

RUDGWICK LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Newsletter 2019



Welcome from the Chair

The tennis year is starting to spring into life, although some of us have been braving the weather and playing throughout the winter.

I would like to address four main issues our club currently faces:

First, we have been negotiating a new 30 year lease from the Rudgwick Parish Council for a long time. The good news is that we now have a formal lease over the courts until 2047.

Secondly the future of the former Rudgwick Sports & Social Club is now decided. The majority of the building has been let to a private operator, Little Street, who are operating a child activity and role play centre. In addition they will soon be opening a café which will be open to all. Both of these facilities will be open 7 days a week during normal business hours.

The parking for this commercial facility is the main car park to the right of the building – please do not use these spaces whilst Little Street and the Café are open, otherwise we could be in breach of our lease terms. It is likely that at some busy times the parking for sports clubs adjacent to our courts will not be sufficient, and we may have to park at the top of the field and walk!

The car park previously designated solely for the tennis club is now available for all the sports clubs. The RPC have created additional spaces behind the main building. If you do see users of Little Street or the Café using these spaces at busy times, please have a polite word with them or talk to the commercial operators. If this presents any problems please inform one of your committee.

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www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/RudgwickTennisClub

Thirdly we are continuing to work on plans for a new clubhouse. This is proving technically difficult as we are on clay soil and also the preferred locations are very close to mature trees, which present both a problem with foundation design and planning. However we continue to work on solutions and will keep members informed.

Finally, we are experimenting by agreeing a joint membership/reciprocal playing rights arrangement with Alfold Tennis Club. We have a large membership creating pressure on court availability at times, whereas Alfold do not. We still need to work on how this operates in practice, and again we will keep members informed. As a consequence both clubs decided they should make their membership subscriptions the same, resulting in a small increase for our adult members, but a decrease for juniors.

Our membership numbers, at well over 200, remain healthy and your committee will do all they can to deliver on the above. If you have any suggestions or questions of your committee please do raise them as it is your club.

Happy tennis year to all!

Tim Bloomfield



The Tennis Club Website

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/RudgwickTennisClub

The club's website is now held 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" in order to recover that.

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.

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/RudgwickTennisClub

What's On Each Week at Rudgwick Tennis Club?

Club Sessions

From the Spring through to the Autumn we regularly hold “turn up and play sessions” on Monday evenings from 6.30pm onwards. For Winter 2019, when attendee numbers tend to reduce, we will be setting up a WhatsApp group to ensure enough members can attend.

Tennis Social Evenings

The monthly Friday evening play and socialise sessions have struggled whilst we have not had access to the RSCC building. So, as an alternative we are proposing to hold several fun tournaments with different themes including a social element.

The first two proposed are a midweek ladies charity tournament on Wed 15 May run by Warwick Pistorius and Jane Gillam, followed by a mixed doubles tournament and a supper at the Fox Inn on Friday evening 31 May run by Warwick Pistorius and Tim Bloomfield.



Mid-week Competitive Match Practice

Informally arranged each week by one of the group, we aim to arrange pairings for some or all on Tuesday and Wednesday 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 21st September 2019. All members will be offered the chance to enter by email. The 2018 winners were:

Men's singles	Dominic Hall
Ladies' Singles	Nicola Walker
Men's Doubles	Dominic Hall and Chris Blizard
Ladies' Doubles	Sue Kidd and Viviana Lobenstein
Mixed Doubles	Amy Pistorius and Dominic Hall



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 take place on a date to be decided. This is a doubles tournament played by adult and child pairs. Again more detail will follow nearer the time by email.

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What's On at Rudgwick Tennis Club?

Inter-Club Matches

This summer we have entered men's teams in the Sussex [doubles only] 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 Sid Charlesworth or Warwick Pistorius know

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

Annual Dinner

Last year's dinner was held at the home of our generous hosts, Clare & John Topham, and was a big success. We are planning to hold an annual dinner again this year - with further details to follow.



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:

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
Sundays	Court 3/4	10.00am – noon

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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 2018/19 ladder shows:

Sid Charlesworth
Dominic Hall
Chris Blizard
David Brown
Cameron Barr

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.

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Safeguarding Policy

Our Safeguarding Officer is Dan Wood and 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 & Kathy Pistorius, look forward to another great year of coaching at the club. The coaching team is happy to assist you with a bespoke coaching solution for yourself or your children. We cater for all ages and abilities and each day run both adult and junior group sessions as well as individual lessons.

The Coaching programme changes each term so please contact the coaching team for full and up to date 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.



www.coaching4alltennis.co.uk

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 2019 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 Blizzard 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 Blizzard, Tim Bloomfield and Jane Gillam – ATP Head for £4 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

Sid Charlesworth 07895 167071 scharlesworth@btinternet.com

Coaches

Warwick Pistorius 01483 278459 coaching4alltennis@gmail.com
07969 175415

Kathy Pistorius 01483 278459 coaching4alltennis@gmail.com
07912 612296

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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 2019/20 SEASON

Please complete and return this form to:
CJ Blizzard, 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 24 on 1 April 2019)
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

SUBSCRIPTIONS			Amount due
Rudgwick Lawn Tennis Club Subscriptions			
	Number	Subscription	
Family Membership (see below)		£200	£
Adult Couple		£180	£
Adult Single Person		£105	£
Young adult (under 24 years on 1 April 2019)		£30	£
Junior (under 18 years on 1 April 2019)		£20	£
			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" £

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
- * The Club undertakes not to give permission to any person to use the club's contact list for anything other than tennis club business.