



Newsletter - 2025

Welcome from the Chair

You will recall that this time last year we were facing a real problem with both poor drainage and a lack of funds to re-surface our bottom courts. Thanks to a great crowdfunding campaign set up by Amelia from our committee, we raised the funds required to re-surface the courts and install a new drain. We now have 4 courts which have all been re-surfaced over the last couple of years, and miraculously they seem to be playable even after hard frosts over this winter.

An investment by us into the facilities of over £120,000 in the last few years has left us with no current reserves, which means our next project, replacing all the floodlight bulbs with LEDs at a current cost of around £40,000, may have to wait for a few years. The cost of replacing one lamp is over £700, spare parts becoming difficult to source and our electricity bills are soaring....so if anyone has any bright ideas where we might be able to obtain grants or loans, please let us know.



On the tennis front it has been, yet again, a very successful year for our teams in the Sussex leagues, and the quality of our "elite" tennis is probably the best in the club's history. Men's 1 record this winter is remarkable as they are champions having won all but one their matches 4-0 with 24 - 1 rubbers being their final tally, and next year they will play in Division 5. Ladies 1 are currently first in their division.

These results are no flash in the pan either. Since we re-joined the leagues in 2018 the men's winter team has been promoted every year, and the ladies' team has won every division they have competed in, winter and summer. This year we will have 4 teams in the 2025 summer leagues for the first time. So congratulations to all the players who have represented Rudgwick, and to the men's and ladies' captains, Sid Charlesworth and Tiina Staddon, who organise these teams and fixtures.



Our membership numbers are down a bit from last year, so we have decided to have a membership drive, including an Open Day on Sunday 8th June. To attract new players we will be offering some new adult coaching sessions for both tennis novices and “rusty” racquets, plus adult advanced coaching – for full details see inside this publication. Our coaching team, Amy & Kathy Pistorius will be running the usual comprehensive junior coaching programme throughout the year. In addition we are also starting a new club open session on Friday evenings from 6.30pm, run by a rota of committee members.

PLEASE SHARE THE OPEN DAY INFORMATION WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND HELP MAKE IT A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS, BRINGING IN NEW MEMBERS. As an additional incentive, if a new member joins the tennis club following an introduction by you, we will give you a reward in the form of new tennis balls.

Subscriptions are due as from April 1 and we have agreed a modest increase. We have also introduced a 3rd level of the floodlight levy [the levy doesn't apply for club open sessions or matches], as our electricity costs have soared – this new level is for those using the floodlights a lot.

Lastly this is my last address as Chair as I will be handing over to a new chair in early 2026. We do have an outstanding potential replacement, although this will have to be confirmed at next year's AGM.

Enjoy the next 12 months at Rudgwick Tennis Club.

Tim Bloomfield
Chair, Rudgwick Tennis Club



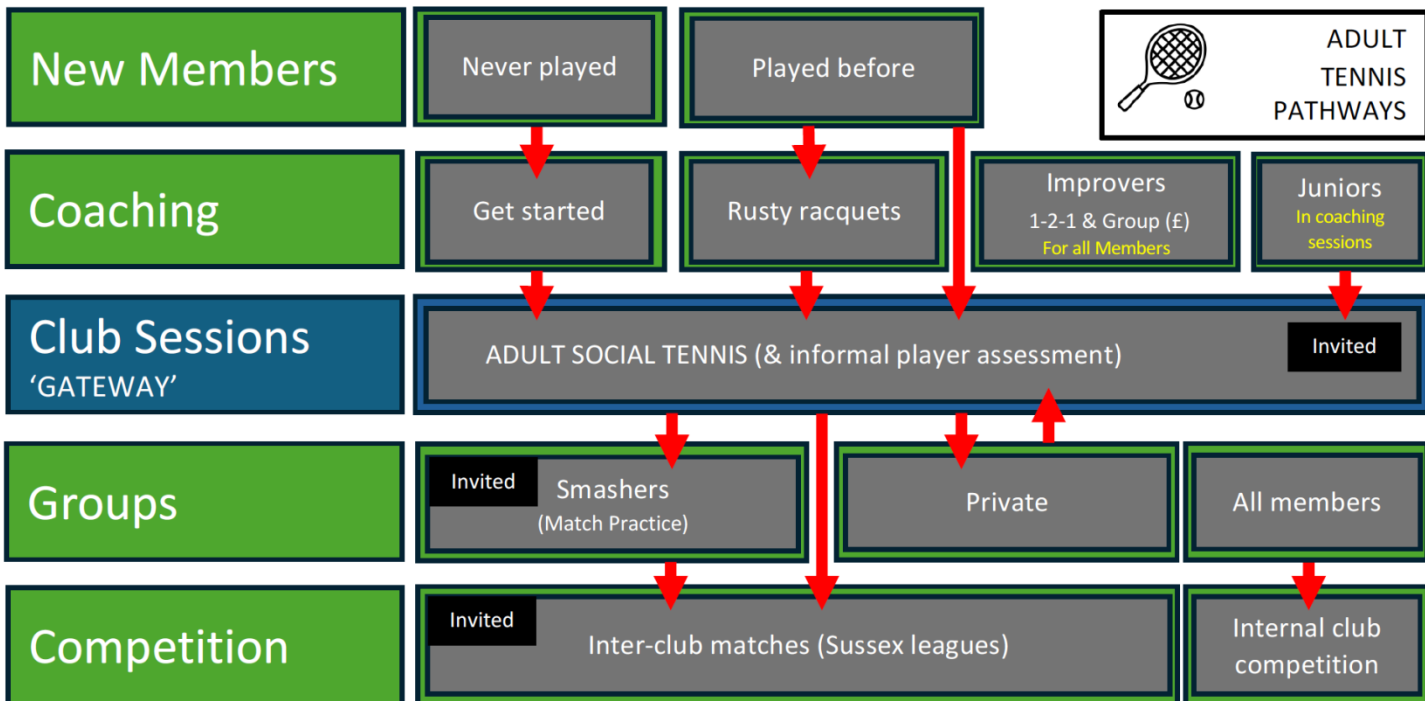
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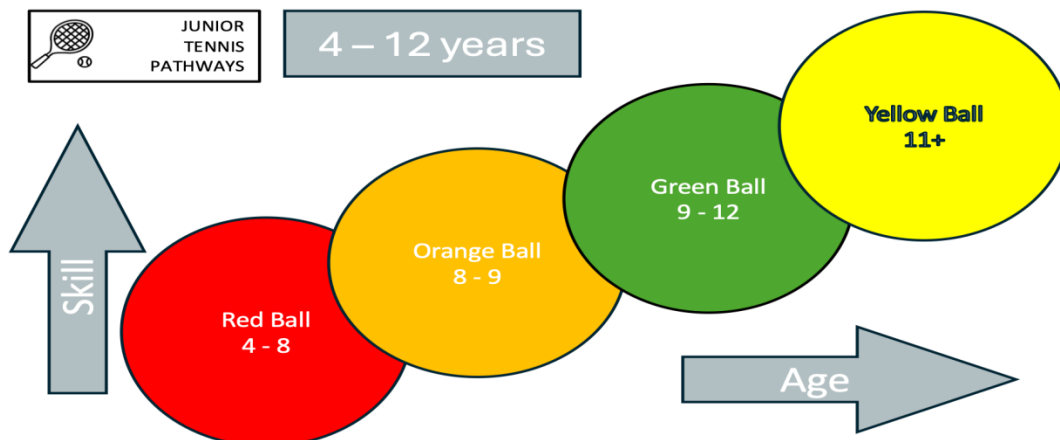
Player Pathways

As per our membership drive, we have created a flowchart showing the Pathway for Adult Members, see below.

Essentially, we've identified the potential 'journey' for every new and current member involved with the club, no matter their tennis ability, giving multiple options for development, social tennis and competitions.



The Junior Pathway is a case of progressing from Red Ball through to Yellow/Green Ball with the potential to then become an 'invited junior' on the Adult Pathway.



Club Sessions and Tennis Suppers

In conjunction with the Pathway Plan set out on page 4, the table below sets out when the Club sessions will take place. The Beginners and Rusty Racquets sessions will be led by one of our coaches. The cost will be supported by the Club, though a contribution will be required from players. – see page 14.

For the Club Sessions, adult members of all standards and juniors qualified to play in adult tennis sessions are welcome to join the informally organised fun sessions, and it's a great place to meet players of similar standard.

Committee members will be present wherever possible to run the Club 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. Please contact committee member Jane Gillam to be added to the social tennis WhatsApp group. Contact details are on page 17.

Tennis Suppers:

With effect from 25th April, we will be holding regular tennis and supper evenings on the last Friday of each month.

| Club Session | Beginners | Rusty Racquets |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mondays from 6.30pm | | Mondays 5.30 – 6.15pm |
| | Thursdays 6.00 – 6.45pm | Thursdays 6.45 – 7.30pm |
| Fridays 6.30 – 8.30pm | | |

See club website for further details:
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/RudgwickTennisClub>



Any queries please contact Amelia Calvert on
RTCCCommitteeAC@gmail.com or 07789072244

9.30am Start
10am Junior coaching
11.15am Adult coaching
12pm Speed gun competition
1pm Social play
2.30pm Raffle & prizes
3pm Close

Social play & refreshments available throughout

**Rudgwick
Tennis Club**

OPEN DAY

**Sunday 8th June
9.30am-3pm**

Where are we?
Bucks Green,
Rudgwick,
RH12 3JJ.

What3Words:
[iterative.snuggled.squad](https://www.what3words.com/iterative.snuggled.squad)

All ages and abilities welcome, just bring a racquet if you have one, and wear trainers!

What's on offer?

- **FREE tennis coaching**
- **FREE use of courts**
- **FREE refreshments**
- **FREE entry to raffle**
- **DISCOUNTED new member sign-up on the day for first 10 people**
- **COMPETITION for fastest serve with speed gun**



Club Competitions

The annual club scratch knock out competition will take place again, starting in May and culminating with the finals on Sunday 28th 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 2024 winners:

- Men's singles Henry Kear
- Ladies' Singles Olwen Thomas
- Men's Doubles Ed and Henry Kear
- Ladies doubles Amelia Calvert and Olwen Thomas
- Mixed Doubles Amelia Calvert and Paul Wrightman



In addition our coaches are planning to organise a number of junior competitions with details announced throughout the year. They also plan to hold an adult/child doubles tournament – 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.



Team news and Inter-Club Matches



Over the last year or so Rudgwick Tennis Club's teams have definitely raised the bar in terms of results produced by the club's representative players. Rudgwick competes in the Sussex Tennis League, the largest tennis league in the UK, with over seventy of the County's biggest clubs competing. Some of the major clubs enter up to five teams in the Men's league and five teams in the separate Ladies league. So with 13 Divisions and eight teams in each Division – that's over one hundred men's teams (of four players) competing, with similar numbers also competing in the Ladies League.

Just counting Sussex club's 1st teams, Rudgwick ranks among the top one third of strongest club teams!

Our Men's 1st team has been promoted six times out of the last six years, winning Div 6 this year, only dropping one rubber in all their matches.

The Ladies 1st team have won, along with promotion, all seven Divisions they have contested since our new clubhouse enabled us to re-enter the League. With one last match to go, they are likely to win their winter division.

This successful competing is having a trickle-down effect on the membership of the club too, as the general standard

is noticeably strengthening at club sessions, for example the very well organised mid-week practice sessions.

Looking ahead, 2025 will see, for the first time, Rudgwick enter four teams (two Ladies teams and two Men's) to compete in the Sussex Tennis League. Having second teams gaining experience of match play will contribute towards further steady improvement and depth of our teams.

Another exciting aspect of match play, recently rolled out by the LTA, is the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) global playing standard system. Every tennis player who plays competitive tennis, as in the Sussex League for instance, will have their results automatically recorded, and algorithms will determine a World Tennis Number (WTN) based on match scores over time. The ITF have actually been collating data since 2016 and WTNs are now available on the LTA website. Novices are given a 40.0 WTN and rankings then drop down to professional players ranked on 1. At that point professional tennis players are just listed as Pro in the system, and National Rankings take over.

As examples: the algorithm rates our Men's 1st team squad of Ed Kear, Henry Kear, Luke Tomlinson, Sean Goodall and Clinton Smith with WTNs of 23.6, 25.1, 25.9, 26.3, 26.1 respectively.

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 17 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.



Membership Categories

We have a number of different categories of membership, designed to create flexibility. The membership form is at the end of this newsletter. You can also put any questions you might have to Chris Blizard, our membership secretary (see page 17 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 fully or partially blocked for coaching and club sessions:

- Junior coaching: mid-afternoon to early evening, Monday to Thursday
- Club sessions: Monday evenings from 6.30pm and from spring onwards Friday evenings for the tennis social and, on the last Friday of each month, 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

Light Subscription

The tennis club has a fixed rate electricity contract that runs until October 2027. Our electricity costs up to 36p per kWh (depending on the time and whether VAT is payable at 20% or 5%). In addition we pay a daily standing charge of up to 74p and, if we need to replace a floodlight lamp the cost is enormous (in late 2024 replacing one lamp cost £720).

Converting the above variables into a calculation of the cost electricity for lighting one court for one hour is very difficult. Your committee has formed the view that the minimum realistic cost is around £5 per court per hour. With a typical tennis session lasting 2 to 2½ hours the cost will quickly mount up, especially if two courts are lit but only one is being used.

Your committee has long had the view that the only practical way for managing the floodlights is to make them operate at the flick of a switch and request members to contribute to an effective honesty box and be responsible and not wasteful when using the lights. For 2025/26 we have decided on three grades of honesty box charges.

If you think you are likely to use the lights, please sign up to one of these amounts when paying your subscription. If you would prefer to wait to see how much you use the lights you can delay your payment. We will send out a “reminder” as Christmas approaches. If you are a really heavy user of the lights, please feel free to make an additional contribution – the club’s finances are such that we need all the money we can find.

| | | |
|-----------------|------|---------------------------|
| Occasional user | £45 | Fewer than 10 occasions |
| Regular user | £75 | Up to around 25 occasions |
| Super user | £100 | More than 25 occasions |

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 17 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, and sometime have Slazenger Wimbledon and ATP Head balls available.

Marley Smith, one of our players and former Surrey County player provides a quick turnaround racquet re-stringing service, with competitive prices and advice on string qualities to suit your game and racquet.

Contact Marley on 07727 336878 Instagram @marley_stringing



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 and for adults. Warwick Pistorius may also be available for coaching.

The junior 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

The coaching programmes for adults are set out on the next two pages.

Coaching Sessions

Beginners and Rusty Racquets



| | Beginners | Rusty Racquets |
|------------------|---|---|
| When? | Thursdays 6.00 – 6.45pm | Mondays 5.30 – 6.15pm Thursdays 6.45 – 7.30pm |
| First session | Thursday 8 th May (excluding 29 th May – half term) | Monday 12 th May Thursday 8 th May (excluding 26 th and 29 th May – half term) |
| Coach | Kath | Mondays – Amy (and Warwick if large numbers) Thursdays - Kath |
| Minimum numbers | 3 (if there are 1 or 2 players, session will be 30 minutes) | 3 (if there are 1 or 2 players, session will be 30 minutes) |
| Book for session | Book for session at least 48 hours in advance | Book for session at least 48 hours in advance |
| Cost | £40 for 4 sessions (payable in advance) | £40 for 4 sessions (payable in advance) |



Coaching Sessions Performance Doubles

| | Performance Doubles |
|-------------------------|---|
| When? | Thursdays 7.30 – 9.00pm |
| First and last sessions | Thursday 8 th May – Thursday 3 rd July (excluding 29 th May – half term) |
| Coaches | Amy and Warwick |
| Eligible players | This coaching is designed for male and female “better players”. If in doubt, please contact the coaches |
| Minimum numbers | 8 |
| Book for block session | Book for the block of 8 x 1.5 hrs |
| Cost | £120 (payable in advance) |

A Heartening Success Story



On a cold, grey and damp day in February I had the privilege of sitting down inside our cosy clubhouse with junior member Toby Harrison and his mother, Anna, to discuss all things tennis.

Toby has been a member of Rudgwick Tennis Club (RTC) since 2023, deciding to try tennis after being inspired watching Wimbledon. He joined RTC as his local club and signed up to our junior tennis coaching programme led by Kath and Amy Pistorius. Despite being his first proper dive into sport, and now aged 15, Toby has progressed quickly and already joined the adult social sessions. Meanwhile, he said he “constantly enjoys” himself while playing tennis and has set his sights on becoming a tennis coach!



Toby plays regularly at the club, be it for coaching, social sessions or a hit on his own with the ball machine, as well as entering local tournaments where he currently plays at LTA grade 5. He has clearly had a positive experience with RTC and says that, “The club has been very supportive from the start, with lots of new opportunities as a player.”

Toby’s mother, Anna Harrison, explains that tennis is a great outlet for her son as someone who has been home-schooled since he was 13. Not only is it good physical exercise but he has also made friends and his confidence has grown in attending club sessions along with adults. “Just seeing Toby’s confidence grow has been amazing and his enthusiasm for tennis is right up there.”

Our coach, Kath, echoes this saying, “Tennis coaching is often so much more than just a sport. Amy and I are incredibly privileged to be in a position where we can potentially make a difference every time we step on court.”

As our chat came to a close, I saw from the clubhouse window more juniors running with excitement to their coaching session on the courts, unperturbed by the drizzle around them. I can assure you it takes extremely bad weather to cancel our regular sessions at RTC, whether junior or adult, because we all hate to miss them.

And so, here’s to tennis, to Toby, and to RTC providing the starting blocks and ongoing opportunities for many more to come on their tennis journey, whatever their age or prior experience. And whatever the weather may bring.

With thanks to Toby and Anna Harrison for sharing their story with me.

Amelia Calvert, RTC Committee Member and keen adult player





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 rtccommitteeac@gmail.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

Warwick Pistorius 07969 175415 coaching4alltennis@gmail.com

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/RudgwickTennisClub

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 2025/26 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 2025) |
| 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) | | £300 | £ |
| Adult Couple | | £260 | £ |
| Adult Single Person | | £156 | £ |
| Parent (see below) | | £42 or £26 (see below) | £ |
| Young adult (18 to 23 years on 1 April 2025) | | £47 | £ |
| Junior (over 7 and under 18 years on 1 April 2025) | | £42 | £ |
| Junior (7 years and under on 1 April 2025) | | £26 | £ |
| Donation | | | £ |
| TOTAL "A" £ | | | |
| Lights subscription - see Newsletter for details | | | |
| Super user | Per person | £100 | |
| Regular user | Per person | £75 | |
| Occasional user | Per person | £45 | |
| 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.