

Welcome Letter

Thank you for signing up for a membership package with Radyr Lawn Tennis Club. We are a well established Club with a thriving membership and a history that spans over 100 years. I appreciate that it may seem quite daunting initially to join such a large club and it is for this reason I have compiled these guidelines which I hope will make it easy for you to organise and play tennis.

Our website has a wealth of information and is well worth a read but to get you up and running quickly you may find some of the following points of interest.

Court Bookings

We use a booking system to allocate courts and it is possible to reserve slots up to 7 days in advance. We do give priority to certain events such as team matches, Ladies Night (Tuesday), Mens Night (Thursday), Junior Night (Friday) and Social Afternoon (Saturday) but the booking slots will have previously been populated with the specific activity. Therefore, if you see a slot is available it is available to be booked. To manage the capacity of our courts and to give everybody a fair chance of booking a court we operate a 'first come, first served' system. However, if you book on one day you will not be able to make another booking the following day – for example if you make a booking for a Monday the next available opportunity to book would be Wednesday.

A booking slot consists of 1 hour 30 minutes, enough time to play a match (hopefully). Booking slots open at 8.30am and the last slot commences at 8.30pm. Courts 1-7 are floodlit courts and if you make a booking in the evening when you require floodlights you will be charged at the time of booking (currently £6 for the booking slot). In reality, our courts are generally free from 8.30am until 4pm (weekday), extremely busy from 5.30pm – 8.30pm (weekday) and generally free from 8.30pm until 10pm (weekday). Weekends is variable depending on social activity, tournaments and team matches.

When booking a court can you please ensure you keep to the time and the specific court that has been chosen. If you are not on the correct court at the correct time it just leads to confusion and sometimes frustration with other members. Additionally, we use the booking app to monitor court usage and member eligibility and if you just walk onto a (apparently) free court you do run the risk of being asked to exit should another member book it.

If you are not able to make your court booking due to changing circumstances please cancel ASAP - there is nothing more frustrating than seeing a court empty and people wanting to play because a court has not been cancelled. If you have booked a court that requires floodlights and wish to cancel you will need to cancel at least 1 hour before the booking slot as the payment will be deducted and the lights will automatically come on.

Courts can be booked through our website [Radyr Lawn Tennis Club / Court Availability \(lta.org.uk\)](http://Radyr Lawn Tennis Club / Court Availability (lta.org.uk)) or by downloading the Clubspark Booking App to your phone. In both instances you need to have logged into your account to book a court.

Court Maintenance and Brushing

At Radyr we are blessed with having 10 courts which comprise 3 tarmac, 3 clay and 4 tiger turf. The clay and tiger turf courts also benefit from LED floodlights and can be played all year around through to 10pm.

We have invested heavily in our courts and floodlight system over the years and we therefore want to maintain them for as long as possible. We use top grade sand on our clay and tiger turf courts and they have been dressed according to the manufacture recommendations. The sand is required to maintain the pile of the carpet whilst also providing the ideal bounce and slide required when playing.

It is recommended that the courts are brushed on a regular basis and at least after every match. This will apply to Tiger Turf as well as Clay. Every court now has a drag brush to make it as easy and quick as possible for you to complete this essential task. Of course, investing in sand and brushes is pointless if the courts are not brushed and so it is essential this task is built into your playing routine.

Consideration has been given to the idea of brushing courts before you play rather than afterwards but it was felt it is a common courtesy to brush courts for the incoming players (and if we all do this we only have to brush once anyway). Also, if the courts are left unbrushed overnight the sand could be 'set' for the following morning (more so in winter than summer admittedly). So, please bare this in mind when playing your matches and allow 5 minutes brushing time at the end of your match to avoid delays.

To avoid any possible confusion, it is a requirement to brush the courts at the END of EVERY match and the ONLY EXCEPTION to this is if the courts are wet as this will drag the sand into mounds.

Playing Tennis at Radyr

Mix In Sessions

As a full playing member you have access to ALL courts, at ALL time slots, THROUGHOUT the year but it may be a case that you need to find someone to play with. We run a number of mix-in sessions which are designed to help new members meet other members at the club. Ladies night runs on a Tuesday and commences at 7pm. Mens Night runs on a Thursday and commences at 5.30pm and we have a social mix in session on a Saturday that runs from 2.30pm.

Team Tennis

If you are interested in playing for a team and are of team standard you should express your interest and an appropriate team captain will be in touch. We have a large number of teams covering all age groups and play throughout the Summer and Winter leagues so there will always be a chance to join a team or get involved. As a new member you should express your interest on the appropriate WhatsApp group or approach the Ladies Captain (Sarah Smith) or Mens Captain (Jack Kerrigan) directly.

Tournament Tennis

We run tournaments throughout the year at Radyr and these are generally announced through WhatsApp or email and sign up is completed online. The Senior Open tournament runs from may through to July whilst the Handicap tournament runs from August to October. Most tournaments play a singles, doubles and mixed format and most have a plate competition to encourage as many players as possible. We also run a VETs tournament through the Winter months for anyone aged 40+ (ladies) or 45+ (men).

Individual Play

As a new member you will be invited to a Mens or Ladies WhatsApp Group which will give you an opportunity to communicate with existing members to organise individual matches if you prefer. We also have a telephone list on our website (under members only area) which can be used to contact and organise matches with members.

Guests

You may have friends who you would like to play occasionally and we welcome them. Bear in mind you will need to book a court before playing AND there is a £5 guest fee payable behind the bar. An individual guest is limited to a maximum of 3 visits per year. If you can't pay behind the bar for any reason, just message membership@radyrtennis.co.uk and it can be collected next time it's convenient. Alternatively you can make a bank transfer to our bank account and use reference. ' guest fee' to Radyr Lawn Tennis Club, Sort 537030, Account 09248188

Pay and Play

As a full playing member you have access to all courts at all times. In addition to this you are able to compete in teams and enter club tournaments, social tennis events and Mens and Ladies Night, you also benefit from a lower coaching fee should you require coaching. 'Pay and Play' guests can ONLY use tarmac courts and they are mainly available OFF PEAK, in times of peak demand we may even have to reduce access to these courts further. This option is only a suitable alternative for the occasional player.

Court Etiquette

We are a tennis club with 500+ members and like any sports club we do have to follow certain rules and regulations to ensure we all adhere to acceptable codes of practice for the benefit of all. These are mainly highlighted on our website and I am therefore attaching a link to our webpage that covers this subject in more detail here [Etiquette](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/radyrlawntennisclub/Membership/Overview). <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/radyrlawntennisclub/Membership/Overview>

You will see there are other useful links to playing regulations plus a footwear and clothing guide that I hope you will find useful.

Thanks for reading and I hope you found this guide useful. If you feel there is anything else that might help new members to get acquainted with our Club please drop me a line at chairmanrltc@gmail.com and I will look to incorporate it into this guide.

Enjoy your tennis

Best

Cliff Gardner

Chairman RLTC