



BALCOMBE Tennis Club

2007 Season Newsletter

www.balcombetennisclub.co.uk

Welcome to the new season!

The Club would like to invite both existing and new members to join for the coming season. We are eager to expand our membership and would love to hear from anyone, whatever their ability, who is interested in playing. We hope to be offering coaching for both children and adults so that should help get you started!

Our season officially starts on April 1 with an **enrolment session at the courts on Sunday 22nd April** between 12 and 2 when members of the committee will be serving coffee and cake and encouraging you to dust down your racquets and have a knock about. Club coach, Marcus, will be available for tips and to discuss coaching opportunities. The code on the padlock will change on 22nd April.

Have you seen our web site?

For more information check out www.balcombetennisclub.co.uk. Here you will find everything you need to know about us and how you can help in our fund raising efforts by just clicking on a mouse! Part of the site is strictly members only and provides information about club nights, other members details...

You can now shop at all the major retailers through our web site and raise funds for court resurfacing. It won't cost you any more for whatever you buy, but if you access their web-sites through www.balcombetennisclub.co.uk we automatically receive between £2 and £8 for every £100 you spend. This seems a painless way to raise money to resurface our courts and so should keep the fees down. Just click on the link on our home page and shop away

The good news...

After careful consideration the committee took the decision not to renew our LTA affiliation. Over the years there have been only two benefits to affiliation for the type of club which were:

- Public liability insurance
- Opportunity to go into a local draw to purchase Wimbledon tickets

The LTA affiliation fees for a club of our size would be approximately £700 for this coming season. This seems an extortionate amount to pay for the few benefits that we receive and so we have negotiated an alternative but equally comprehensive public liability insurance. This means we have not had to pass this increase onto you.

Anyone who wishes to go into the public draw for Wimbledon tickets can do so at www.lta.org.uk.

The not so good news (a.k.a. the bad news!)

Our courts are deteriorating and due to the nature of our lease we cannot obtain alternative funding and so re-surfacing is down to us budgeting for it. This means that regrettably we have no alternative but to raise fees slightly – otherwise in the longer term we will have no courts to play on! (If anyone does know of an alternative funding source we would love to hear from you).



Subscriptions

Family (2 adults + 2 children): £125 (+ £5 per additional child)

Couple: £110

Adult: £70

Junior* or Student with NUS card: £25

Cost of Club hut key: £20

(* Junior = under 19yrs)

Frequently Asked Questions about Balcombe tennis club!

• I haven't played for years, is it worth me joining?

We are sure that there are lots of people like you in Balcombe and it seems a shame not to take advantage of such a wonderful facility on your doorstep. Why not encourage a friend to come along with you to get you started? We will be offering coaching to improve your skills and hopefully through our web-site you will find other players who are looking for a game

• How do I book a court?

Apart from the times listed in the weekly calendar on our website, the courts are freely available to members at all times. After forty minutes please conclude your game if other members are waiting. Demand for courts is at its greatest during weekends and school summer holidays.



You can only book a court when you have arranged personal training with the coach.

• What happens if I can't make the enrolment session?

All you need to do is complete the attached form, write out a cheque and pop it through Neil's door (School House, London Road). He will then provide you with the code for the padlock and the ability to access the members only areas of our website so you can link up with other people wanting to play.

• How do I organise coaching?

If you are interested in coaching then simply tick the box on your membership form and we will pass your details onto Marcus our club coach. Alternatively you can speak to him on 22nd April at the courts or contact him directly – details on our website.

• When will the padlock code change for existing members?

The code will change on 22nd April, and anyone who has paid their fees by then will have been

given the new number to start using. The code will change again later in the season to try and ensure only paid up members are using our facilities. We will contact you in good time so you do not miss valuable playing time! Again this will be made available to members through our website.

• How can I find other people to play with?

We will have regular members' nights when you can turn up and play. These will be on, yes you've guessed it, our web site! All members listed are interested in being contacted for a game. You can email them directly to make arrangements to play. We also have a club night on the first Sunday of each month from 5.00 p.m. We are happy to arrange other times for groups to meet and play. In the past there have been ladies afternoons. If there is enough interest we will organise this again (Contact Tandy on 811853).

• Can my son or daughter join when I am not a member?

Yes of course, but junior members under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult. If your child is interested in tennis then it might be worth you joining too and getting some adult coaching. We do have an active children's coaching programme.

• Do I have to wear a special kit?

The only requirement is non – marking trainers. The rest is up to you!

• Where do I find out about club regulations?

A copy can be provided by our membership secretary, Neil. There is also one displayed in the club house and on the web site.

• What happens if I don't have access to a computer?!

We are trying to make communication cheaper, quicker and easier and so hope that we can contact most members by email and they can regularly look at the web site, but if you don't have an email address and do not have access to our website then we will send info by post.



Tennis Club Committee:
Chair: Tandy Cufley 811853
Treasurer: Liddy Brewis 474032
Secretary: Barry Bolland 811839
Membership Secretary: Neil Infield 811465
Public playing sessions and Social Secretary: Karen Deck 811086
Website: Gerrit Hoekstra 811796
Coach: Marcus Aldworth (Advantage Receiver) 540426 or 07803 928195