



# Strathblane Tennis Club

## Newsletter Spring 2023

### Welcome to a new season!

With our **courts in fine fettle**, and **new committee members** we look forward to a busier time in the new season.

### Social tennis

Our club has always had an emphasis on social play, during the club times on Saturday afternoons and certain weekday evenings. These hours are detailed on the website at

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StrathblaneLTC/PlayingTimes> . In recent times, it has been hard to be sure there will be someone to play with, so we encourage use of **WhatsApp groups** to coordinate with other members. If you are not in a group and would like to join, let us know.

We are also designating additional times, **with women's sessions on Tuesdays**, and **men's sessions on Thursdays**. Older teens are welcome of course to join these.

Our club is unusual in providing **balls** for play at club times. Although we use for a large part the leftover match balls, there is still a certain drain on finances. Members are encouraged to bring their own balls.

Team captains hope to organise coaching to keep up the high standards. Please don't be shy of volunteering, even if you don't feel confident – the matches are fun and we were all beginners once!

Jane McCallum has taken over as **women's team** captain. **Mixed teams** for the **Autumn and Winter Leagues** are managed by Laura Nicolson (01877 382803). More players are needed before we can field a Men's team.

### Membership and Subscriptions

Membership is now open for 2023-2024 season. After holding fees fixed since 2019, unfortunately this year we have had to add a few pounds to some of the packages, to reflect certain rising costs. However, family packages are unchanged, and increases are far below inflation. As previously, there are big discounts for younger adults and students, and for new\* adult members:

### Strathblane tennis lessons 2023-24

*Spring and autumn coaching blocks will run again on **Friday** afternoons and **Sunday** mornings.*

*The courses will be available to book nearer the time.*

*In the meantime, we are already offering a two-day*

### **Easter Camp** on **12th-13th April 2023**

*Get your booking in ASAP via the website:*

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StrathblaneLTC/Coaching/Camps>.

Sally Gray (sally@kirkburndrive.net 07789 207356)



| Category                      | Description<br>(ages as at 1 April 2023) | Paid in full<br>by 30/4/23 | Paid over 3<br>months |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Adult (23+)                   | 23 years or older                        | £135 *                     | 3 x £45 *             |
| Adult (18-22 and concessions) | 18-22 years, concessions**               | £37 *                      | 3 x £12.50 *          |
| Senior Citizen                | Adults over state retirement age         | £75 *                      | 3 x £25 *             |
| Junior                        | 8 to 17 years                            | £23 *                      | 3 x £8 *              |
| Cadet                         | Under 8 years                            | £16 *                      | 3 x £5.50 *           |
| Family (1 adult)              | 1 adult plus dependent child(ren)        | £140 *                     | 3 x £47 *             |
| Family (2 adults)             | 2 adults plus dependent child(ren)       | £270 *                     | 3 x £90 *             |
| School holiday pass           | Under 18                                 | £5                         |                       |

\* **NEW JOINERS HALF PRICE!!** If you are a new member (or if your membership lapsed 2 or more years ago) contact us for a special half price introductory year.

\*\* Concessions are for adults of working age who are **unemployed**, full-time **students**, or **anyone in receipt of Universal Credit**.

**School holiday pass** allows use of the courts in the daytime during the school holidays/closures. Courts must still be booked, and Club play and coaching take priority.

Memberships and contact details are managed through the website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StrathblaneLTC> (click on Membership). Existing members will receive a renewal invitation with a special link direct to update your membership details and payment options. If you prefer, you can arrange payment and contact the Treasurer to renew.

The ClubSpark login process is merged with LTA Advantage (formerly British Tennis membership). LTA Advantage Play membership is free. It would help us if you link your LTA profile to the club. Finally, **please make sure your British Tennis membership (adults and juniors) is up to date and you are linked to Strathblane LTC as your "venue".** British Tennis Lite membership is free of charge at <http://www.lta.org.uk/advantage>.



## Tennis Lessons



We retain the services of established local coach Hannah Hislop (formerly Pickford) and her team to take on the coaching for another year. **Easter holiday camps are open** for booking **Wednesday 12th and Thurs 13th April 2023**. <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StrathblaneLTC/Coaching/Camps>



Spring and Autumn coaching on Fridays and Sundays will be offered as last year. Details will be posted and booking opened as soon as dates are confirmed. [See the box on page 1.](#)

## Competition & Team News

Last season our **Women's Doubles** team finished **joint top** of Central District **Division 2**. *Thanks and congratulations to outgoing captain Jane Young and all the team.* “Unfortunately” only Falkirk get promoted to the top division, due to points difference. Players interested to join in the fun and glory this year can contact *new captain Jane McCallum* on 07868 708382.



The **Men's Doubles** squad remains sadly too small to field a team reliably, so we have again taken the decision not to enter the leagues this year. However, with new members and social play we hope to regroup and re-enter next year. Players interested in the team can contact John on 07860 945348.

We also continue to look for opportunities for **junior competitions** to be offered, whether with schools, within Central District. Interested juniors should please make themselves known to the committee and coaches.

## Committee/management

This year as ever we have had to comply with yet further new levels of management and regulation as a condition of our affiliation to the LTA/Tennis Scotland. Our recent ‘hybrid’ AGM was not too well attended, but we were delighted to elect *two new committee members* in *Nicky Pickard* and *Amy Palmer*. Thanks so much to them for stepping forward. And very kindly Nicky also volunteered as **Treasurer** and was duly elected.

At the same time, we say the most enormous thanks to our retiring Treasurer, *Allison Allan* who has been a member of the club since childhood and has served for many years as Treasurer. Also long-serving committee member and long-serving past president *Graeme Ross* has retired from the committee. We hope Graeme and Allison will both find time to play plenty of tennis.

So for the new season only, our talented committee members and office bearers are:

**John Gray – President & Welfare Officer (tel. 01360 771031 or 07860 945348)**  
**Laura Nicolson – Secretary (01877 382803)**  
**Nicola Pickard – Treasurer (07808 123376)**  
**Mark Roberts – Vice President/Social/publicity**  
**Sally Gray – Coaching/Junior coordinator (07789 207356)**  
**Amy Palmer – Committee member**  
**Stephen Barr – Committee Member**

*We are always in need of more volunteers – fresh volunteers – to share in the running of the club.* We also greatly appreciate those members who help in all sorts of ways without being committee members. Kathryn Skivington has also kindly volunteered to help, and the more hands we have, the better for the future of the club and for the sanity of those running it.

Particular projects for the coming time are *replacement of the floodlights* with LED models and *refurbishment of the clubhouse interior and furniture*. Grounds maintenance is a continual effort, but the professional assistance of Andrew Orr Landscapes has ensured the courts are clear

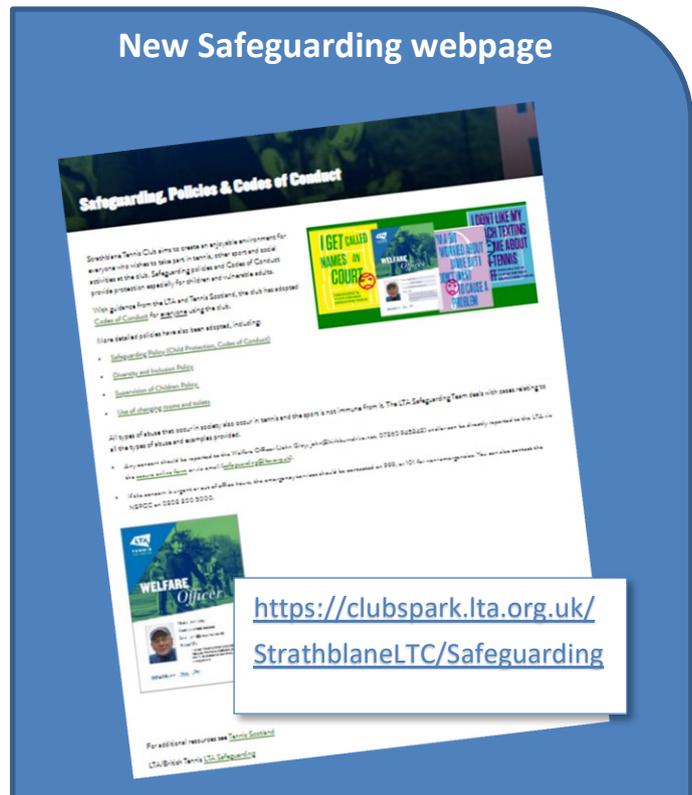


and grounds are in good trim. **Work parties for more serious work in the clubhouse and around the grounds will be required.**

## Accreditation & Safeguarding (Child protection)

To maintain our affiliation to LTA & Tennis Scotland requires a lot of attention to making the club a happy and safe place for everyone, and of course for children and vulnerable adults. During 2022 we benefited from a **'Safeguarding Support Visit'** with Tennis Scotland, leading to: a thorough review & updating of policies on Safeguarding, Diversity & Inclusion and Code of Conduct; adding policies on whistleblowing, **use of changing rooms, supervision of children, photography etc.**; adding/updating PVG status for volunteers. Electrical and fire safety inspections are on the agenda for this year.

The policies can be viewed in the clubhouse and online via our new dedicated safeguarding webpage. **All members and visitors must abide by the Code of Conduct** and related policies.



The designated **Welfare Officer** is **John Gray**, reporting to Tennis Scotland Chief Welfare Officer. John can be contacted with any concerns, or you can report concerns directly using the online form at <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/>. Of course in case of immediate danger, dial 999.

## Pedestrian safety/Parking

Finally a reminder that the Car Park at the back of the Village Club is Private, and does not belong to the club. Please remember not to park in this car park when there are events on in the Village Club. **Anyone can check the calendar on the Village Club website <http://villageclub1911.org/> for current or upcoming events. If in any doubt, please avoid parking in the car park at any time.** Alternative parking is available, e.g. beside the shops in Southview Road. In the evening there is parking available beside the primary school.

**Enjoy your tennis!!**

John Gray,  
President