

## **CLUB PLAYING POLICY**

### **Court Allocations**

In summer court time is allocated for:

- Club sessions (see below)
- Free play - (see below)
- Adult and junior coaching – group sessions and privates (see website for details of current programme)
- Adult and junior league & inter-club matches (Middlesex Cup and National Club League)
- Tournaments (Brookside Handicap, LTA Tournament, American One Day Tournaments and the Club Summer Tournament).

In winter the programme changes. Mid-week club sessions are replaced by Monday and Tuesday evening Floodlit leagues. Team selection and dedicated team practices are scheduled in early spring.

The court schedule is displayed on the notice board in the club house and on the website. The coaching and match scheduling varies throughout the year and the schedule is updated periodically. Currently we have no court booking facilities but a limited booking service may be operated using email for Wednesday/Thursday evenings during winter. Details will be published on the website.

### **Club Social Play** (*green on the court schedule*)

- **Saturday & Sunday** from 1pm – 5pm (winter) and 2pm – 6pm (summer).
- **Tuesday & Thursday** 6pm to 10.30pm from May to October.

Play is on the main courts and balls are provided.

Club sessions provide members with the opportunity to mix in and play fun but competitive doubles play with different players. The sessions are ideal for newcomers wanting to meet club members and those who just want to turn up and play. Each four plays one set with a tiebreak at 6-6, but if people are waiting, play a tiebreak at 5-5.

On busy week-ends/evenings a club session organiser may help facilitate the sessions to ensure players are allocated to fours of a suitable standard.

Unless there are good quality balls remaining from matches or previous club sessions, the club will provide 4 new balls/court for Tuesday and Saturday sessions. At the end of the last session, all balls should be returned to the bar. In between sets the balls should be left on the bench or table outside courts 1 and 2.

If floodlights are required these are free of charge. If you are the last to complete your game please turn off the floodlights – the key to do this is available from the bar.

### **Free Play** (*white on the court schedule*)

These sessions can be used for ladders, pre-arranged singles, fours or just for practising.

Please provide your own balls and vacate the court after one hour, If floodlights are required, purchase tokens from the bar. (NB a £2 token will last for half an hour).

### **Day Time Play**

In school holidays junior coaching camps take place from 10.00am until 16.00pm. During these periods 2 of the main courts are available for members' use. These courts will not be used for coaching.

### **Visitors**

Members can bring a guest to a club session or to participate in free play. The visitor's book should be signed and a fee of £5.00 paid to the bar.

### Footwear and Clothing

When playing please wear recognised sports clothing (not jeans etc) and most importantly please use only flat soled tennis approved shoes, as cross-trainers and barred soles damage courts very quickly. Also non tennis shoes do not grip the courts as well and can cause you to fall or slip.

### Court Etiquette

We are a friendly and relaxed club and we believe too many rules and regulations are stuffy and unnecessary. We are all keen to enjoy our sport so we have just a simple 'ground rule' to make the playing experience more enjoyable for all and that is "**Keep it clean!**" The "it" being:

- the courts,
- your language and
- your play.

Leave the courts free of litter, collect in tennis balls for other players to use and don't let the frustrations of the game make you an unpleasant person to play with.

A couple of additional points to note when using the courts in wet weather or playing on the shale courts:

- The shale courts benefit from regularly watering so after playing please water courts and brush with the drag net ready for the next players.
- During wet weather – there are super soppers available to help dry the courts (details on how to access and use these tbc.)

For those new to the game or unfamiliar with "tennis etiquette" the following is an extract from British Tennis website which reflects our own playing approach:

- *Please do not walk behind players whilst a game or a rally is in progress, this is to avoid distracting other members and most importantly to avoid any potential accidents on court.*
- *If you are trying to cross a court please wait until you are invited to and it is safe to do so.*
- *If a stray ball comes onto your court don't knock it back immediately, wait until the owners are ready and then hit it to the server's end.*
- *During play and particularly between games, keep the amount and volume of conversation down to a minimum necessary to play and enjoy your own games. Too much chatter can be disturbing to those playing nearby and, in between games, can hold up play for people waiting..*
- *Line calls can be a problem and we recommend the use of what the Americans call the 'honour system'.*
  - *Only call the lines on your side of the net.*
  - *Call clearly and firmly what you see and what you honestly believe to be correct.*
  - *If you are not absolutely certain or didn't see the ball clearly, the ball was IN and must be given in the opponents favour.*
  - *If occasionally you have serious doubts as to your opponents eye-sight, ask politely if they are certain as to the accuracy of their call. If they say that they are, get on with the next point.*
  - *If you feel your opponents regularly have difficulties making correct calls, start looking for different opponents!*
  - *If in social friendly matches there is some doubt over a line call, offer to play the point again rather than cause undue aggravation and time wasting.*
  - *Do not criticise your partner or opponent, be positive and offer encouragement instead.*