com/07884262527).

This newsletter sets out important things you need to know as a member of the club, including membership fees, team arrangements and security. Please spare a few minutes to read it.

## Key dates for your diaries

Social Friendly & Clubspark launch - Sunday March 24 <sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm
Kenton Club Grounds Force Day - Friday April 5 <sup>th</sup>
Junior socials - Fridays 5 <sup>th</sup> April (3pm), 10 <sup>th</sup> May, 14 <sup>th</sup> June & 5 <sup>th</sup> July (all 5pm)
Tennis Grounds Day: Sunday April 7 <sup>th</sup> from 10 am
Men's team practices: Tuesday April 9 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm
Ladies team practices: Thursday April 11 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday April 16 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm
Winter League presentation evening: Thursday April 18 <sup>th</sup> at 8.30pm
Tennis Club open day - Sunday April 14 <sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 4pm
Family Quorn tournament & Road to Wimbledon - Easter Monday April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
International Evening - Friday May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , time TBC
<b>FINALS DAY (ALL COMPETITIONS) &amp; PRESENTATIONS - Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup></b>
American tournament/Tennis Club AGM - Sunday November 24 <sup>th</sup> 2pm/4pm

## Membership fees are due in April

Your membership fees go towards the running costs of the tennis section, including long term capital projects such as lights, courts, and the tennis hut, plus a significant contribution to Kenton Sports Club who operate our ground and facilities and a smaller fee we pay the LTA as part of the club registration. This year the Kenton Sports Club Committee have had to make the decision to increase the contribution required from adult members by £10 (less for juniors), an increase that is required due to the economic impact of the Hockey section leaving Kenton and moving its social base to a new site in Harrow on the site where matches are played.

Membership category	Annual fee	Description
Full adult	£260	No restrictions
Weekday	£195	Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm ONLY
Young Adult	£155	Under 25 on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019
Student 18+	£130	Must be in full time education
Junior	£80	Under 18 on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019
Mini	£45	Under 11 on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019
Parent	£55	Can only play with own child/children who are tennis members. If the courts are full and people are waiting must vacate and allow the above categories of members to play instead.
Social	£35	No Tennis. Allows members to use the Sports Club Bar facilities.

Please see the e-mail from Sarper regarding how to pay the fees using Clubspark and details of family membership.

**Please renew by 30th April** to avoid paying the £25 late re-joining fee. We will be operating a strict 'No Pay, No Play' policy after this date - and players that have not paid will not be eligible to enter the club tournaments nor represent Kenton in team matches until they have paid.

All Members that join or renew their membership for 2019/20 will receive a membership card. Please carry this with you when you come to the club as committee members will be checking to ensure people playing are fully paid up members. Please have your membership card to hand and don't be offended if you are asked for it - it's in the interests of all paying members to ensure that only fully paid up members have use of the courts.

## Grounds Day is on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April @ 10am

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Maintenance of the site is dependent on the voluntary efforts of club members, led by Steve Wilkins our Grounds Officer. If we don't get sufficient voluntary support then we will have to employ maintenance contractors and increase fees accordingly. Our next grounds day is on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30-1pm - please come along and help. Coffee and tea will be provided for the workers and there will be a £10 membership reduction for those adult members who attend. Note no social play will be permitted during grounds day times as maintenance will be being undertaken on court.

There are lots of jobs that need doing and many don't need any particular strength or skill. We'd welcome the contribution of anyone from teenagers to pensioners. Example activities include:

- Putting new granules on court
- Putting up the windbreak netting
- Cutting hedges and bushes
- Painting the shed, kick boards and picnic tables
- General tidying and cleaning up

## Open Day is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April @ 12 noon until 4 pm

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We are delighted that we have maintained our membership but it requires lots of hard work to attract and retain members, including running open days and making the club known in the community through various means and it is helped by having an excellent coach who brings in lots of new members. Equally important is creating a friendly atmosphere and being welcoming to prospective/new members so that they feel part of the tennis club family. Please encourage your friends, neighbours, families and any other people you know to come down to the club on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> and see what we have to offer. Activities will include tennis, mini-tennis, volleyball, cardio-tennis, table-tennis, raffle, cake stall, BBQ, refreshments & bar. So please come and join us and perhaps try something new. If you would like to help out on the day we always need volunteers so please speak to Gail or Helen.

## Juniors

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Junior Practices are every Friday from 5pm to 6.30pm (note there will be no practice on Good Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>). See above for the monthly Junior Social dates which will follow the Friday practice sessions when we will play rounders, hockey and table tennis. There will also be the usual internal and Middlesex tournaments to be announced shortly as well as the junior ladders which we have set up in the tennis hut. Please check your WhatsApp group messages for up to date information. Remember juniors are always entitled to play on 1 court as long as there isn't a match taking place. Why not challenge a friend to come and play in the holidays?

## Club tournaments - finals day is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

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Club finals day is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July and all finals will be played on that day. Members of all standards are encouraged to enter and it's a good opportunity, win or lose, to play new people and test yourself.

Age group	Tournament	Entry details
Adult	Men's singles	<p><b>The closing date for entries is Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Entries may be submitted:</p> <p>1 By emailing your entry to <a href="mailto:kentontennis@gmail.com">kentontennis@gmail.com</a></p> <p>2 By signing up on the entry sheet sheets that will be on the tennis hut</p> <p>Organisers: Lucy Allman/Dave Clague</p>
	Ladies' singles	
	Men's doubles	
	Ladies' doubles	
	Mixed doubles	
Junior	<p>Various competitions from Under 8 to Under 21s.</p> <p>A doubles competition for teenagers may also be run, depending on demand</p>	<p>Entries may be submitted:</p> <p>1 By informing Helen Clague that you wish to enter</p> <p>2 By emailing your interest to <a href="mailto:kentontennis@gmail.com">kentontennis@gmail.com</a></p> <p>3 By signing up on the entry sheet sheets that will be on the tennis hut</p> <p>Organiser: Helen Clague</p>
Veterans	Men's singles	<p><b>The closing date for entries is Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Entries may be submitted:</p> <p>1 By emailing your entry to <a href="mailto:kentontennis@gmail.com">kentontennis@gmail.com</a></p> <p>2 By signing up on the entry sheet sheets that will be on the tennis hut</p> <p>Organiser: Peter Pilides</p>
	Ladies' singles	
	Men's doubles	
	Ladies' doubles	
	Mixed doubles	

If you enter the tournaments, please remember that all the finals must be played on Finals Day. Anyone who enters the tournaments and is unable to play on finals day must scratch at match point in the quarter-final, should they reach this stage. Stronger juniors are also welcome to enter the adult tournament - please consult Helen if in doubt.

Your eligibility for an age restricted tournament is determined by your age on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

## Team tennis

### Middlesex Summer League (Adult)

The Middlesex League will be starting again soon. We will be running 5 Men's Teams and 3 Ladies Teams this summer. The format is doubles, with 3 pairs playing against 3 pairs from other clubs in Middlesex. The matches are played on weekday evenings between April and the first week in August and start at 6.30pm and finish around 9.30pm.

One of the most important aspects of the team matches is the team suppers which are usually cooked by one of the players or a volunteer. Please note that players are expected to attend the suppers, home and away. Remember someone has given up their time to cook your supper and at Kenton we pride ourselves on our social atmosphere as a Club, as well as the standard of play. If players do not stay on for supper and have no good excuse they may not be selected next time.

The fee for playing in these matches will be £6 for Adults, £5 for Students and £4 for selected Juniors. The money collected when playing at home covers the supply of food for 12 players. The money collected when playing at away matches counts towards the cost of the balls and lights used

during home matches. This fee is payable to the Team Captain - please have the correct change available.

Please make every effort to attend the team practices which are run by our coach James. Practices start at 7pm and involve an hour of coaching and then some competitive match play. The cost is £4 for adults, £3 for students and £2 for juniors. If in doubt which session to attend, please consult one of the team captains:

Team	Captain	Practice dates
Men 1	Nick Kassouf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm</li> <li>• Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm</li> </ul>
Men 2	Dave Clague	
Men 3	Peter Pilides	
Men 4	TBC	
Men 5	Sarper Imren	
Ladies 1	Alison Hedley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>: All Ladies</li> <li>• Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>: All Ladies</li> </ul>
Ladies 2	Gail Pilides	
Ladies 3	Margaret Byrne	

### Middlesex Cup (Adult)

We have entered a team in the Middlesex Cup (now a Mixed competition) captained by Lucy Allman. These matches are played at the weekend.

### Team Tennis National League (Adult)

We have entered two Mens teams and one Ladies team in the Team Tennis National League Competition. These matches are played at the weekend. Dave Clague captains the Mens 1<sup>st</sup> team, Abba Juma the Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> team and Alison Hedley the Ladies team.

### Veterans

We have entered two mixed Veterans League teams. These matches are played at the weekend for Men over 45 and Ladies over 40. Lucy Allman captains the first team with the second team captain being Liz Barker.

### Junior teams

We have entered teams for the following age groups: U18 boys, U14 boys, U14 girls, U12 boys, U10 mixed, U9 mixed, U8 mixed so please contact James or Helen if you want more details on being part of a team with matches played at the weekends from April to June.

### Court availability

Weekend matches normally start at 10am, 1 pm and (on Saturdays only) 4pm and midweek matches at 6.30pm although players should arrive earlier to warm up. Depending on the competition between 2 and 4 courts will be required. Please show patience if you wish to play Tennis on match days - You can check court availability before you plan your play by viewing the club court calendar at the following URL:

[www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=a2VudG9uLnRlbnM5pc0Bnb29nbGVtYWlsLmNvbQ](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=a2VudG9uLnRlbnM5pc0Bnb29nbGVtYWlsLmNvbQ) or click on the link from our website [www.kentontennis.co.uk](http://www.kentontennis.co.uk).

## Access and security

The security of the club and grounds is a significant concern and ongoing challenge and we need all members to be vigilant. It is also important of course that members can get access to the courts

when they want to play. Please read the following guidelines which will hopefully balance these two objectives. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Ground access

Access to the grounds is through the car park gates. **When no one is present on the sports club site these should always be locked.** All adult members are entitled to a key to the car park gate for a returnable £5 deposit. If you would like a key please e-mail the request to [kentontennis@gmail.com](mailto:kentontennis@gmail.com) and this will be provided. We will also consider requests from parents of juniors subject to them agreeing to be present on site when their children are playing. When you unlock the gates please leave the padlock locked to the open gate - do not move it or take it with you.

Whilst the grounds are often open with bar hours plus James coaching and the Montessori school open in term time, if you decide not to have a key there may be times when you may not be able to gain access to the courts to play tennis. If this happens please do not complain to a committee member - we all have full time jobs and cannot maintain an onsite presence. The solution is to have your own key.

### On departure from the tennis court area

Unless other members are actively using the tennis hut, when vacating the tennis court area please make sure the lights in the hut are turned off and the door is shut and locked.

### On departure if you are the last person leaving the club grounds

As well as making sure the hut is secure, as you leave:

1. If you notice the changing room door is open, please turn any lights off and shut the door so it is locked (members with keys should also use the deadlock)
2. As you leave the car park, please padlock the car park gates irrespective of the time of day and whether others may be arriving later. In the event that you do not have a key (and we hope you will have one) please at minimum shut the gates.

### General points

Please can members also:

- Respect the Sports Club rules that there should be no cycling on club grounds beyond the car park and dogs must be kept under control
- Not leave old balls on courts - if you don't want them put them in the bin, or if they are re-usable leave them in the ball bucket in the hut
- Always leave the court gates closed to keep wild animals out - this will avoid poo on the courts and foxes chewing through our the nets (they have caused significant damage)
- Use the litter bins provided and pick up any litter that you see - this shouldn't just be the committee that have to do this.

## Hall & old bar bookings

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We have a large clubhouse and the hall and old bar are available for private hire on an ad hoc or regular basis at reasonable rates. This is an important source of income for the club, so please think about using it if you have any family or other functions you are organising or are part of a club or society looking for a regular venue. Non-members can also hire the venue so please tell your family and friends about it too. If you are interested ask behind the bar, phone the club on 02089077538 or e-mail [kentonsportsclub@outlook.com](mailto:kentonsportsclub@outlook.com) .

## Your committee

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Chairman: David Clague	Club Captain: Hussein Juma
Vice Chairman & Welfare Officer: Peter Pilides	Treasurer: Alison Hedley
Membership Secretary: Sarper Imren	Junior Officer & Junior Committee Chair: Helen Clague
Club coach: James Farrell	Grounds Officer: Steven Wilkins
Club Secretary: Sona Uppal	Events & Entertainments Officer: Gail Pilides
Kenton Winter League Organiser & Results Manager: Lucy Allman	Publicity & Promotions Officer: Ian Norman
Fundraising Officer: Mel Clements	

## Keep in touch

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You can also find out more at [www.kentontennis.co.uk](http://www.kentontennis.co.uk). Join our Kenton Lawn Tennis Facebook Page. If you have any questions, ideas or feedback please talk to any of the committee members or you can e-mail the committee: [kentontennis@gmail.com](mailto:kentontennis@gmail.com).

For information regarding James' coaching programme see our website or contact James direct: [jftennis@gmail.com](mailto:jftennis@gmail.com) or phone 07852 180905.