

RUDGWICK LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Newsletter 2018



Welcome from the Chair

I am pleased to take over as Chair again and believe that tennis at Rudgwick continues to go from strength to strength.

Our membership numbers remain high at over 250, split evenly between adults and juniors. Record number of members at all levels are participating in coaching programmes provided by our inspirational coaching team, the Pistorius family.

I am also delighted to see more competitive tennis for those who want the thrill of matches. Our men are playing in both the Sussex and Team Tennis Sussex leagues, and our juniors are playing against other local clubs. Record numbers of members entered the club tournament last year, with another exciting set of finals. A number of men players went with Warwick to play at Hildesheim in Germany, and already 12 are signed up for this year's tour.

To balance all this good news we are faced with the challenge of trying to finance and build ourselves a proper clubhouse. Most of you will know that Rudgwick Social Club ceased to trade some months ago, followed by the whole organisation of Rudgwick Sports and Community Centre. The building was held on lease from the Parish and it has now reverted to them. We still have access to the changing rooms and toilets at least for the short term.

It does seem very likely that a private company will take a lease on the whole building to run a commercial operation, which will also provide a café, open 7 days a week during normal business hours and a function room bookable by any sporting or community activity. The Council are trying to make the preservation of the changing rooms for the various sports clubs a condition of any deal.

However the lack of a proper clubhouse adjacent to our courts is, we believe, a big disadvantage for our members and parents of juniors. There is nowhere covered to sit and watch tennis, we do not have the ability to entertain visiting teams, and the club does not have enough social activities.

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So we need and want to remedy that. A number of us have visited a relatively new clubhouse at Billingshurst, a replica of which we believe would be ideal for our club. Billingshurst have been extremely helpful by providing all plans & details, both financial and technical. We know that it will cost around £100,000 and most of that must be raised from external sources, as Billingshurst managed to do.

However this will be hard, and we need all the help we can get from any member who can offer either technical or financial expertise. If you have any contacts in third party organisations that offer grants, again we need to hear from you.

With the demise of RSCC we no longer have to pass a portion of your subscription [£20 per adult member or £30 per family] to that organisation. However we cannot pass that saving on to members as we are faced new costs, including the new rental of £500 pa from our new proposed lease over the tennis courts from the Parish Council. So total subscriptions must remain at previous year's levels.

However whatever happens I am sure we will continue to enjoy great tennis – have a great season and tennis year. And if you have any questions about activities or any part of your club, please contact myself or any member of the committee, whose names and contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Tim Bloomfield



The Tennis Club Website

If you have mislaid your unique password and membership number which gives you access to the members only part of this, where you can access the court booking facility and contact details for other members', please contact Chris Blizard, our membership secretary.

www.rudgwicklawntennisclub.co.uk

What's On Each Week at Rudgwick Tennis Club?

Club Sessions

We hold “turn up and play” sessions for members of all abilities. These start from 6.30pm onwards on Monday evenings. Attendance will vary according to the time of year and depending on the weather.

Weekend Club Sessions

Following their successful launch last year, we will be continuing with the club sessions on Saturday afternoons from 1.30pm to 5pm.

From 1.30pm to 3pm the courts will be primarily available for adults, and then for juniors administered by a group of adults led by Dan & Clare Wood. This will not involve coaching.

Tennis Social Evenings

Despite the current lack of availability of the function room of the previous RSCC building, we still wish to hold monthly Friday evening “turn up & play” sessions. Initially we will be adjourning to the pub for drinks, but we will do our best to organise food afterwards if possible.

These evenings will be on the second Friday of the month, so 13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 13 August, 10 September, and 8 October. Again we will send out reminders ahead of each date.

Mid-week Competitive Match Practice

Informally arranged each week by one of the group, we aim to arrange pairings for some or all on some or all of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. During these sessions players will be aiming to improve their competitive, match-play skills. If you would be interested in joining the weekly email circulation list for these sessions, please contact Tim Bloomfield. You may be asked to undertake a playing-in test with Warwick.



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What's On at Rudgwick Tennis Club?

Club Competitions

The annual club competition in both singles and doubles will take place from May onwards, with finals day scheduled for Saturday 15th September. All members will be offered the chance to enter by email.

Last year's finals displayed possibly the best tennis yet with notable new champions, particularly with one of our juniors winning the ladies' singles trophy.

Men's singles

Dominic Hall

Ladies' Singles

Ellie Staddon

Men's Doubles

Cameron Grant and Anthony Smith

Ladies' Doubles

Nicola Walker and Honor Young

Mixed Doubles

Amy Pistorius and Ed Wombwell



In addition our coaches organise a number of junior and adult singles day competitions – details to be notified as and when.

Adult and Child tournament

The annual Peter Jarvis Tournament will probably take place in the second half of September. This is a doubles tournament played by adult and child pairs. Again more detail will follow nearer the time by email.

Early season tournament

We are planning a doubles tournament for Sunday 22nd April to kick start the summer season – details to be confirmed.

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What's On at Rudgwick Tennis Club?

Inter-Club Matches

This summer we have entered men's teams in both the Sussex [doubles only] and Team Tennis Sussex [doubles and singles] leagues, played at weekends. We need a large pool of players prepared to play competitive league tennis. If you are interested in playing please let Dominic Hall or Warwick Pistorius know

We may again, if the timetable allows, organise some enjoyable social matches against other local clubs.

Annual Dinner

It proved impossible for this popular event to take place in its usual slot in January. However we are now planning to hold it in September - watch this space!



Court Booking

Members can access the court booking system via the member's only section of the website. You will need your unique password and membership number sent to you on joining. If you need reminding of those please contact Chris Blizzard. 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.

We are in the process of moving from our current system to ClubSpark, which should be a more user-friendly system. We will inform all members when this or any other changes are made.

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

Mondays	Courts 3/4	3-30pm – 7.00pm
Tuesdays	Courts 3/4	4.00pm - 9.00pm
Wednesdays	Courts 1/3/4	4.00pm - 7.30pm
Thursdays	Courts 3/4	4.00pm – 9.00pm
Fridays	Courts 3/4	4.00pm – 7.30pm
Fridays	Court 1	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Saturdays	Court 3	10.00am - 11.30am
Sundays	Court 3/4	9.00am – 2.00pm
Sundays	Court 3	4.00pm – 6.00pm

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What's On at Rudgwick Tennis Club?

Club Ladder

Thanks to two of our mathematically skilled members we have devised a ladder that everyone can enjoy – it adds a little serious or light-hearted competition to normal sets of tennis!

To join the ladder, you simply need to let Chris Blizard, our ladder administrator, know. The rules of the ladder are very simple:

1. Singles or doubles, complete or part sets/matches are allowed – the ladder can cope with all formats
2. Let the “administrator” know the pairings and scores as soon as possible after you have played.
3. Based on the players’ ranking points before the match, the ladder will predict a score – the actual score will be better or worse than this prediction, resulting in each player’s ranking points improving or worsening.
4. Winning will always be better than losing, and winning 6-2 will be better than winning 6-4. If the rankings predicted you winning 6-1 and you only win 6-4, your ranking will actually fall.
5. The more mixing up of participants in the ladder the better (ie sub-groups only playing amongst themselves will be less satisfactory than lots of mixing together)
6. The ladder order is determined by everyone’s ranking points and will be circulated from time to time or added to the bulletin board in the Members’ Area of the website.

At the time of going to press for this Newsletter the top of the 2017/18 ladder shows:

Dominic Hall
Chris Blizard
Alan Browne
Cameron Grant
Ben Surtees
Ed Wombwell

Winter Light Subscription

In the past, the committee agonised about how to manage the floodlights. They can be operated via purchased tokens, but this leads to problems when the light token expires and the lights have to cool down before being turned on again. Free use of lights results in one group of members subsidising another. With effect from 2015 the committee settled on a Winter Light Subscription and this will continue.

In effect this is an honesty box – if you think you will be wanting to use the floodlights, please sign up for the £20 per head winter light subscription, entitling you to free use of the lights. This special levy can be paid with your annual subscription or when a reminder communication is sent around in the autumn.

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.

Safeguarding Policy

During last year we appointed a new Safeguarding Officer, Dan Wood. Our Safeguarding policy can be found on both the noticeboard and website. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact him, or any other committee member in his absence. Confidentially requests will always be respected.

Rudgwick Tennis

Coaching

Our coaches, Warwick and Kathy Pistorius, have great plans and will be flexible to the desires and requirements of members. The good news is their coaching team has been supplemented by their daughter, Amy, and by Ed Wombwell who have both recently qualified. The coaching team is happy to assist you with a bespoke coaching solution for yourself or your child. We cater for all ages and abilities.

The coaching programme changes each term so please contact the coaching team for information.

For details on the cost and timing of all coaching sessions, and to sign up, please contact Warwick and Kathy at coaching4alltennis@gmail.com or on 07969 175415 (Warwick) and 07912 612296 (Kathy)

Warwick and Kathy can cater for all standards. If you are a complete beginner, don't be afraid to try. They will show you how to gain the ball skills required to enjoy yourself on court.



Wimbledon Tickets

Each year we receive an allocation of Wimbledon tickets from the LTA. These are balloted, and to be eligible for the ballot you must:

1. be a British Tennis member [free through the LTA website] and registered at Rudgwick Tennis Club
2. have “opted in” to the process by going onto the LTA website, and then logging on as an BT member (the deadline for 2018 has already passed).



The numbers of our members doing both of the above will decide how many tickets are allocated to our club.

To enter the draw please let Chris Blizard or Tim Bloomfield know – we need your name and British Tennis number.

Once you have been allocated a pair of tickets, all the admin, including distribution of the tickets, will be handled by the LTA. Tickets are sold at face value plus an admin charge levied by the LTA. Details of what you have to do will be provided at the time.



Equipment

The club provides tennis balls for club events and a supply of used balls can usually be found in the hut. New tubes of 4 can be purchased from Warwick Pistorius, Chris Blizard, Tim Bloomfield and Jane Gillam – ATP Head for £5 per tube, and Head Championship for £4.

Warwick Pistorius is an authorised Head Tennis equipment agent and supplier of Head racquets, shoes and other equipment at better than internet prices. He can also offer a quick turnaround racquet re-stringing service, with competitive prices and advice on string qualities to suit your game and racquet.

Your Committee

Chair

Tim Bloomfield 01403 824231 timbloom@waitrose.com

Secretary and Communications

James Graham-Cloete 07586 807098 jamescloete@yahoo.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Chris Blizard 01403 823371 blizard@madasafish.com

Director of Tennis

Warwick Pistorius 01483 278459 WarwickPistorius@gmail.com
07969 175415 and coaching4alltennis@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer

Dan Wood 01483 271224 danwood@hotmail.co.uk

Social

Jane Gillam 01403 752088 jane@franchisetms.com

Men's Team Captain

Dominic Hall 07775 922672 dominichall1982@googlemail.com

Coaches

Warwick Pistorius 01483 278459 coaching4alltennis@gmail.com
07969 175415

Kathy Pistorius 01483 278459 coaching4alltennis@gmail.com
07912 612296

Data Protection

Members should be aware that their contact details will be stored in the private, tennis members' area of the website. A tick-box on the subscription form enables you to opt out if you wish, so that your details will not be visible to other members. The Club undertakes not to give permission to any person to use the contact list for anything other than RSCC and tennis club business.

RUDGWICK LAWN TENNIS CLUB SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR 2018/19 SEASON

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

Names and other details of those applying for membership on this form	
Names	Age (if under 25 on 1 April 2018)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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

- Tick this box if you consent to RLTC holding personal data about you, as set out on this form
- Tick this box if you do NOT want your contact details to be disclosed to other members via the RLTC website

SUBSCRIPTIONS			Amount due
Rudgwick Sports & Community Centre and Rudgwick Lawn Tennis Club Subscriptions			
	Number	Subscription	
Family Membership (see below)			£190
Adult Couple			£170
Adult Single Person			£95
Student (and under 25 years on 1 April 2018) (see below)			£45
"Older" Junior (12 - 17 years on 1 April 2018)			£45
"Younger" Junior (under 12 years on 1 April 2018)			£25
TOTAL "A" £			
Winter lights subscription	Per person	£20	TOTAL "B" £

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" £

Cheque 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 students, all at the same address
 - * Students should be in full time, tertiary education
 - * Members should be aware that their contact details will be stored in the private, tennis members' area of the website
 - * The Club undertakes not to give permission to any person to use the contact list stored in the members' area of the website for anything other than tennis club business.