

## Newsletter – November 2020

Dear Tennis Club Member,

For once a communication full of good news in these dark days. News of our courts reopening, installing floodlights (almost definitely), extending the membership year because of lockdown 2, what we are doing to support people who become unemployed in the economic fall out from COVID-19 and a date for your diaries for next year.

1. **Reopening our courts and playing some tennis.** When lockdown 2 ends, first thing on Wednesday morning (2 December), we will be reopening the tennis courts. The LTA advise that both singles and doubles will be allowed and both courts can be used. Most of the restrictions from before will still apply:
  - a. Social distancing to be maintained before, during and after play
  - b. Take hand sanitizer with you
  - c. Only take the minimum amount of equipment with you that you need to play
  - d. Clean and wipe down your equipment, including racquets and water bottles before and after use
  - e. Use alcohol gel after touching any court gates, locks, benches, etc, and avoid doing so where possible
  - f. Use the separate gates for each court to avoid getting too close to players on the other court
  - g. The Village Hall remains closed so we have no toilets on site
  - h. The shed will continue to be out of bounds to avoid passing on infection so you will need to bring your own tennis balls
  - i. Make sure you book your court through the website [Oving Tennis Club - Court Booking](#), if you don't then you will be politely turfed off by someone who has.

The LTA's detailed guidance is at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Latest advice December 2020 | LTA](#). Sunday club sessions will recommence at 10.30 a.m. on 6 December and 'Rusty Racquets' on Tuesday 8 December at 2.00. p.m. Paul Hobday, our LTA Licensed Level 4 coach, is also recommencing coaching sessions. Please contact him directly for lesson bookings either by text on 07967 514081 or by email on [paulhobday@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:paulhobday@tiscali.co.uk).

Let's make the most of the opportunity in case we have to lockdown again. **Any questions, contact Peter Docwra on 07710 013081.**

2. **A further extension to this membership year.** You may remember we extended the membership year from 1 April to 1 June to allow for our courts being closed due to lockdown 1. The Committee has now decided to extend by a further month, to 1 July 2021, as a consequence of lockdown 2. This should give you the opportunity to play tennis for twelve months.
3. **Rejoice, Rejoice! We will (almost certainly) be getting floodlights.** After months of discussion and deliberation Sport England have confirmed in the past two weeks, 'that a panel agreed to award your project on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020'. They are still asking to see some documents from both us and the Parish Council, our partners in the grant application, but that should be straightforward, and they have already been sent to them. All being well we should have the lights installed by the end of January 2021. A huge thank you to both Sarah Logsdail who has steered the grant application so skilfully and Philip Oakland who has managed the tendering and will oversee the installation.

More details in the next newsletter. **Any questions, contact Philip on 07596 932871.**

4. **Offering Concession Membership to unemployed people.** The Committee decided last week to extend the scope of our Concession membership category to include unemployed people in the area. The main reason for doing this is to put something back into the society we operate within at a difficult time for the whole country, although there may be some spin off benefits to the Club as well.

The change would be effective immediately with a membership fee of £15 to last until renewal, currently 1 July 2021. There would be no joining fee in recognition of the financial hardship unemployment generally imposes. Whilst there would be no initial cap on numbers, we will review in the unlikely event we get to 30 new members in this category to make sure it is not adversely affecting existing members. We would need some proof that applicants were unemployed (i.e. actively seeking work and not retired).

If you know of anyone you think might be interested then please ask them to **call Peter Docwra on 07710 013081**, alternatively it might make a thoughtful Christmas present. If you can help publicise this opportunity or have social media expertise please also contact Peter.

5. **Bright Ideas for Tennis, a date for your diary.** We are lucky to have been chosen to host a Bright Ideas for Tennis day on 16 May 2021. This will feature two ex-Davis Cup players who will probably run separate 45-minute coaching sessions for 6-10 year olds, teenagers, adult social players and league players. Towards the end of the afternoon they will probably play an exhibition match with two of our best players followed by three tie breaks, each with two players from our club.

Please put the date in your diaries and watch out for more information in future newsletters. This will be a great opportunity for us to show off our new courts and floodlights and what a great place this is to play tennis.

Peter Docwra  
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