



# SOUTHFIELDS LAWN TENNIS CLUB

EST. 1884

*May Newsletter for Members*

## WELCOME

Hello & welcome to the first edition of what we hope will become our regular newsletter, letting you know all the things that are currently going on at the club. In this month's edition find out the latest about:

- Membership renewals & more Club news
- Updates on Social Tennis & Teams
- What Juniors are up to
- Coaching, including Cardio Tennis & a great opportunity for Juniors
- Headlines from last month's AGM

## MEMBERSHIP

A big thank you to everybody who renewed their membership. We look forward to a great new season. Although still in the final stages of the renewal process, we thought to share with you the numbers. As of 30 April next season's membership is approximately 340 and we are expecting a few more to confirm. It splits as follows:

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Full adult membership: | 145 |
| Senior 65+:            | 16  |
| Young adult 18-25 yrs: | 22  |
| Weekday only:          | 26  |
| Junior Parent:         | 20  |
| Juniors:               | 110 |
| Social:                | 1   |

*The numbers still need final confirmation.*

With the increase in popularity of tennis over the lockdowns, we now have a record waiting list of 290 potential new members split 230 adults and 60 juniors. Membership turnover was around 15% which is in line with previous years.

As discussed at the AGM in March, we will initially keep our membership to around 400 as we monitor court usage to understand if we can increase this further. Being able to grow our membership base will provide more funding towards the new clubhouse, but we are also keenly aware of the need to ensure each member retains the opportunity play.

In our next newsletter we will update you on the final numbers and hopefully you will have had the chance to meet some of the new members - Maaïke, Membership Secretary

# NEWS

## **Club Opening Times**

Following member feedback and after consultation with our neighbours, we will be starting as of next week opening the club for play at 7am weekdays. This is on a trial basis. We have agreed the following rules with our neighbours: no raised voices, no floodlights, only courts 2,3,4,5 can be used for play, no coaching, weekdays only. If we receive any complaints about noise we will stop the trial immediately.

## **Membership Renewals**

The deadline for renewing memberships was end of April. If you haven't renewed your membership yet please get in touch with Maaïke asap on [sltc.membership.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:sltc.membership.secretary@gmail.com). If you have decided not to renew, please let Maaïke know too so that we can take you off our mailing lists. We have a very long waiting list and will start releasing places soon.

## **Hitting Wall**

The committee has been looking at various hitting wall options but we now need your help! We are looking for some members to try out the two options we've narrowed the choice down too - a Rebo wall and a ServeAce hitting wall. If you are willing to help please do get in touch. It will require a car as the nearest clubs with these walls are c.15miles away. If you already have experience of using either option please also do let us know. All feedback is helpful

## **Court Bookings**

There have been a few instances of courts being double-booked. There is a glitch with the court booking app and until this is resolved we recommend that members use the website to make court bookings. Also, please do remember to cancel your bookings if your plans change.

## **Court 6 Floodlights**

The Committee have decided to dust down the perennial idea of installing floodlights on Court 6 once more To that end we will be working with a lighting specialist to draw up plans and seek seeking planning permission, so watch this space!

## **Club House Update**

More positive news from the bank regarding the possibility of a loan to cover part of the cost of building a new club house. *Russell, our Treasurer, is on the case and we'll let you know as soon as we have more news*

# SOCIAL

If you're new to the club, want to get to know more members or just want to play, we currently have two adult social sessions where you can turn up and play doubles with a variety of others. The sessions are on Wednesdays 10am-midday for all adults incl. weekday memberships; Friday 6pm onwards for all adults and Sunday 4pm - 6pm juniors only.

As Covid restrictions are eased over the summer, we will be able to reopen the bar more fully and plan more social events. We will let you know as soon as this happens.



# TEAMS

Southfields LTC are entered in the Wilson Surrey LTA leagues with 4 Mens teams, 2 Ladies teams, a Mixed team and a Weekday team

The National League (in which we have a men's and a mixed team entered) will start in May and the Surrey League in June/July. The club Summer Tournament will start in early June with Finals Day in early September.

*Our juniors are busy taking part in both the Winter and Summer Surrey National League Tournaments at the moment.*

*Good luck to all the 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U & 16U taking part.*

## **Ladies 2nd Team**

If there are any ladies interested in playing in the Ladies 2nd Team this summer please contact Grazyna on 07866212677 or [gaga.z@talktalk.net](mailto:gaga.z@talktalk.net).

All Ladies team members are invited for match practice the first Saturday of every month from 2pm till 4pm . Please contact Grazyna if you plan to play. Thanks

# JUNIORS

## Ever dreamt of playing at the All England Club?

That dream could become a reality if you enter  
The Road to Wimbledon...

Held at SLTC over the weekend of the 22nd & 23rd May,  
The Road to Wimbledon 14U Challenge is a unique  
competition providing an opportunity to engage and  
inspire all players 14U and younger.

The first stage takes place in our club with a fun, sociable  
competition for players rated 7.1-10.2 or un-rated.

The winners of these events will then progress to the  
County Finals. County Final winners are then invited to  
compete in the National Finals at Wimbledon in August.

22nd May 3pm - 8pm: Girls U14 & younger

23rd May 3pm - 8pm: Boys U14 & younger

If you'd like to take part and possibly live the dream,  
then contact the coaching team on  
[coachingsltc@gmail.com](mailto:coachingsltc@gmail.com).

Good Luck!



### **LTA Sanctioned Events**

*A number of MatchPlay opportunities  
against players of the same rating as  
yourself to assist in improving your rating  
have been scheduled to take place at SLTC  
during quieter times of the week.*

*SLTC Members will receive priority entry to  
the all the grade 5 tournaments taking  
place at our club. Tournaments will only  
accept 8 players (on a first come first serve  
basis) hence you must enter ASAP to secure  
yourself a place. Members are entitled to a  
reduced entry fee and will be playing up to  
3 matches in one day!*

*Please contact the coaching team on  
[coachingsltc@gmail.com](mailto:coachingsltc@gmail.com) for more details.*

### **Club Junior Tournament Rounds and Finals:**

Finals Day in September 2021

Format Round Robin

A friendly internal Junior Tournament designed for our  
8U-18U Girls and Boys of all standards of play.  
More details to follow soon.

**Sunday Junior Social Session 4pm - 6pm** relaunched on 2nd May. The weekly sessions are supervised and provide a great opportunity for any juniors to come along and play for free.

*"It was loads better than I expected. I played two matches and then Metro organised tennis games which were lots of fun. Definitely want to do it again!"*

# JUNIORS

## Junior Survey

In early May the Committee will be sending out a brief survey to all junior parents to find out what you think about what's on offer to our junior members, any suggestions for what we could add, as well as what you'd like to see more of and less of. We'll use your answers to help to inform how we develop our junior offer, so please do fill it in and have your say.

*Calling any budding sports journalists! We'd love to feature a junior match report or opinion piece about anything SLTC or tennis related in future newsletters. So please contact [southfieldsltc@gmail.com](mailto:southfieldsltc@gmail.com) if interested.*



*Our juniors will soon be busy taking part in the Summer Surrey National League Tournaments. Match dates start on 23rd May. All juniors taking part were invited to three team training sessions with Metro on consecutive Sundays in April and these proved very popular.*

*Parents - your help will be needed to organise the matches, so please keep an eye out for an email with details.*

*Good luck to all the 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U & 16U taking part.*

***Don't forget - Road to Wimbledon, Quorn Family Challenge, LTA Sanctioned Events & the Club Junior Tournament are all coming this summer!***

### Tennis Trivia

1) What year was tennis originally introduced as an Olympic sport?

1896    1924    1968    1988

2) What is the name for the left side of the tennis court for each player?

AD COURT    OD COURT    DEUCE COURT    BASE COURT

3) Who was the first unseeded player to win Wimbledon?

RICHARD KRAJICEK    BJORN BORG    BORIS BECKER    MICHAEL CHANG

# COACHING NEWS

The coaches are all excited to be back teaching both privates and group sessions at the club.

Some of you may have noticed that in our excitement at opening up again we sent out an email about coaching that was missing the attachment containing the list of classes for the Summer term. Unfortunately, we've been having some problems with sending attachments to our large distribution list on gmail, so could we point you towards our website [https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/SouthfieldsLawnTennisClub/Coaching\\_](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/SouthfieldsLawnTennisClub/Coaching_) to find out all the information you will need on coaching and classes.

## Great Opportunity for 13+ Juniors

**LTATennis Leaders course set to run on Friday the 14th of May 5-8pm for our 13+ juniors**  
(10 Spaces cost £20):

Tennis leaders is an exciting LTA programme which can help young people get their first step on the career ladder and looks great on their CV or Personal Statement. If interested please contact Metro.

### What is a tennis leader?

A tennis leader is someone that is able to support the coach and committee with the day to day running of the tennis venue and tennis programme.

### Becoming a tennis leader

The tennis leaders course is aimed at 13 years plus. The content is suitable for older juniors just starting out on the tennis career pathway, right through to adult volunteers looking to support their local coach, referee or club official.

### Core Module: Introduction to tennis (3 hours)

Learn the basics of tennis and understand how variations of the game are used to introduce all ages and abilities to the sport. Learn communication and organisational skills and some key on court drills.

### Additional Modules (2 hours):

- Volunteering at your tennis venue - you will learn about what makes a successful place to play, understand the different ways of promoting facilities and programmes and learn about the roles of a management team.
- Leading a practice session - understand the structure of a hitting session, learn about the different types of feeding and the responsibilities of a practice hitter.
- Helping at your school - learn how to organise tennis activity for large groups including informal competition.
- Helping at a competition - learn how to score for a Mini Tennis match, how to organise a round-robin match and how you can support your competition organiser or referee.

# COACHING

## New Session: Cardio Tennis

**Looking to get fit?** How about trying out cardio tennis with a *free trial available for all members on Monday 10th & 17th May 8-9am*. Cardio Tennis is a fun, sociable group fitness class set on a tennis court and open to people of all ages and abilities. Supported by music and qualified instructors, you'll get to hit lots of tennis balls during your class and have a great cardio workout at the same time.

**What is a typical class like?** Your trained Cardio Tennis instructor will lead you through a 60 minute class consisting of a short warm up and cool down either side of a 40 minute full body workout.

**Warm up:** Some dynamic stretching, skills and drills to get your body warm and mind sharp before the workout begins

**Aerobic section:** Here's your chance to hit loads of shots, including forehands, backhands, serves and volleys, all mixed with a variety of fitness activities

**Tennis section:** Put your shots into practice with fun tennis games. You'll never play one-on-one; your team mates will be with you all the way

**Cool down:** Well done, you made it! Now it's time to recover and stretch

**What do I need to bring?** Bring along your racket, wear comfortable gym kit and trainers and don't forget a water bottle

**Do I need to be good at tennis?** No! Cardio Tennis is for anyone who wants to get fit and have a go at tennis. The class moves along quickly, so no one will be judging your skills, and it doesn't matter whether the ball goes in or out.

**Do I need to be fit?** No! Cardio Tennis is for anyone who wants to have fun getting fit.

If you'd like to give it a go, please contact Metro on [metro@metrotennis.co.uk](mailto:metro@metrotennis.co.uk)



# COACHING

**Junior Team training** as a new initiative that has gone down really well, we have had our three team sessions complete just in time for the junior Surrey League to start in May. As of this week we are moving back to Junior Social on Sundays 4-6pm for all Juniors red ball and above.

## My tip of the month:

Keep your feet moving constantly on court when you are not hitting the ball – then be still when you are hitting the ball. I see too often static players waiting to see the ball before actually moving their feet and then getting to the ball and being off balance to strike creating unforced errors.

Hope to see you all on court in the coming weeks

Metro



# TOKENS

We have introduced an honesty box system to make it easier for members to get tokens. Just 2 simple steps:

1) take the tokens you need from the box on top of the fridge (please only use what you need on the night)

2) Pay the club by bank transfer as soon as possible after use (within a week)

We will keep track of money owed based on the number of tokens taken out of the honesty box. If the system does not work we may need to consider other alternatives which are bound to be more costly for everyone, so honesty really is the best policy!

Make sure you arrive early for your evening game to put in the tokens in before the lights switch off if someone is already on court using them. On courts 3-5, it takes 10mins for the lights to come back on.

# AGM HEADLINES



## **Courts Update**

- Courts 3-6 have repair or maintenance booked
- Hitting wall being investigated

## **Other matters**

- 2020 Minutes, Report & Accounts; adopted
- New membership categories and fees agreed
- Jake Adamson elected to the Committee
- Dolores Puiggros, James Barlow, Matt Wingrove elected to the Bar Committee
- Chelo Chinnaro re-elected Club President

## **Members Survey Highlights**

- Majority do not want a second clay court
- Hitting wall & ball machine given thumbs up
- Weeknight & Sunday mornings are most popular times for social sessions
- Important to keep times across week available to just play
- Majority do not look at club website or FaceBook page but would welcome a regular newsletter

*Exciting Club House News - agreement in principle on loan from the bank!*

# COMMITTEE

### Committee Members:

*Jake Adamson: Committee Member  
Maaike Kitsantas: Membership Secretary  
Caroline de La Soujeole: Chair  
Bob Luxa: Committee Member  
Helen McFetridge: Social Secretary  
Gaby McWhinnie: Junior Rep  
Russell Newall: Treasurer*

### Bar Committee:

*James Barlow  
Dolores Puiggros  
Will Richardson  
Matt Wingrove*

*Vacancies: Club Secretary - please contact the Committee if you would like to join us*

Contact details: [southfieldsltc@gmail.com](mailto:southfieldsltc@gmail.com)  
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/SouthfieldsLawnTennisClub>  
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