

General Guidance for Members of Bloomfield Tennis Club

General Information

The club is located at 98 Wellsway, BATH, BA2 4SD. Our facilities include three all-weather carpet courts, a single junior short tennis court, a practice wall and a clubhouse comprising a basic kitchen and seating area. Other facilities are shared with the neighbouring Bloomfield Bowling Club, including car parking, toilets and an occasional bar. Please see attached document "Code of Practice for using Bowling Club".

Clothing and equipment

Sports clothing and proper tennis shoes are essential. The carpet court surface is our biggest asset so please help to protect it. Heavy duty, heeled or muddy footwear, bikes, scooters, pushchairs or animals are not permitted on the carpet courts. There is a bike stand in the corner of the car park, which members should always use for their bikes.

General playing standard

Given the number of courts/number of members' ratio and to ensure that club sessions (see below) are attractive to as many members as possible, we do ask that members wishing to attend club sessions are of a playing standard to allow for reasonably well-matched games to be played. By playing standard we mean that members should feel reasonably confident in playing all stroke types (i.e. forehand, backhand, volley, serve) and an understanding of tactics including 'court awareness'. Prospective new members may be asked to demonstrate that they are of this playing standard – this entails a maximum six-week probationary period at a cost of £5 per visit (this equates to the visitor's fee). At the end of the probationary period, two Committee members and the Chair will decide if a prospective new member is of the required playing standard. This probationary period also allows time for prospective new members to decide if the club is right for them too. The £30 fee will then be deducted from the appropriate annual membership fee.

We acknowledge that some members will not be of the required playing standard and for adult members wishing to gain that knowledge and consistency, adult coaching is available. Improvers/Intermediate and Beginners/Improver sessions are run regularly. Please contact Rob Hyman on 07977 402643 or robertahyman@gmail.com or Steve McGillivray on 07877 421143 or stephentoile@yahoo.co.uk. For Junior coaching enquires please contact Tom Therrien at tom@tt-tennis.co.uk or go to www.tt-tennis.co.uk and look at the Bloomfield section under *information*.

Access to Courts and the Clubhouse

Access to the courts and the clubhouse is by coded padlock – the codes are available from any Committee Member. Please keep the clubhouse tidy and wash up if you use any kitchen equipment. Please remember to lock all the gate padlocks and the clubhouse if you are the last person to leave the club.

Court Etiquette

There are some key points when you are at the club, the most important of which is to show courtesy to all members, members of the Bowling Club and neighbours. We are a small friendly club with a variety of playing standards, and at club sessions please remember that you may not always be able to play a "strong" game. Each and every full member has the same right to play. Please remember to keep noise to a reasonable level both on and off court. Put your litter in the bins provided – this includes ball tins/lids, water bottles. There are separate recycling bins for metal and plastic.

Club Sessions

During club sessions we play doubles unless there are insufficient players to do so. Please note the following key principles which should be respected:

- Play is on “pegboard” principles, i.e., the responsibility to arrange the next four to go on court lies with the member who has been waiting the longest. That person chooses the three players to form a four. Although priority is not necessarily given to members who have been waiting the longest, care should be taken to ensure members do not have to wait unnecessarily long for a game, and that players of a similar ability play together;
- Play is for one set with a tiebreak at 5-5 and end changes are on odd games;
- You must clearly see the ball out before calling “Out” – if you didn’t see it “Out” the ball is “In”;
- If you are distracted by a ball or see a ball where a player might tread on it call a let;
- Avoid returning a fault service if possible;
- Carry at least two balls when you are serving;
- Don’t provide a running commentary on the play and don’t shout out if you play a poor shot or set the ball up for your opponent; and
- After your set vacate the court promptly and leave the balls at the net for the next group of players.

Club balls are available from the “Club Balls” store for use only during club sessions and must be returned to the store at the end of a session. If the balls are beyond use, ask a Committee Member to replace them with new ones. Put any old balls in the “Practice Balls” store or in the balls recycling box, depending on their condition (we pass these onto Bath Cats and Dogs Home). There are also boxes of equipment for young children in the clubhouse and on the junior court which members are free to use. Please return the equipment to the boxes after use.

Summer season (approximately end of March [weekend when the clocks go forward] until end of October [weekend when the clocks go back])

There are Club sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings commencing about 6pm and at weekends on Saturday afternoon at 2pm and Sunday evening at 5pm. All members meeting the required standard are welcome, but we do ask members to play with others of similar ability. At the invitation of the Committee, juniors, accompanied by an adult member, may take part in the Thursday and Sunday evening sessions. On Saturdays juniors will be able to take part provided there is court availability but adult members will have priority. Juniors will be expected to play an “adult” game and mix in with all members attending the session.

Junior coaching programmes run on Saturday mornings and at certain times during school holidays (please see calendar).

For all other times, please refer to the calendar on the website for court availability.

Winter season (approximately end of October [weekend when the clocks go back] until end of March [weekend when the clocks go forward])

There are Club sessions on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 2pm until dusk. All members meeting the required standard are welcome, but we do ask members to play with others of similar ability. At the invitation of the Committee juniors, accompanied by an adult member, may take part in the Sunday session. On Saturdays juniors will be able to take part provided there is court availability but adult members will have priority. Juniors will be expected to play an “adult” game and mix in with all members attending the session.

Junior coaching programmes run on Saturday mornings and at certain times during school holidays (please see calendar).

For all other times, please refer to the calendar on the website for court availability.

Private Play

Outside of club and coaching sessions and when league matches are not being played at home (please see calendar) the club is open to members and their guests (see below). Members must provide their own balls for private play. During private play, members may use the courts as much as and for as long as they wish. However, if there are people waiting to play, members must vacate their court at the end of a match (one set as in club session play).

Guests

To ensure that the club retains its membership culture, the number of guests permitted at any one time is limited to one per member. Guests are allowed to make use of the facilities no more than six times per year. Complaints about abuse of this guideline will be dealt with by the Committee and may result in the relevant member having their membership withdrawn. Guests should pay the £5 guest fee (£2 for juniors) into the marked box and sign the Visitors' Book, both located in the clubhouse. This is very important as guests will not otherwise be covered by the club insurance.

League Tennis

The Club operates three men's teams and one mixed team in the Chippenham & District League. Matches are played on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. No club play is possible during match sessions. If you are interested in playing matches please contact any of the team captains – Men's A Team (Wilf Oatley/Clive Wilcox), B Team (Steve Macgillivray) and C Team (Andrew Wright) – Mixed (Simon Butler – organiser).

Tournaments

Throughout the summer we arrange both singles and doubles tournaments as well as an American Tournament, which are advertised in the clubhouse. All members are welcome to join.

Wimbledon Tickets

The Club receives a modest allocation of Wimbledon tickets and all members who are British Tennis members are entitled to put their names forward for the annual draw in April/May. Details are advertised in the clubhouse.

Committee

The current Committee is:

Chairman	Andrew Wright	01225 312045
Secretary	Jane Gibbons	01225 484264
Treasurer	Pete Try	01225 462383
Member	Wilf Oatley	01225 313527
Member	Simon Butler	01225 874853
Member	Mark Richardson	07876 653142

Co-opted Members

Jilly Hillier	07843 387424
Tony Ashton	01225 331962

The club's Child Protection Officer is Heidi Wood and she can be contacted on 01225 469164.

Members should contact any member of the Committee if they have any issues or concerns.

Standard Court Usage Timetable

Monday	6pm – Dusk	Mixed Team (seven home games per season)
Tuesday	6pm - Dusk	Club Session
Wednesday	6pm – Dusk	Men’s A and B Teams
Thursday	6pm – Dusk	Club Session
Friday	6pm-Dusk	Men’s C Team (seven home games per season)
Saturday	9.30am – 12.00pm	Junior Coaching
	2pm – 6pm	Club Session
Sunday	5pm – Dusk	Club Session