

RUDGWICK TENNIS CLUB Newsletter 2024



Welcome from the Chair



The big news is that the Crowdfunding campaign has been successful and we are now ready to commit to the re-surfacing of the bottom courts, subject only to the same contractor installing a new drain which we hope fully solves a drainage issue when we get heavy rain. This will get us back to a 4 court club. Many thanks to all the members and supporters who have made this possible, and particularly Amelia Calvert who suggested and led the campaign. We need also to recognise all the kind people and organisations who donated prizes of all sorts to help us raise the funds. There are too many to mention them all, but Firebird Brewery in particular were really helpful and we are grateful to them.

Looking back at 2023 I think we have all enjoyed the new top court surfaces after the painting in the spring. Our teams have again continued exciting progress in the Tennis Sussex leagues with the Men's 1 and Ladies teams having been promoted every year since the addition of our new clubhouse. Our men's winter team, undefeated with some very talented younger players, have been promoted to Division 6 of the West Sussex league, and statistically are one of the most successful teams in the county over recent times. The Friday tennis suppers have been very well subscribed & the usual men's trip to Germany took place with a date already booked for this September.

This success has been based upon some great work by your committee, and whilst it would take too long to name all, I would like to particularly thank Mark Evans and a local resident Paul Kingfisher, who spent nearly two weeks of their

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Rudgwick Tennis



time rebuilding the hut patio and planters. Also a big thanks to our parish council who contributed around £1,000 for all the materials.

The committee has 2 new faces, Amy Pistorius, our head coach and Amelia Calvert. Kathy Pistorius will take some junior coaching sessions, but we sadly say cheerio to Warwick who did so much to help build up our membership from its previous low level, and enthused many of us to play more and improve. Amelia Calvert replaces James Graham-Cloete looking after the website.

You will see that we have again gone for a substantial increase in subscriptions, averaging around 8%. We have spent nearly £100,000 over the last 5 years on our new clubhouse and top courts, leaving us with very low reserves. In addition our costs seem to be rising faster than national inflation and, in particular, our biggest cost [electricity] will be going up by close to 30% when we exit our 3 year fixed contract, which is why we have yet again increased the floodlight levy.

But with a membership of over 100 adults and 100 juniors we think we punch well above our weight in the tennis world and continue to provide excellent facilities for a small “village” club.

Tim Bloomfield

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Rudgwick Tennis Club

Club Sessions

All year round, every Monday evening we hold a “turn up and play club session” from 6.30pm onward.

Adult members of all standards and juniors qualified to play in adult tennis sessions are welcome to join this informally organised fun evening, and it’s a great place to meet players of similar standard.

Committee members are present wherever possible to run these sessions. Attendance is informally organised through a ‘social tennis’ WhatsApp group. This enables messages to be sent out to group members in the event of uncertain weather: rain, ice, etc

When we are back to a four court club after re-surfacing of the bottom courts, we will re-assess the demand for a second open club session.

With effect from 26 April, we will be holding regular tennis and supper evenings on the last Friday of each month.



We would encourage members interested in participating to join the RTC Social WhatsApp group, as you can use this to get confirmation of turnout, updates and any cancellations. You may also use this forum to arrange games with other members of your standard.

Please contact committee member Jane Gillam to be added to the social tennis WhatsApp group. Contact details are on page 12.

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Club Competitions

The annual club scratch knock out competition will take place again, starting in May and culminating with the finals on Sunday 15th September. All members will be offered the chance to enter in April. The experiment of having partners in the mixed doubles drawn by lot proved popular, with increased participation, and will be repeated.

Congratulations to the 2023 winners:

- Men's singles Sean Goodall
- Ladies' Singles Olwen Thomas
- Men's Doubles Ed Kear and Spencer Phillips
- Ladies doubles Jane Wait and Viviana Small
- Mixed Doubles Paul Wrightman and Amy Pistorius

In addition our coaches organise a number of junior competitions with details announced throughout the year. We plan to hold a mixed tournament on 22 June – details will be shared in due course.

Mid-week Competitive Match Practice

Arranged by our Chair with an email at the weekend ascertaining availability, the more experienced players, both men and ladies, play competitive doubles on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm.

Participation in this group is by invitation only.

We do charge for ball usage, with a running account for every session and a request for payment every now and then. Players also have to pay the light subscription.



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Team news and Inter-Club Matches

- The club's representative teams have continued their year-on-year progress up the highly competitive Tennis Sussex leagues which are contested by the major Sussex tennis clubs.
- With the completion of our new clubhouse, we were able to re-join these leagues, the largest tennis league organised in the UK, currently with 120 Men's teams and 110 Ladies teams competing. The match fixtures are organised for weekends against other Sussex tennis clubs. The Men's 1st Team has progressed from the entry point in the lowest Division 13, to being promoted to Division 6 this winter. The Ladies 1st Team is also looking good for a 4th consecutive promotion in four years.
- As the standard of play strengthens at Rudgwick we have been able to enter a Men's 2nd team in the LTA Tennis Sussex [doubles] league. This enables promising players from within our successful Tuesday and Wednesday midweek tennis team practice sessions to progress, and experience inter-club competitive tennis, whilst representing Rudgwick tennis club.
- Our mid-week competitive match practice sessions are very well organised and well supported, with a good level of tennis on offer and with minimal input required to participate – just a WhatsApp reply to a weekly message request for the preferred day/session required.
- Rudgwick team squads, Men's and Ladies, are always happy to welcome new players to the club who are looking to improve and play competitive league tennis, or bring experience and knowledge to help us improve.
- We also organise some enjoyable mixed social non-league matches played against other local clubs.
- If you are interested in representing Rudgwick please let Sid Charlesworth or Tiina Staddon know.

Rudgwick Tennis Club

Maintenance

Mark Evans is our committee member responsible for maintenance matters. If you spot anything that needs to be addressed please let him know (see page 12 for contact details).

Safeguarding and other Policies

Full details of these can be found on our website, including contact details of our Safeguarding & Welfare Officer, Martin Stiles, his alternate in the event of non-availability, and West Sussex's Social Services. These contact details can also be seen on the notice boards at the clubhouse, both internally and externally, and also on the hut's notice board.

Confidentially requests will always be respected.



Rudgwick Tennis Club

Membership Categories

We have a number of different categories of membership, designed to create flexibility. Please note the Remote Membership has now been removed. The membership form is at the end of this newsletter. You can also put any questions you might have to Chris Blizzard, our membership secretary (see page 12 for contact details).

Court Booking

Members can access the court booking system via the website. You will need your ClubSpark login and password, created on joining the club. You can just turn up to play with fellow members, but you do risk losing out if all courts have been booked by others. Private play can only take place when courts are not being used for coaching, club sessions or matches.



During term times, the following courts/times are likely to be blocked for coaching and club sessions:

- Junior coaching: mid-afternoon to early evening, Monday to Friday
- Club sessions: Monday evenings from 6.30pm and from spring onwards the last Friday in the month for the tennis social and supper evenings
- Match practice: Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm
- Other club sessions, tournaments and matches will also use the courts from time to time

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Light Subscription

The cost of electricity has, unfortunately, increased hugely in recent years, albeit with some protection being obtained through fixed price contracts.

Paying for lights via a token system has never been practical so we effectively operate an honesty box – if you think you will be wanting to use the

floodlights, please sign up for the £40 or £65 per head light subscription, entitling you to free use of the lights.

- Occasional users may pay the reduced amount of £40
- Regular users of the lights are asked to pay £65

These are “per person” charges, not per family group.

This levy can be paid with your annual subscription or when reminder communications are sent around.

In approximate terms, and ignoring the daily standing charge that is paid to our electricity supplier, the floodlights cost £5 per hour, per court. This will give you an indication of how much time can be bought for £65 or £40.

Lighting for club events will continue to be provided by the Club and lighting for individual and group coaching sessions will be organised by our Coaching team.

Please try and use the lights only for the court(s) in use where this is possible. If you turn off lights, leave them for at least 15 minutes, for the lights to cool, before switching them back on. When coming to the club to play under floodlights please try and get there before any previous players have turned the lights off – otherwise you will have to wait a while for them to re-light.



Wimbledon Tickets

Clubs no longer receive tickets to ballot amongst members. Instead they invite all British Tennis Members - currently free via the LTA website - to opt in to a ballot [not the general public ballot which we can all participate in as well].



The Tennis Club Website

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/RudgwickTennisClub

The club's website is within an LTA "ClubSpark" umbrella. If you have mislaid your ClubSpark login or password, your login should be your email address and you can click on "forgotten your password" if necessary.

The website enables you to book courts – but please do remember to cancel a booking as soon as possible if you know you will not be able to use the court. In the event of any problems or information regarding this, or the court booking system, please contact Amelia Calvert – see page 12 for contact details.

Equipment

The club provides tennis balls for club events and a supply of used balls can usually be found in the clubhouse and/or hut. New tubes of 4 can be purchased for £6 per tube from Chris Blizard, Tim Bloomfield and Jane Gillam – we generally have Wilson US Open, Slazenger Wimbledon and ATP Head balls available.



Warwick Pistorius provides a quick turnaround racquet re-stringing service, with competitive prices and advice on string qualities to suit your game and racquet.

Contact Warwick on 07912 612296

Coaching

Our Coaches, Amy [Head Coach] and Kathy Pistorius, offer a comprehensive programme of group coaching for our juniors, from age 6 onwards throughout the year.

This programme has helped many achieve places in County training squads, some to progress to more elite clubs, and also to progress to adult play. However the emphasis is also on fun and learning the basic skills.

They also offer individual lessons by arrangement for all ages, junior and adult, experienced or beginner.

To contact them and obtain details of the different categories [i.e. red ball, orange ball etc] please contact:



Kathy and Amy Pistorius

Amy Pistorius 07455 009238 aptenniscoaching@gmail.com

Kathy Pistorius 07912 612296 coaching4alltennis@gmail.com

Junior coaching takes place from late afternoons through to early evenings on weekdays.

www.coaching4alltennis.co.uk

Your Committee

Chair and Secretary

Tim Bloomfield 07702 675286 timbloom48@outlook.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Chris Blizard 07920 150367 candjblizard@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer

Martin Stiles 07765 713642 Martin@stilesco.co.uk

Website and Court Booking System

Amelia Calvert 07789 072244 ameliacalvert@hotmail.com

Maintenance

Mark Evans 07867 557557 RTCMaintenance@icloud.com

Social Organiser

Jane Gillam 0776 2133266 jane@franchisetms.com

Team Captains

Sid Charlesworth (M) 07895 167071 scharlesworth@btinternet.com

Tiina Staddon (L) 07894 801056 tiina.Staddon@hotmail.co.uk

Coaches

Amy Pistorius 07455 009238 aptenniscoaching@gmail.com

Kathy Pistorius 07912 612296 coaching4alltennis@gmail.com

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Data Protection

Members should be aware that their contact details will be stored by the club. The Club undertakes not to give permission to any person to use the contact list for anything other than tennis club business.

RUDGWICK LAWN TENNIS CLUB

SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR 2024/25 YEAR

Please complete and return this form to:
CJ Blizard, Coxfold, Cox Green, Rudgwick, Sussex RH12 3DD (email: candjblizard@gmail.com)

Names and other details of those applying for membership on this form	
Names	Age (if under 24 on 1 April 2024)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Address and post code	Telephone number	Email address (for juniors, please provide email address of parent)

Tick this box to consent to RLTC holding personal data about you, as set out on this form.

SUBSCRIPTIONS			Amount due
Rudgwick Lawn Tennis Club Subscriptions			
	Number	Subscription	
Family Membership (see below)		£290	£
Adult Couple		£250	£
Adult Single Person		£150	£
Parent (see below)		£40 or £25 (see below)	£
Young adult (18 to 23 years on 1 April 2024)		£45	£
Junior (over 7 and under 18 years on 1 April 2024)		£40	£
Junior (7 years and under on 1 April 2024)		£25	£
Donation			£
		TOTAL "A" £	
Lights subscription - see Newsletter for details			
Regular user	Per person	£65	
Occasional user	Per person	£40	
		TOTAL "B" £	
Clubhouse key deposit (payable for each key) (and only available for adult and young adult members)	Per key (see below)	£10	TOTAL "C" £

It would be very helpful if you could pay your sub by internet transfer to the club account at: Sort code 30-94-41, Account number 01645011
Please ensure you quote your name and send the form (or all information detail requested), by email, to the membership secretary

GRAND TOTAL DUE "A" + "B" + "C" £

Amount payable to Rudgwick Lawn Tennis Club

Note

- * The tennis club is a members' club. Please ensure that all members of a family who wish to play tennis are members of the tennis club.
- * For the tennis club a family consists of two adults and up to four juniors or young adults, all at the same address
- * A parent member is permitted to use the courts with their junior member(s). The sub payable is the same as that for the oldest child in the family.
- * It is not necessary to pay a key deposit every year. If you already have a key, please keep it and do not pay another deposit unless you want an additional key.
- * The Club undertakes not to give permission to any person to use the club's contact list for anything other than tennis club business and tennis-related charity business.