

# West Middlesex Lawn Tennis Club

## Rules for Junior Club Members (effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011)

Welcome to West Middlesex Lawn Tennis Club. We hope you will enjoy being a member and spend a lot of time playing tennis. Please read the following rules carefully – it is essential that you abide by them to ensure your own enjoyment and the enjoyment of others.

### 1. Who can become a junior member and how do I join?

- Anyone can become a junior member if they are aged under 18 on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the current subscription year. We welcome juniors of all standards, although we would strongly recommend that you join one of the coaching squads if you are new to tennis.
- To join, you need to fill in a membership form and pay the appropriate subscription (this varies according to age). These are available from the office.
- As a member you will be supplied with a shoe tag as proof of membership, which you should have with you whenever you are at the Club. You **must** be a member to play at West Mid, so any member, whether Adult or Junior, may be asked at any time for this proof of membership and will be asked to leave the club premises if they cannot provide it.

### 2. When can I play tennis?

Junior members are entitled to play tennis at the Club at any time - subject to the following restrictions:

- There must be court space available and someone at the Club to let you through the security gate. If you are arranging to play but you are unsure whether or not there will be someone at the Club to let you in, please check – there is a list of contacts below.
- Outside of club coaching, the Club provides no supervision of Juniors. As a result parents/guardian must ensure that outside of coaching sessions all Junior members in the **under-12** subscription category are supervised by a person aged over 21; one such person can be responsible for up to 4 Junior members.
- Junior members in the **under-12** subscription category may not play after 7.30pm (unless playing in a Club match)
- The courts must be clear of players and floodlights switched off by 10.45 pm each night to comply with local by-laws
- Please be aware that during peak tennis season (May-July), courts are not always available during periods of peak coaching use – i.e. weekdays 4.30-6.30pm and Saturday mornings.

### 3. Which courts can I use?

- You must abide by the guidelines set out in the Statement of Court Usage which accompanies these rules. This sets out which courts you are allowed to play on and which courts may be free when.
- Currently, courts 6-9 (the courts next to the car park) are **Junior priority** courts and these are always the first courts that you should go to play on. Courts 1-2 and 3-5 are **Adult priority** courts, which means that you may only play on them if courts 6-9 are full. Check with a coach first, if possible, then use courts 1-2 or, if these are also full, courts 3-5. If you are playing on an Adult priority court and an adult wishes to play on it, you have to stop playing immediately (or at the end of the game) - to finish a set or match you have to move to another court.
- Club coaching, Club matches (Adult or Junior) and advertised events such as Ladies' Night or Junior Aces ALWAYS take priority on all courts and you will have to leave the court if it is required. Watch out for notices about forthcoming matches and events to avoid disappointment.

### 4. What should I wear? What equipment do I need?

- You must wear proper tennis shoes (these have non-marking soles which will not harm the courts) and recognised sports clothing (no football shirts, please). However, we do not insist on "tennis whites".
- Players must bring their own tennis rackets - unless they are attending club coaching.
- Balls are provided for club matches, club night and club coaching sessions, but you are expected to provide your own balls when you play at other times.

## 5. How do you expect me to behave on court and in the Clubhouse?

**All Junior members are expected to behave responsibly at all times. Rowdy or disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated either on or off court and may result in a temporary or even a permanent ban from the Club.**

- Never cross a court while play is in progress on it. If you have to cross another court to reach yours or to pick up a ball, please wait for a suitable break (between games is best).
- Always shut the court gates and the outside gate.
- Outside of Club coaching sessions, there should be a maximum of four players on court at any one time unless a coach gives prior permission.
- No Junior spectators/non-players are allowed on court without prior permission from a coach.
- Abusive or discriminatory language or behaviour will not be tolerated - **EVER!**
- Do not take glass containers, drink cans and chewing gum on court.
- Do not leave litter lying around and be prepared to help tidy up if needed.
- Be responsible for your own belongings.
- No bicycles, skateboards or roller blades may be taken onto court. Please do not leave your bike against the courtside netting or where it causes an obstruction.
- When you are playing, your mobile phone should be switched off.

## 6. Can I bring friends in to play?

- As we are a private club, only members and their visitors may play. You may bring a visitor to play at the Club up to five times only and they must pay a visitor fee – the amount is posted in the Clubhouse.
- Visitor fees are not charged if you are playing a LTA recognised match (Internet ladder, Postal tournaments etc). If you do have a match to arrange, it is sensible to check with one of the coaches that there will be a court for you to use, especially if your opponent is travelling any distance.

## 7. Are there any social events for Juniors?

- Junior tournaments are held at the end of each coaching term (Christmas, Easter, Summer). These are extremely popular.
- Please watch the notice boards in the Clubhouse for Junior news and events.

## 8. How can I improve my tennis?

- We strongly recommend that you join a Junior coaching squad. These are run on a termly basis and details will be sent to you in advance.
- The best way to improve is to practise! There are Junior teams and competitions for all ages and fun tournaments for starter players as well as a Junior ladder. If you want to be considered for a team, please talk to one of the coaches.

## 9. Who can I contact for more information?

- Club coach: Simon Langley 07796 171302
- Club Secretary: Sue Jones 020 8998 3297

**ENJOY YOUR TENNIS!**