



Morpeth Tennis Club

Members' Handbook

Season 2023-4

Introduction

Morpeth Tennis Club is a vibrant club that plays on six floodlit artificial grass courts, situated in the grounds of Longhirst Hall, to the north of Morpeth, Northumberland.

The 2022-3 season saw the beginning of a programme of improvements to the facilities. The resurfacing of our top three courts was completed in April 2022. Next on the agenda is a replacement dugout for our current storm-damaged structure. Also in the pipeline is the replacement of energy hungry floodlights on three of the courts with energy efficient LED floodlights.

The tennis club has access to a clubhouse which it shares with Morpeth Hockey Club and Morpeth Cricket Club. The clubhouse is well equipped with spacious bar area, showers, changing rooms and a meeting room, and has recently been refurbished to make it even more welcoming.

All levels of play are catered for at Morpeth Tennis Club, from those who are new to the game or are coming back after a long hiatus, to regulars who enjoy group sessions aimed at maximising the enjoyment and mix of partners in doubles tennis, and team players who are looking to hone their competitive skills in readiness for matches against other clubs in the wider area.

We also have a lively junior section, with group coaching sessions put on through much of the year by coaches who aim to harness the youthful enthusiasm of the children so that they have as much fun as possible while learning the rudiments of the game and building their expertise.



Membership for 2023-4

If you have not yet joined the club, there are several options that you can choose from. Membership is based on a calendar that runs from 1st April to 31st March, but we also offer 3-month memberships for new senior members.

Each member, apart from a non-playing social member, can book a court on our website (<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/MorpethTennisClub>), and can gain access to the courts with a key, which they can obtain from the club in exchange for a small deposit.

You can also join in the various club-organised events, such as regular weekly or twice weekly social tennis sessions and competitions organised by the club, and you can put yourself forward for consideration to play for one of the teams, which play summer fixtures in the Dunlop Northumberland & Durham League and winter fixtures in the North East Club Winter League.

Membership of Morpeth Tennis Club also entitles you to free membership of British Tennis, run by the LTA, which confers various benefits, including the opportunity to put your name forward for the Wimbledon ballot.

There are various membership options:

- **Senior Full**
Full adult (18+) membership — £160 (or £13.50 in 12 monthly instalments)
- **Student**
Adult up to 24 years old in full time education — £45
- **Family**
2 adults and 2 children under 18 from the same family — £315 (or £26.50 in 12 monthly instalments)
- **Junior**
Child under 18, eligible to play during off-peak times (Mon-Fri 9am to 7pm, all day at weekends) — £35
- **Guardian**
Adult playing exclusively with son, daughter or ward during off-peak times (Mon-Fri 9am to 7pm, all day at weekends) — £15
- **3-month Membership**
Full membership for three months — £60
- **Non-playing Social**
Adult ineligible to play but with access to the clubhouse — £15



Court Booking

[View my bookings >](#)

Please select a court and a time when you would like to play.

Please use the tabs at the top of this page for [court booking](#) and [pay as you play](#) instructions

Our courts are numbered as follows: courts 1 - 3 are top, courts 4 - 6 are bottom.

Non-members wishing to play can access courts 1 - 3 only. Racquets and balls are available to use if required.

Sunday 30th April

Day view 

< TODAY >

	Court 1 (Top, closest... Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Ar...	Court 2 (Top) Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Ar...	Court 3 (Top) Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Ar...	Court 4 (Bottom, clos... Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Ar...	Court 5 (Bottom) Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Ar...	Court 6 (Bottom) Full, Outdoor, Floodlit, Ar...	
08:00	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	08:00
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
08:30	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	08:30
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
09:00	FREE	FREE	FREE	Book at 09:00 - 09:15	FREE	FREE	09:00
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
09:30	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	09:30
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
10:00	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	10:00
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
10:30	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	10:30
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
11:00	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	11:00
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
11:30	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	11:30
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
12:00	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	12:00
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
12:30	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	12:30
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	
13:00	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	13:00
	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	

Booking a Court

You book a court on the ‘Court Booking’ page of the Morpeth Tennis Club website. This page shows a grid of courts and time slots for each day, with the grid for today displayed by default. You can select or scroll to any day you want, click on a time period when you want to start playing, then fill in your booking details in the dialog box that pops up.

The whole process is simple and enables you to choose the full period during which you want to play, and specify who it is that you are playing with.

Floodlights

All six courts are floodlit, and members control the top three and bottom three courts separately, through tokens inserted into machines in a locked box to the right of the clubhouse.

Tokens cost £1.50 each and last half an hour. All club-organised sessions incur no floodlight charge.

Club Documents and Policies

All of the official club documents are accessible through the Morpeth Tennis Club website. These documents lay out the policies that govern how the club operates, and include the following:

- [Code of conduct](#)
 - [Safeguarding](#)
 - [Diversity and inclusion policy](#)
 - [Risk assessment for health and safety](#)
 - [GDPR data protection policy](#)
 - [Club consitution](#)
- [COVID-19 access risk assessment document](#)
 - [Team selection and team practice document](#)
 - [Morpeth Tennis Club membership application form](#)
 - [Committee roles and responsibilities document](#)
 - [Social media policy](#)
 - [Club by-laws](#)

Coaching

Morpeth Tennis Club endeavours to run a wide-ranging programme of coaching activities for adults and children of all levels of ability and commitment.

For instance, the junior programme (<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/MorpethTennisClub/Coaching/Junior>) consists of the following:

- a development and performance squad for keen players over 10 years of age during term time
- tennis stars sessions for 5-7 year olds (red ball), 7-9 year olds (orange ball) and 9+ year olds (green ball) on Saturdays
- tennis camps, run throughout the summer

For beginner and improver adults we have a Tennis Xpress programme on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 11am, which aims to teach the fundamentals of tennis technique in a relaxed, non-competitive environment, and for any level of player wishing to boost their overall health we have Cardio tennis sessions on Fridays from 6pm to 7pm. We're also always looking to put on further evening sessions, particularly 'rusty racket' sessions. Full details will appear on the 'Coaching' page of the website (<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/MorpethTennisClub/Coaching/Adult>)

The coaching team that delivers all these courses includes the following:

Mariana Warwick

Mariana is our head coach, with over 20 years' experience of teaching children and adults.

- Level 3 LTA Qualified Coach
- Former national level player in Argentina and Venezuela
- Former intercollegiate NCAA Division 1 player at University of Tulsa
- Experience at Nick Bolletieri Academy
- Available for individual coaching sessions (£30 per hour)

Email: marianawarwick@hotmail.com

Tel: 07766 733488



Alex Laude

Alex coordinates much of the output of the coaching team, particularly with regard to junior tennis.

- Level 2 LTA Qualified Coach
- Assists Mariana with tennis camps and Saturday morning junior tennis programme, and delivering club competitions and events

John Robertson

John has a quarter of a century's experience teaching PE in primary schools, focusing on agility and movement skills.

- Level 2 LTA Qualified Coach
- Masters degree in Primary Physical Education and Diploma in SAQ (Speed Agility Quickness)

Kim Sanderson

Kim has over 20 years' experience, and coaches players of any age, specialising in mini tennis (ages 3 to 10). Contact Kim directly for one-to-one coaching.

- Level 4 LTA Qualified Coach
- Enhanced DBS, Safeguarding training and Emergency First Aid qualified

Email: sanderson0710@hotmail.com

Playing in a Team

We enter an array of teams in local leagues in both the summer and winter, and we're always looking for new players to come in and boost the competition for places.

There are two main sections available for team play:

- Open section (any age)
- Veterans' (Vets) section (lower age limit)

In the Dunlop Northumberland & Durham League that we play in through the summer, open teams consist of six players while veterans' teams consist of four players. There are likely to be three home matches and three away matches in each division of the league, with promotion and relegation affecting the top and bottom two teams (or single teams finishing top or bottom for higher divisions).

We have entered the following teams for this league:

- Women's Open 1st team
- Men's Open 1st team, 2nd team and 3rd team
- Women's Vets (Over-45) 1st team and 2nd team
- Men's Vets (Over-45) 1st team, 2nd team and 3rd team
- Mixed Vets (Over-45) 1st team and 2nd team
- Women's Over-60 1st team
- Men's Over-60 1st team

Players of any age can play in the open teams (apart from one team not listed above: Mixed Open Under-45 team).

There are two categories of vets teams:

- Players 45 years old and over
- Players 60 years old and over

If you are interested in playing in a team, why not come down to the match practice session, which takes place from 6pm on a Wednesday evening. Email the club at tennismorpeth@gmail.com for details.

From October the North East Club Winter League takes over. All teams in this league consist of two men and two women, with a men's doubles and a women's doubles forming the first round of rubbers, and two mixed doubles forming the second round of rubbers.

We usually have three teams here:

- Winter League 1st team
- Winter League 2nd team
- Winter League 3rd team

Each team we've listed above has a team captain, who organises the matches and is responsible for team selection. So, if you want to be considered for selection for any of these teams, simply get in touch with the team captain (see 'Contact Details' at the end).

Social Tennis

The main aim of the social tennis sessions that the club organises is to enable players of all standards to mix in and play with and against a variety of other players, so that everyone gets to know each other and has a good time.

The usual structure of a social tennis session is for pairings to play a full set or partial set, then to split up to form different pairs against different opponents, and carry on in this vein until the session, lasting from two to three hours, concludes.

Currently there are sessions aimed at all members and also separate sessions for those over 60 years of age, who fall into the supervet category.

Club Social Sessions

Monday evening: 6pm to 8pm

Saturday afternoon: 2pm to 5pm (11am to 1pm in winter)

Supervets Sessions

Tuesday: 9.30am to 12 noon

Thursday: 9.30am to 12 noon

We organise the sessions through official Morpeth Tennis Club WhatsApp groups.

- For the club social sessions, the Whatsapp group is the 'MTC Social Tennis' group.
- For the supervets sessions, the Whatsapp group is the 'SuperVets' group.

If you are not currently a member of one of these groups but want to be included in their communications, simply email the club (tennismorpeth@gmail.com) and we will add you to the group.



Internal Competitions

Periodically, the club puts on a tournament, which any member can enter. A typical format is for the whole event to be played on a Saturday or Sunday as a doubles competition, either with a fixed partner or with different partners, with round robin matches starting off proceedings, so that everyone gets at least a few games before the numbers are whittled down.

Sometimes a handicapping system will be applied, and sometimes matches are played to the stopwatch, rather than to a particular score. We frequently tinker with the format in light of members' comments and new initiatives that we'd like to implement.

All tournaments are publicised on our [website](#), and through the various club WhatsApp groups.

Club Championship

The main tournament is the Club Championship, which consists of a variety of singles and doubles events. Some of these events are 'open', with conventional scoring, and some have handicapping applied, so that stronger teams start each game with a deficit.

Preliminary rounds for each event are played over several weeks in the summer. The culmination is Finals Weekend, which takes place towards the end of the summer, where the finals of all of the events take place, hopefully in front of a large crowd of supporters.



Contact Details

General Enquiries

tennismorpeth@gmail.com

Membership Enquiries

Paul Johnson (Treasurer)

✉ pauljohnson44@hotmail.com

☎ 07951 081025

Club Secretary

Graham Fewell

✉ club.secretary@morpethtennis.org

☎ 07954 103554

Safeguarding

Yvonne Dunn

✉ vonnie90@sky.com

☎ 07703 409206

Men's 1st Team Captain

Colin Bentham

✉ bentham.projects@gmail.com

☎ 07388 878107

Men's 2nd Team Captain

Graham Fewell

✉ club.secretary@morpethtennis.org

☎ 07954 103554

Men's 3rd Team Captain

Johnny Rezai

✉ jonathan.rezai@gmail.com

☎ 07931 588460

Women's 1st Team Captain

Jill Taylor

✉ jill909@outlook.com

☎ 07841 347670

Mixed Vets 1st Team Captain

Colin Bentham (see Men's 1st)

Mixed Vets 2nd Team Captain

Guy Rollisson

✉ guyjrollisson@hotmail.com

☎ 07730 354656

Men's Vets 1st Team Captain

Trevor Herron

✉ trev9165@yahoo.co.uk

☎ 07515 295131

Men's Vets 2nd Team Captain

Graham Fewell (see Men's 2nd)

Men's Vets 3rd Team Captain

Gordon Rutter

✉ agagrutter@aol.com

☎ 07527 827193

Women's Vets 1st Team Captain

Tracey Gaskill

✉ traceygaskill@outlook.com

☎ 07725 118189

Women's Vets 2nd Team Captain

Jane Cockburn

✉ janecockburn@hotmail.com

☎ 07773 714340

Men's Over 60 Team Captain

Paul Ward

✉ waddleisking@yahoo.co.uk

☎ 07530 662434

Women's Over 60 Team Captain

Janet Robinson

✉ j.e.robinson61@btinternet.com

☎ 07980 188831