



Strathblane Tennis Club

Newsletter Spring 2019

Welcome

Although some hardy souls play through the winter, it is always exciting to get out in the daylight and (chilly!) sunshine of springtime. Already we have had some well-attended social sessions in almost-nice weather, which is the perfect way to banish the winter blues.

Subscriptions

Following the success of last year's discounts for new members, we have decided to continue this scheme. We hope those who joined will agree that the subscription, even at full rate, is worth it for a picturesque and friendly sports facility on your very own doorstep. The table shows the subscriptions for 2019-2020 season, which are due now. As usual, there is a discount for earlier payment, but there are also big discounts for younger adults and students, and for new adult members:

Category	Description (ages as at 1 April 2019)	Paid before 30/4/19	Paid after 1/5/19
Adult (23+)	23 years or older	£130 *	£140 *
Adult (18-22 etc)	18-22 years, unemployed, full-time students	£35	£40
Senior Citizen	Adults over state retirement age	£70 *	£75 *
Junior	8 to 17 years	£20	£22
Cadet	Under 8 years	£14	£16
Family (1 adult)	1 adult plus dependent child(ren)	£140 *	£150 *
Family (2 adults)	2 adults plus dependent child(ren)	£265 *	£280 *
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. Family subscriptions are half price if at least one adult is new/two years lapsed.

School holiday pass allows use of the courts on weekdays during the school summer holidays.

Memberships and contact details are managed through the new ClubSpark website.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StrathblaneLTC> . 2018 members will receive a renewal invitation with a special link direct to your membership details and payment options.



- New payment option – **Direct Debit** via “GoCardless”
- New options to **split payments over 4 months**, for all membership packages.

If you prefer, you can arrange payment and contact the Treasurer to renew. Our new ClubSpark website is at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StrathblaneLTC/Membership> .

Finally, **don't forget to join British Tennis** and For better or worse, the BTM numbers are vital for the club to access support from the LTA/Tennis Scotland as well as for the competitions (and for the ballot for Wimbledon tickets). You can use the same LTA/British Tennis login details to log in to ClubSpark (one less password to remember!).

Open Day – Saturday 11th May 2019, from 2pm.

Grab a racquet, family and friends and come along to our Open Day for some informal play and food. Members and visitors all welcome.

Social tennis.

As always, the club has an emphasis on social play, during the club times on Saturday afternoons and certain weekday evenings. Last year there was also a group of players gathering on Friday mornings from 11am-1pm. These hours are detailed on the website at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StrathblaneLTC/PlayingTimes> .

We'd also be interested to know what additional/alternative times and styles of play would be of interest. For example, some clubs follow the “Tennis Tuesdays” scheme, with female-only sessions on Tuesdays (matches permitting!). We would like to revive “family hour” on Saturdays 1pm, once the weather improves. Tennis Scotland is also providing more and more opportunities for competitive play, by individuals and clubs. **For all sorts of reasons, 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 www.lta.org.uk/Members/Join/**

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.

Do you use WhatsApp?

Several members are using **WhatsApp** on their smartphones, to check who's going to be at social tennis on a Saturday, especially with the variable weather. Similar groups could be set up for other times.

- Can't use WhatsApp but want to follow the conversation? Just tell us the best alternative– text or Email?



Coaching

We are delighted to have retained the services of established local coach Hannah Pickford and her team to take on the coaching for another year. An Easter holiday camp is already well under way at the time of writing.

The Spring weekend coaching this year will be on Sunday mornings from 5th May for 8 weeks and is open to members and non-members, as shown in the box. Bookings will be opened online shortly ClubSpark.

Coaching can be provided for adults of all ages and abilities whether you're new to tennis or want to improve your skills or learn some match tactics. **If you would be interested in adult coaching, please contact Sally now.**

Summer camp and Autumn coaching blocks will be announced in due course.

Refurbishment/Fundraising

We are always looking for different ways to raise funds for the maintenance of the courts, clubhouse and grounds. This year **David James is leading a project to resurface the courts and enhance the floodlighting with efficient LED units.** Various grant applications have been made and a yes has already been received for part of the project.

In the past, we have hosted jazz nights, blues nights and ceilidhs, not to mention our popular annual quiz night. This year's quiz will be held on 27th April 2019 in the Village Club – details soon.



Quiz Night
Save the date and bring your friends!
Saturday 27th April 2019

Any new fundraising ideas are always welcome –we already have a kind offer from a top ceilidh band to play for a dance later this year, which could be just what we need.

And fun was also had raising funds for Erskine Hospital with tea and cakes!



Spring Coaching Starts
Sunday 5th May 2019

The session will run for **8 weeks**. Class times:

- 11 am - 12: 5-7 yr olds
- 12-1 pm: 8-12 yr olds
- **Adult and teenagers interested?**

Price for members/non-members:
£47/£60 for children | £60/£80 adults
10% reduction for 2nd etc. children in the family.

Contacts:

Sally Gray
(sally@kirkburndrive.net 07789 207356)



Team News

Congratulations to captain Jane Young and all the **Women's Doubles** team for retaining their well-deserved place in **Division 1** for 2019! Players interested in the team can contact Jane on 07972 061234.

The **Men's Doubles** team have bounced back and won **promotion to Division 2 for 2019**. Well done guys, and big thanks to Captain Bob who has passed the baton to Frank McBride with honour. Players interested in the team can contact Frank on 07770 280886.

Both teams have organised coaching to keep up the high standards! **Mixed teams** for the **Autumn and Winter Leagues** are managed by Laura Nicolson (01877 382803).

Wimbledon Tickets

We have received two pairs of tickets for the 2019 tournament and those who opted in via the LTA website will be contacted to participate in the draw.

And Finally

Committee/management

This year we have had to comply with new levels of management and regulation as a condition of our affiliation to the LTA/Tennis Scotland. I am delighted to be sharing the responsibilities with our talented committee members, and officer bearers. These are:

Laura Nicolson- Secretary (01877 382803)
Allison Allan – Treasurer (01360 770709)
David James – Grounds/Clubhouse Maintenance
Mark Roberts – Social/publicity
Sally Gray – Coaching
Graeme Ross – Committee Member
Alastair Balfour – Committee Member

We also greatly appreciate those members who help in all sorts of ways without being committee members.

Pedestrian safety/Parking

As you know, the Car Park at the back of the Village Club is Private. Please remember not to park in this car park when there are events on in the Village Club. **Members 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. Please note: it will be the team captains' responsibility to inform visiting teams about the parking situation.

Enjoy your tennis!!

*John Gray,
President
(tel. 01360 771031 or 07860 945348).*