



*Members' Handbook
Issue 16 – September 2023*

Welcome

This Handbook contains important information for members of Wrecclesham Tennis Club. Please read it and retain it for future reference.

We have always been known as a friendly club, welcoming players of all abilities.

Wrecclesham Tennis Club has 4 hard courts, 3 of which are floodlit, plus a clubhouse. We lease our land from Waverley Borough Council.

The Club is run by a committee of volunteers who are elected at the AGM. Many other Club members help in a variety of ways to keep the Club activities going. The committee is made up of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Junior Co-ordinator, Fixtures Secretary, Ladies' Captain, Men's Captain, as well as additional committee members who take on extra tasks such as running the social tournaments, social events and any other required tasks. Maintenance is currently looked after by a sub-group who report to the committee. Please see the noticeboard or website for a list of the current committee. The main contacts are: chairman@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk, secretary@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk, membership@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk, juniors@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk.

We keep members informed through the notice boards in the Clubhouse, newsletters, emails and the website.

We achieved LTA Clubmark accreditation in June 2010. LTA Clubmark recognises that Wrecclesham Tennis Club has achieved high standards in Club Management and Tennis Programmes.

Wrecclesham Tennis Club Ltd,
The Recreation Ground,
Riverdale,
Wrecclesham, Farnham
GU10 4PJ

Website: www.wreccleshamtennis.org.uk

As the Club has no telephone, it is advised that you have a mobile phone with you when at the Club in case of emergencies.

We are a Company limited by Guarantee and not having share capital. We are registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club and are affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

Membership Categories

There are various categories of membership, catering for individuals, families, juniors, students, senior citizens. Please see the website for full details and how to join/renew – www.wreccleshamtennis.org.uk.

Court Availability and Booking

Courts are not available for general play at the following times:

Club Play Sessions: see page 4

Junior coaching: see website

League matches: generally, 2 courts are used. In exceptional circumstances, such as rearranged matches, all 4 courts may be used. See online booking via the website.

For any other club or community events: see website.

Courts may be booked for general play up to 7 days in advance. Bookings are made online through the website.

Tournament matches and committee-approved coaching programmes may be booked any time in advance. Tournament matches should not be booked during club sessions, except the last week before Finals Weekend, when Court 4 may be booked from 8pm. See website for fixtures.

Visitors

A visitor's fee of £3 per person is payable when you bring a non-member to play social tennis. This will be taken online at the time of booking a court, using the ClubSpark payment system, with either a debit or credit card. Should you cancel your booking, a refund can be requested within 30 days of the court booking by emailing treasurer@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk. Please see Rule 7.

Floodlights

We have planning permission to use the floodlights up to 10pm every day. There is an automatic cut out switch, but this can fail at times.

Please keep an eye on the time and switch off at 10pm. We could lose our planning permission if we do not do this.

Club Sessions

Adults and Students: All year round. Tennis balls and floodlights provided.
Wednesday, 6.30pm to 9.30pm. A committee member is on duty.
Sunday, 2.30pm to 5pm.

Juniors: Priority on Saturday, 9am to 1pm during term time. Junior coaching takes place on Saturday mornings during term time.
Supervised playing sessions may be arranged—see current Junior newsletter and website.

Parents and guardians take full responsibility for the welfare and security of their children who are aged 16 and under when they are on club premises.

Children under the age of 13 must be supervised at all times by a parent or guardian when at the tennis club outside of an organised club session. **

** For organised junior Club sessions, please check with the coaching team.

Tournaments

Adults and Students:

Annual Club Championships: From July with Finals Weekend in mid-September.

Winter Mixed Handicap Tournament: January to end of March

Five social tournaments: New Year's Day, May, June, July and September.

Ladies' Charity Tournament: August

Juniors:

Club Tournament: July

Terry Davies Cup: October

Other competitions are organised by the coaches.

Dates are in newsletters and on the website.

Team Tennis

Adult teams are entered in the Aldershot and District Leagues in summer and winter. Matches are played in the evenings in the summer and mainly at weekends in the winter. There are Junior team challenge events each term.

There is a wide range of playing standards, giving most members an opportunity for match play.

The fixture list is on the website and in the clubhouse.

Coaching

The Pin Point Tennis Team, led by Head Coach Gemma Wiltshire, organises adult and junior coaching and assists with Club events. Private coaching, both group and individual, is available.

Please see the club website or www.pinpointtennisteam.co.uk for more information.

Social

We hold an Annual Social Event in November, when competition winners are presented with their trophies.

We have other social events such as quizzes, skittles and barbeques.

Care of the Clubhouse and Courts

It is the responsibility of each member to take care of the Club's facilities and to take appropriate action if others are not doing so. A committee member should be informed of any concerns.

Junior members are not allowed in the clubhouse without an Adult member present.

For your own safety and that of the clubhouse and courts, please lock the outer gates when you are playing.

British Tennis Membership

We ask all our members to join British Tennis so they can keep in touch with what's happening in the world of tennis. It raises the Club's profile with Surrey LTA and increases the number of Wimbledon tickets allocated to the Club.

Only British Tennis Members aged over 11 will be eligible for the Wimbledon ticket draw. British Tennis Membership is currently free to Club members. See our website for the link.

See the Surrey LTA web site for competitions and ratings. See our website for a link.

Rules

When applying for membership, you confirm that you have read and understood the Club rules and policies as defined in this Handbook and on the website and agree to abide by these rules.

General:

1. Subscriptions: The Subscription year shall run from 1st April to 31st March. Subscriptions shall be determined by the management committee and shall be due before 1st April.
2. Keys: Keys to the courts and to the clubhouse can be purchased by all members aged over 18. Members under 18 can purchase court keys and Junior WC keys only. All keys must be returned to the Membership Secretary when a member leaves the Club and a partial refund of the key cost will be made.
3. Security: Club members are responsible for the security of the Club's facilities. To prevent unauthorised access, the gates to the courts should in general be locked, even while members are playing tennis. For Club matches, tournaments and social events the gates may remain unlocked, but participating members remain responsible for security.
4. Clubhouse: Information governing the use of the clubhouse and courts will be posted on the Club notice board, on the website and around the site. Members must abide by any notices concerning the use of facilities and equipment. The clubhouse must be vacated by 10.30pm.
5. Behaviour: Members should abide by the Wrecclesham Tennis Club Codes of Conduct for members and parents and guardians as they appear in the most recent Club handbook. Members should abide by the Lawn Tennis Association Tennis Court Etiquette. Members should give due respect and consideration to other members, opposing players and visitors to the Club. They should not behave in any manner that would bring the Club into disrepute. The various facilities of the Club - such as courts, clubhouse, equipment - are for the

enjoyment of all members, and these should therefore be treated with care at all times. Inappropriate behaviour could result in a member being excluded from the Club or forfeiting their right to access the clubhouse. All members should always be considerate to local residents and users of the recreation ground.

6. Lawn Tennis: The Club will take and retain a membership of the Surrey County Lawn Tennis Association (SCLTA) and by doing so become and remain registered as an Associate of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). The members will comply with and uphold the Rules and Regulations of the SCLTA as amended from time to time and the LTA Rules and the LTA Disciplinary Code and the rules and regulations of any body to which the LTA is registered or affiliated.

The members will be subject to the LTA rules and the LTA Disciplinary Code and the LTA's wider jurisdiction to make rules, regulations, bye-laws and standing orders concerning the operation of the Club including, without limitation, regulations concerning disciplinary procedures that may be taken against the members.

All members will be encouraged to apply for British Tennis Membership.

7. Visitors: A member may introduce no more than three playing visitors to the Club on any one occasion. An individual may be a visitor at most six times in a year. Visitors' fees will be taken online at the time of booking, using the ClubSpark payment system, with either a credit or debit card. Should you require a refund, this request should be made within 30 days of the court booking to treasurer@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk. The fees for visitors shall be as determined by the management committee.
8. Car Parking: There is free parking along Riverdale or in the small car park by the playground. We ask that you avoid parking on the bend in Riverdale and respect our neighbours by parking considerately.

Play:

9. General: Play shall be in accordance with the laws of the game of lawn tennis as laid down by the Lawn Tennis Association.

10. Clothing: Recognised sports clothing should be worn at all times. No jeans are to be worn on court. Tennis shoes only must be worn which will not mark or damage the courts or lead to accidents.

11. Court Booking: A set of rules for the booking of courts will be posted on the Club noticeboard and can be found on the Club website.

Court bookings are made online through the Club website.
Please observe the court booking rules.

No court may be booked by a member for a time when a league match is to take place on the court, the dates and times of which shall be posted online and in the clubhouse.
No court may be booked during organised Club sessions.

Subject to the above, a court may be booked by a member involved in a club tournament or an official competition recognised by the Committee, any time prior to the proposed day of play.

Subject to the above, a member may only book a court up to 7 days prior to the proposed day of play.

If a member books a court and does not arrive within 10 minutes of the booked time, that court booking will be forfeited and the court may be booked by another member.

12. Club Sessions: The order of play shall be decided by a rota of the available players, taking due consideration of playing strength. In general, doubles will be played.

Singles may be played only when the number of players present is such that a set of singles will not prevent other members using the courts.

When people are waiting to play, or arrive while you are playing a game, then doubles play shall be limited to 8 games. Deuce will be sudden death – whoever wins the first point wins the game.

13. Junior Play: Saturday mornings are designated as Junior playing time during term time. Adult members may not book a court until after 1.00pm during term time.

Juniors shall not occupy a court on a weekday after 6.30pm unless they are with an adult member.

Parents and guardians take full responsibility for the welfare and security of their children who are aged 16 and under when they are on club premises.

Children under the age of 13 must be supervised at all times by a parent or guardian when at the tennis club outside of an organised club session. **

** For organised junior Club sessions, please check with the coaching team.

14. League Play: The Club shall be affiliated to the Aldershot and District LTA and shall abide by its rules, which shall be displayed in the clubhouse.

Participation in League matches shall be determined by the Committee.

Teams shall be selected by a Selection Committee appointed by the Committee.

A match fee set by the management committee shall be payable by each player in a League match.

Codes of Practice

Wrecclesham Tennis Club is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all its members. The Club believes that it is important that members, coaches and families associated with the Club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Members are encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns they may have about any aspect of the club with the Welfare Officer (07708 131584 or email welfareofficer@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk). See page 13 for Complaints Procedure.

Code of Conduct

To be read with the Rules of the Club

To maintain the friendly and informal atmosphere please follow this code of conduct.

1. All members must play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions.
2. All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity.
3. There should be no foul language or abuse of rackets, tennis balls or court equipment.
4. Be considerate when needing to cross a court. If you need to go behind or beside a court, please wait until there is a suitable break in play.
5. Be considerate when returning balls to your opponent.
6. Be considerate about the volume of chatter during play as this can distract and disturb neighbouring courts.
7. Line calls: Please use the honour system as in the LTA Etiquette factsheet. Main points are, call only the lines on your side of the net and if there is any doubt, the ball is in.
8. Encourage your partner.
9. Remember you are representing the club when you are playing a match and conduct yourself accordingly.
10. Leave the clubhouse and the courts litter-free, clean and tidy. Please wash up mugs and glasses and put them away.
11. Treat the equipment in the clubhouse as if you would be paying for the replacement.
12. In addition, members are not allowed to smoke, consume alcohol or drugs of any kind on the Club premises or whilst representing the Club.

Code of Practice for Parents and Guardians

1. Encourage your child to learn the rules of tennis and play within them.
2. Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
3. Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.

4. Never force your child to take part in sport.
5. Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all.
6. Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
7. Publicly accept judgements made by officials.
8. Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport. - Use correct and proper language at all times.
 - Allow your child to play in the Mini Tennis colour stage that is appropriate to them. This will ensure they enjoy playing the game, develop their skills and gain confidence.
 - Purchase balls and rackets that match the stage your child is playing in.
 - Be patient. Steady progression is unusual in children; peaks and plateaus are common.
 - Your first question following any match should be: "Did you enjoy it?" not "Did you win?"
9. At no stage should you communicate with your child or interfere with the on - court helpers and referees during a match – just enjoy the game and let officials take care of the rules!

Safeguarding

Coaches and others working with young people have a responsibility to maintain a positive, healthy relationship with those young people.

As of 29th June 2022, the law states that those in a position of trust in sports organisations cannot legally have a sexual relationship with young people they look after who are under 18 years of age.

Wrecclesham Tennis Club aims to create an enjoyable and safe environment for all children, young people and adults deemed at risk.

Diane Pettitt is the club's designated Welfare Officer managing any issues raised. Diane's contact numbers are: Tel: 01252 687945; Mobile: 07708 131584 Email: welfareofficer@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk.

You can talk to her about any concerns or worries you may have.

Further information or help is available from the LTA Safeguarding Team
Tel: 0208 487 7000 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)
E-mail: safeguarding@lta.org.uk

Or phone the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

In case of immediate danger, phone the Police on 999.

Further information about our safeguarding policies for children can be found on the website and in the file in the clubhouse and on the noticeboard.

Equality and Diversity

WTC has adopted the LTA policy on Equality and Diversity. See website or file in the clubhouse for further information.

Incidents or Accidents

The welfare of the injured person is paramount. If you are a Junior member, please contact a responsible adult as soon as possible.

If you need to call an ambulance, the full address of the club is on page 2 of the handbook, on the First Aid box and the external Junior noticeboard.

Check if there is a first aider on site. There is a list of first aiders on the First Aid box on the wall by the clubhouse door and the outside Junior noticeboard.

When the person is safe, complete an incident/accident report form which is in the folder in the clubhouse, then file the completed form in the folder. Please also email welfareofficer@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk to say you have done this.

There is a defibrillator on the outside wall behind the clubhouse. The code is 9119, followed by the 'tick' button.

Support Fund

This is a small fund to give assistance to existing members who have belonged to the Club for at least 2 years and are experiencing sudden and unexpected financial difficulty. It would be for help with the subscription. The same person cannot apply more than 2 years in a row. It will be managed by three committee members and all personal information will be kept confidential to those three. Any enquiries in confidence to chairman@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk.

Concerns, Complaints and Comments

In the event that any member or visitor feels that he or she has experienced discrimination or harassment in any way or that the Club policies, rules or code of conduct have been broken please follow the procedure below. If you are a Junior member, please speak to your parent or guardian or another responsible adult who can help you.

The Complainant should report the matter in writing to the Club Secretary (secretary@wreccleshamtennis.org.uk).

Please include:

- details of what occurred
- details of when and where the occurrence took place
- any witness details and copies of any witness statements
- names of any others who have been treated in a similar way (provided that those people consent to their names being disclosed)
- details of any former complaints made about the incident, including the date and to whom such complaint was made - and an indication as to the desired outcome.

We welcome any comments or suggestions you wish to make to improve the activities of the Club. Please contact the Club Secretary or any other Committee Member. A feedback form is available on the noticeboards and the website.

Help us build and maintain a strong Club for your community and for you to enjoy your tennis.