



Tennis  
Clubmark

# WALSALL TENNIS CLUB

Founded 1912 - President: Nick Clarke

Club grounds at the rear of the Metro Inn, Birmingham Road, Walsall

[www.walsalltennis.co.uk](http://www.walsalltennis.co.uk)

Sponsored by: whg, Decathlon, and Sweepfast



Walsall Sports  
Club Standard

Secretary: Mr Rick Magnante, 12 Scott Road, Walsall, WS5 3PU.

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## SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

### WALSALL TENNIS CLUB 2017

The past twelve months has seen a dramatic change of fortune for the Club in its efforts to secure its future. While much of 2016 was spent fund-raising over £14,000 for whatever costs might lie ahead, the early months of this year have brought about the strong possibility that we might finally reach agreement with our landlords on an amicable solution.

While the finer details cannot yet be disclosed, the terms are that the Club agrees to vacate its site on 2 October 2017 and, in return, the Club will receive a substantial sum which will be utilised in securing an (as yet undetermined) permanent new home.

While the committee feels a responsibility to existing members in retaining their loyalty post-October, it is clear that we will all face an uncertain transition period pending relocation. In coming months, it is hoped that we can reach agreement with other local clubs to accommodate the playing needs of our members from 2 October onwards. However, this may involve an additional cost to those members keen to play in the winter months. Further details will be published as and when available.

### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

With this in mind, and the availability of our site only until that date, a decision has been taken to make significant reductions in membership rates for April to September 2017. In effect, we will continue to offer a one year membership but are only able to offer playing facilities until 1 October. *Full-Family* and *Part-Family* category deals in particular now offer excellent value.

**Payment made before 31st March entitles you to receive additional discounted membership rates.**

After two years' service as Membership Secretary, Nidhi Thawait has decided to step down from the role and has been replaced by Beate Pesian. Please contact Beate on any membership issues (07576 037364, [beate.pesian@gmx.de](mailto:beate.pesian@gmx.de)).

This year, we are introducing an electronic form for renewing your membership. This is aimed at the increasing number who are opting to pay via internet transfer. The paper-based options are also still available either in the clubhouse or downloadable from the Membership section of the WTC website.

### JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

As part of their membership package, all Juniors and Mini-Juniors are welcome to attend *Junior Club Night* supervised by Clayton. These sessions (free of charge) begin 5.30 p.m. on Friday 14 April and run throughout the Summer until Friday 22 September. Parents and guardians should note that Juniors and Mini-Juniors MUST be supervised by an adult at all other times when at the Club and must not be on the premises after dusk.

### THE COMMITTEE

New work commitments have seen the vice-chairman, Dave Twist, having to step aside. Dave leaves a big gap not only for the enthusiasm he brought to the role but for being a rare breed of male – an ability to multi-task!

Natasha Rishi successfully stepped into the Treasurer role last year and has been very reliable. However, marriage is on the horizon for her this year so she is likely to be departing in coming months. Any members wishing to join the committee or step into either of these above roles are invited to make themselves known to any committee member in coming weeks.

### TEAMS

2016 was an exciting year for many of the Club's teams:

- The Ladies' A Team secured promotion to Ladies' Premier 1 Division for the first time in their history!
- The Men's A Team maintained their place in Premier 1 while the Men's B were relegated from Premier 2 by the narrowest of margins.
- Men's C and D as well as the Ladies' B and C also remained in their respective divisions. While the Men's E found themselves unexpectedly promoted due to another club's team's withdrawal. With a pool of talented younger players the Club can be assured of once again making their mark in the Staffordshire League this season.

Our Men's captain, Ray Lee ([rlee1955@outlook.com](mailto:rlee1955@outlook.com)), and Ladies' Captain Ellie Souster ([e.souster@btinternet.com](mailto:e.souster@btinternet.com)) are eager to hear from anyone wishing to participate in team play.

Don't be shy - just get in touch!

## SOCIAL PLAY

The Club offers social mix-in sessions on Wednesday evening (Apr – Sep) and Saturday afternoon (all year) organised by our Coach, Clayton Edge. They are a good way of introducing new members to the Club and provide an enjoyable break from busy work schedules. Saturday afternoon social play continues throughout the year.

Please adhere to court etiquette during mix-in sessions:

- Any pre-arranged fours must stop once the mix-in starts;
- Give way to any other waiting members after completing your set, particularly if the session is unsupervised.

For those available weekday mornings there are opportunities to play either Men's or Mixed games throughout the year. If you would like to come along please contact Kay ([kay.farrington67@btinternet.com](mailto:kay.farrington67@btinternet.com)).

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

2016 saw Clayton working extremely hard in promoting the Club within several LTA-sponsored coaching programmes including *Tennis Tuesdays* and *Tennis4Kids* – both of which have continued into 2017. To widen the appeal of these programmes still further, please advertise the Club among your friends, via *Facebook* and *Twitter*, and in your neighbourhood.

## COURT MAINTENANCE

The committee has been keen to ensure that what can be done to our 17 year old courts is done. 2016 saw refurbishment of the 5 courts at a cost of £9,500 – funds that we could well do without having to spend in such difficult times. Nonetheless, Pete Gardner, our groundsman, continues to keep a watchful eye over the maintenance of club facilities and our thanks go to him for his work, his loyalty and his support. Please help by removing all debris, plastic bottles, and tennis balls from the courts after play and by making sure any litter is placed in the bins provided.

## CLUBHOUSE TIDINESS

If you find yourself with a few minutes to spare as you wait to go on court could you look around the Clubhouse and see if there is anything that can be tidied up? Just straightening the tables and chairs, putting waste paper in the appropriate bin, and tidying-up the kitchen sink area makes all the difference to the appearance of the place.

## KEY EVENTS

### Wimbledon Ballot

*Wednesday 26 April at 8 p.m.*

The Wimbledon ballot will take place in the Clubhouse and is open to those who have British Tennis Membership (BTM) AND who "Opted-In" prior to the LTA's 19 February deadline. The Club's ticket allocation is not yet known.

## Annual Open Day

*Saturday 8 July from 12 noon to 5 p.m.*

We throw open our doors to all-comers of all ages. If you know of anyone who enjoys picking up a racket for just two weeks a year, please bring them along!

## Walsall Men's Open Doubles Tournament

*Sunday 17 September from 10 a.m.*

Top players, top standard!

## Club Tournament Finals Day & Farewell Gathering

*Saturday 24 September from 9a.m. until everyone goes home!*

To mark the end of an era! Finals Day will commence at 9am with all tournaments matches completed by 3pm.

Thereafter, all will be welcome to participate in a very special occasion to mark our 105 year old Club's departure from Birmingham Road. We plan to invite everyone we can think of – hopefully some celebrities too! More details to follow. If you attended our Centenary Event in 2012 you won't want to miss this one either!

## Walsall Mixed Open Doubles Tournament

*Sunday - September at 10 a.m. – date to follow*

Participants will be competing for the President's Trophy, donated in memory of our late President, Marlene Sanders. This tournament has a high reputation and attracts mixed doubles pairs of the highest standard in the county and beyond. The prize money of £200 includes *Decathlon* in-store vouchers. Spectators are welcome. Bacon and sausage baps will be available from 9 a.m.

## SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Walsall-Tennis-Club/203169606367023>

### Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/WalsallTC>

## CONCLUSION

So now is the time to fill in your Membership Renewal Form and send it to Beate. Don't forget to give us an accurate email address. It's our main way of keeping in contact with you! Have an enjoyable 2017 season!