

Blackheath Lawn Tennis Club.

Established 1885



Members Handbook for the 2025/26 Season

With thanks to our sponsor:



BLACKHEATH
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

www.blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk



BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

*I can be whatever
I want to be*



**'Excellent in
all areas'
- ISI**

Where girls boldly go
blackheathhighschool.gdst.net

Independent Day School for Girls aged 3-18

Welcome.

We are delighted to welcome you to Blackheath Lawn Tennis Club.

Blackheath Lawn Tennis Club (the Club) has existed since 1885 and is a thriving and successful tennis club situated in the Rectory Fields area of the Royal Borough of Greenwich in Southeast London. It is part of the wider Blackheath Sports Club incorporating tennis, rugby, squash, and cricket.

This Members Handbook is designed to help answer questions you may have about your membership and the Club.

Additional information, including this Handbook and the Club's Constitution, can be found on the MyCourts membership system, the screens and noticeboards in the tennis pavilion, and the Club's website at **www.blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk**. We also post news and updates on our Instagram and Facebook accounts.

From time to time, you will receive Club news and important information through the MyCourts email newsletter system. Please ensure you have updated your email settings on your MyCourts account to enable this.

Thank you once again to our sponsor Blackheath High School for their support in producing this Handbook.

With best regards.

Blackheath Lawn Tennis Club

www.blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk
membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk

April 2025



Serve.



Volley.

1. Facilities	7
2. Tennis Pavilion Entry Fob	7
3. Membership Categories, Rules, and Fees	7
4. Membership Refunds	10
5. Court Bookings (MyCourts)	10
6. Guests	10
7. Serving Practice	10
8. Court Usage and Maintenance	11
9. Balls and Floodlights	11
10. Racket Restrunging	11
11. Coaching	13
12. Juniors, Minis and Tots	13
13. Cardio Tennis	13
14. Competitive Tennis – County and National League	14
15. Competitive Tennis – Inter-Club Box League	14
16. Competitive Tennis – Club Tournaments	14
17. Social Tennis Sessions	15
18. Social Events and Club News	15
19. Main Clubhouse Bar	15
20. LTA British Tennis Membership Scheme and Wimbledon Ballot	15
21. Code of Conduct	15
22. Constitution, Committee, Team and Volunteers	17
23. Policies and Procedures	18
24. Welfare and Safeguarding	18
25. Comments, Suggestions and Complaints	18
26. Contacts	19

1.

Facilities

- The Club has 11 tennis courts: 4 porous acrylic, 4 artificial clay and 3 grass courts.
- The 8 porous acrylic and clay courts have floodlights.
- Court 1 has a tennis practice wall.
- Our courtside tennis pavilion provides ladies and gentlemen toilet, shower and changing room facilities and a small kitchen.
- Tea and coffee making facilities and a water dispenser are provided.
- The coaching office is also located in the tennis pavilion.
- The main clubhouse bar is open evenings and weekends.
- There is onsite car parking. However, this can get a little busy if there are simultaneous sports fixtures taking place on the grounds. Traffic for the onsite nursery can be heavy during peak times. You can park in the surrounding streets for up to 2 hours if necessary.
- For cyclists we provide bike racks on site.
- The Club is also served by public transport with bus stops nearby for users.
- We have a tennis ball and tube recycling initiative; the bins can be found near the tennis pavilion.

2.

Tennis Pavilion Entry Fob

To access the pavilion when the door is closed you can purchase an entry fob for £5 which can be collected from James Charman, our Head Pro, or our Facilities team.

Please pay the £5 charge to the Club account as follows with the reference '**Fob**':

Blackheath Lawn Tennis Club**40-03-16****81660756**

3.

Membership Categories, Rules, and Fees

The membership fee is an annual subscription payable by the 1st of April each year for the following season. All existing members are automatically invited to renew their membership each year and those who do not renew by 1st April will be removed from the system.

The Club offers a variety of membership options to suit individual requirements as follows:

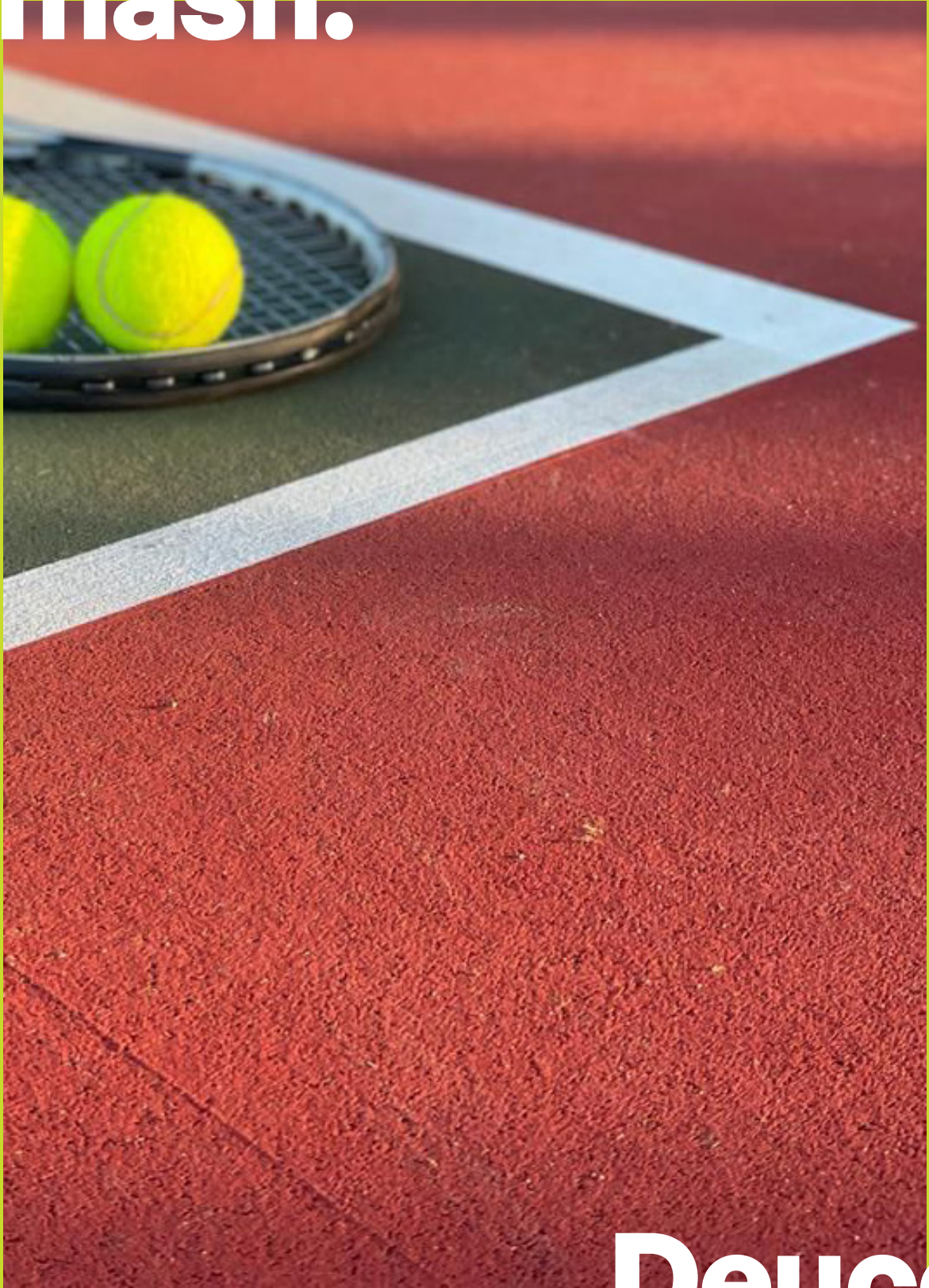


Membership Category	Definition/Eligibility/Booking Rights	2025/26 Fee
Seniors		
Peak	From age 18 (unless Student) to 63* as of 1st April 2025. Play any time. Bookings 7 days in advance.	£444
Over 63* Peak	Over age 63* as of 1st April 2025. Play any time. Bookings 7 days in advance.	£306
Off-peak	From age 18 to 63* as of 1st April 2025. Play restricted to Monday to Friday until 6pm. Bookings 7 days in advance.	£255
Student	Age 18 to 25 in full-time education as of 1st April 2025; proof required. Play any time. Bookings 7 days in advance.	£138
Social	Clubhouse use only.	£50
Juniors		
Junior	Under age 18 as of 1st April 2025. Play any time. Bookings 1 day in advance. Children under age 18 receiving 1:1 coaching must be Junior members.	£107
Junior Plus	By Head Pro Invitation Only.	£107
Family		
Family (2 adults + under 18 juniors)	Up to 2 Peak adults plus unlimited children up to age 18 as of 1st April 2025. Children are Junior members. Play any time. Bookings 7 days in advance for adults, 1 day in advance for Juniors.	£882
Miscellaneous		
Guest	Can be booked by members, up to 3 times a year per guest , with a guest fee paid to the Club.	£5 adult and £2.50 junior per visit up to 3 times a year for same guest

Please contact the Membership Team at membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk for more information or visit our website. Members joining part way through the season will pay the full membership fee except if joining after 1st October, at which point the fee will be at the pro rata rate shown below:

Date of Joining	Pro Rata Rate to 31st March
Anytime from 1st April to 30th September	100% of full fee
Anytime from 1st October to 31st December	50% of full fee
Anytime from 1st January to 31st March	25% of full fee

Smash.



Deuce.

4.

Membership Refunds

No retrospective refunds of subscriptions will be given. For medical or other reasons considered valid by the Committee your membership may be suspended, and a pro rata refund obtained, by giving notice to the Committee in writing. All refunds are at the discretion of the Committee.

5.

Court Bookings (MyCourts)

The Club uses the MyCourts system for court bookings, except for the grass courts (usually open May to September) which operate on a 'turn up and play' basis with a manual whiteboard booking system. When you join you will be sent your MyCourts login by email.

Courts can be booked 7 days in advance (Seniors) and 24 hours in advance (Juniors) at no extra cost. Courts 1 to 3 can be booked from 8am until 10pm and courts 4 to 8 until 9pm (except on a Sunday when court 8 can only be booked until 8pm). Singles players can book for one hour, doubles players up to two hours with each player limited to one hourly booking per day.

When booking please ensure every opponent's name is selected and remember to check-in online or on the screen located in the tennis pavilion.

Club social sessions, tournaments, matches, and coaching commitments are already blocked out on the booking system, and the courts are unavailable for personal use at these times. There is no need to book if you wish to attend a Club social session.

6.

Guests

Members are welcome to bring guests onto the courts, accompanied by payment of a guest fee of £5 for an adult and £2.50 for a junior. Each guest can only play up to 3 times in a season. It is your responsibility as a member to ensure any guest fees are paid before you play. All guests' names must be entered on the sheet in the tennis pavilion.

If you are bringing a guest member, please ensure you select the ***Guest opponent option on your MyCourts booking.

Please pay to the Club account with the reference '**Guest**':

Blackheath Lawn Tennis Club
40-03-16
81660756

Parents wishing to play on court with their children need to purchase either a Family membership or a Senior and Junior membership,

depending on which is most cost-effective. We strongly discourage parents either just joining themselves, or just joining their children as juniors, and then using the courts together on a regular basis.

Please help us ensure that everyone pays fairly towards the upkeep and maintenance of our fantastic facilities.

7.

Serving Practice

If you wish to play on your own for serving practice, please ensure you have selected the ***Serving Practice opponent option on your MyCourts booking.

Members **must not** use the courts for these activities Monday to Friday 10am to 12pm and after 6pm, and before 5pm on weekends.





8.

Court Usage and Maintenance

Members should satisfy themselves that the courts are suitable for play and that they are safe to play on, particularly when it is raining or frosty.

We invest heavily in the ongoing maintenance of our courts with a rigorous programme of renewal, resurfacing and repainting. To ensure they stay in as good a condition as possible, however, we ask for your help as follows:

- Make the most of any spare time to tidy the courts and clear any loose debris.
- Make the effort to join us for any of the organised leaf sweeping sessions (you'll hear about these via email).
- Do not loosen nets after you have played; they should be left at the correct tension to prolong their life (and the life of the winders).
- Do not bring food or drink onto the courts that could leave a mess. Bins are provided, but if you have recyclable rubbish, please take it with you when you leave.
- Sweep the clay courts after use following the method shown in the information located in the tennis pavilion.
- Contact the Facilities team at **maintenance@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk** or a Committee member if you spot any issues with the facilities or concerns about their use.

The grass courts are normally in use from May to September. Members must adhere to the rules when notices show the grass courts are out of use when too damp or being maintained.

9.

Balls and Floodlights

Tennis balls are provided by the Club for use during Club social sessions and home League matches.

Floodlights are also funded by the Club for use in Club social sessions, coaching sessions, and League matches. A small subset of members has access to the Club payment card for the floodlights for this purpose.

Personal use of the floodlights can be paid for by contactless card payment on the system located in the tennis pavilion. The cost is £4.50 an hour.

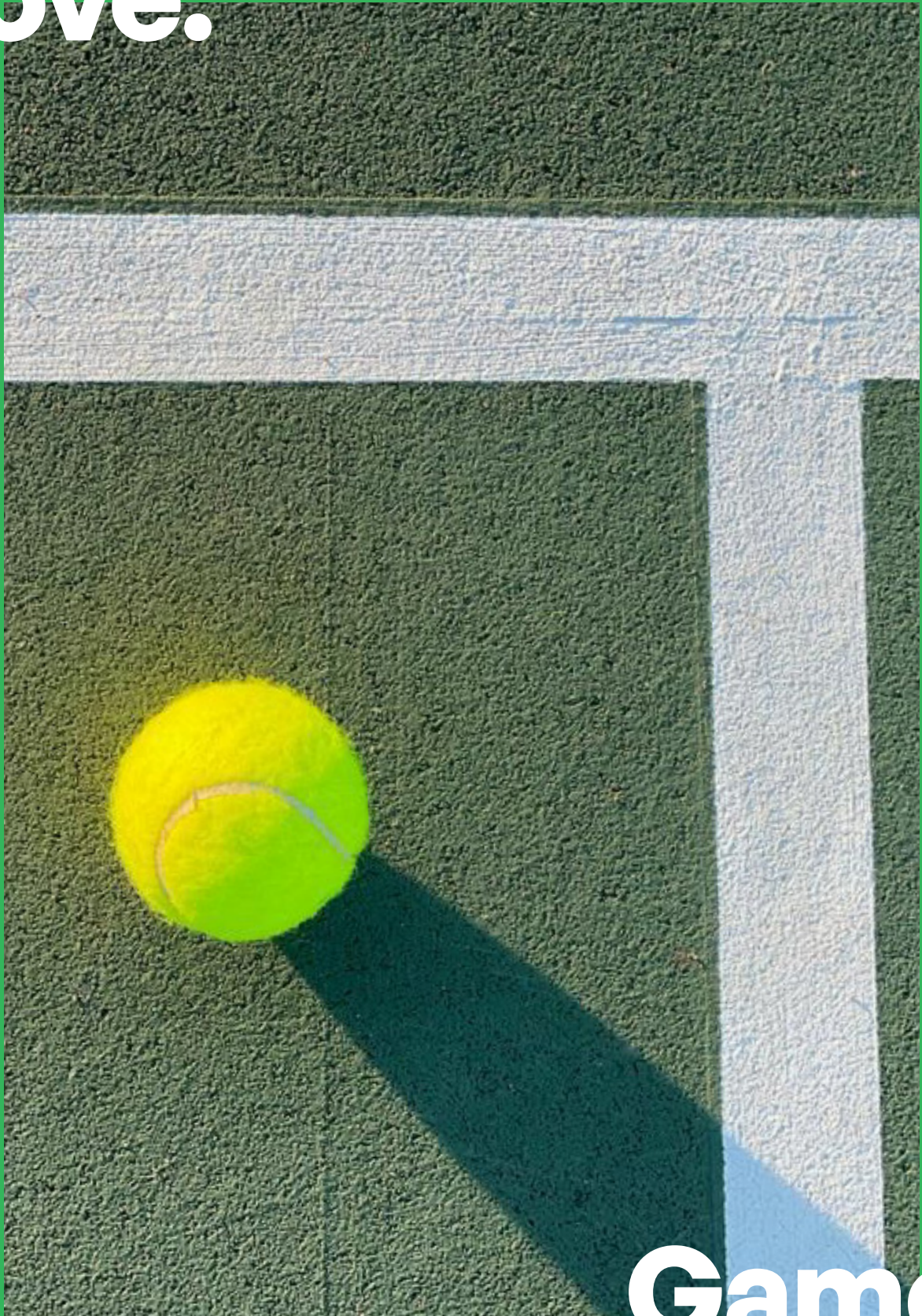
10.

Racket Restringing

We offer an in-house racket stringing service using leading brands of tennis strings aimed at all types of players.

Please contact us for more information.

Love.



Game.

11.

Coaching

Our resident Head Pro, James Charman, manages a group of talented, qualified, and accredited coaches who are all DBS certified and trained in first aid and safeguarding. They bring various areas of specialism to the Club to deliver individual and group lessons, programmes and camps to juniors and adults.

Coaches are available midweek 8am to 6pm and at weekends 8am to 8pm. More information can be found on the Club website.

All players who receive individual 1:1 coaching must be members of the Club and only recognised Club coaches are permitted to coach on our courts.

12.

Juniors, Minis and Tots

Under the leadership of our Head Pro, James Charman, the Club offers a comprehensive after-school and weekend Junior Coaching Programme for complete beginners through to performance coaching.

Lessons are split by age groups and emphasize hand-eye ball co-ordination and playing skills. Juniors are also encouraged to take part in competitions at the Club and at other venues. We are an LTA accredited mini-tennis centre and the LTA programme is delivered for Mini Blue, Red, Orange and Green balls, with different levels of Yellow ball programmes.

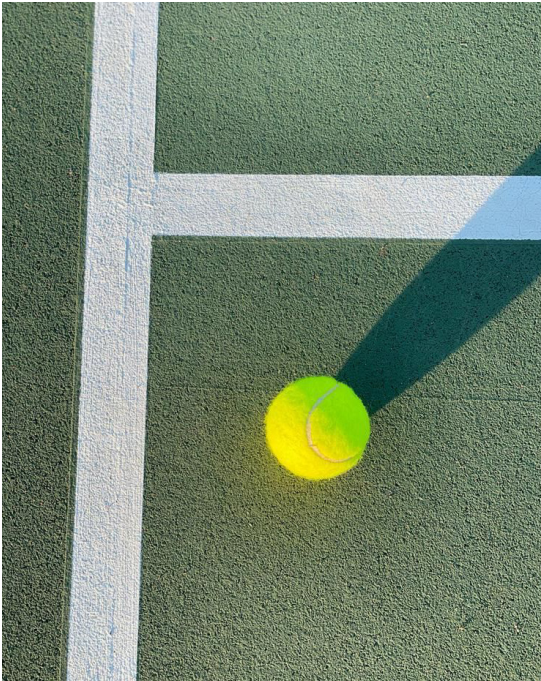
Please refer to the Club website for up-to-date information on all aspects of coaching or contact James directly at james@charmantenniscoaching.com. The Club operates a full safeguarding and child protection policy.






13.

Cardio Tennis

Cardio Tennis is a fun, sociable group fitness class set on a tennis court and open to people of all tennis abilities and fitness levels. Supported by music and a qualified Cardio Tennis instructor, you'll get to hit lots of tennis balls during your class and have a great cardio workout at the same time.

Please contact our Head Pro, James Charman, at james@charmantenniscoaching.com for more information or membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk



Ages 3 to 4	Ages 4 to 8	Ages 8 to 9	Ages 9 to 10	Ages 11+
BLUE BALL	RED BALL	ORANGE BALL	GREEN BALL	YELLOW BALL
				

14.

**Competitive Tennis –
County and National League**

The Club has competitive Junior, Men's, Ladies, Mixed and Veteran teams in the Kent and North Kent County leagues and the National League. Participation is subject to selection by the Team Captain and attendance at team practice on a Monday evening by invitation from our Head Pro, James Charman.

League matches have priority on courts 3 and 4 or 5 and 6 or on grass. A full fixture list is published on our website and in the tennis pavilion.

If you are interested in playing for a team, please contact one of the following:

Team	Team Captain	Contact
Juniors	James Charman	james@charmantenniscoaching.com
Men's	Ajay Kidambi	ajay.kidambi@outlook.com
Ladies	Di Gaines	didotcombe@aol.com
Mixed	Jonathan South	jonathanmaxwellsouth@gmail.com

15.

**Competitive Tennis – Inter-Club
Box Leagues**

Club members can also play competitive tennis through our inter-Club mixed box leagues. Playing in a box league gives you a chance to meet new members and hone your playing skills.

The leagues run every 6-8 weeks on the MyCourts system and members are encouraged to contact each other to arrange matches. The leagues are competitive but cater for all playing abilities, with members entered according to their playing standard.

To take part in the leagues please contact **membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk**. Please note the leagues are suspended during the Club Open tournament.

16.

Competitive Tennis – Club Tournaments

The Club organises an annual Club Open tournament from May to July as well as social one-day tournaments from time to time. You will receive more information on how to participate in these throughout the year.



17.

Social Tennis Sessions

The Club organises social sessions for members on:

- Wednesdays 6pm to 10pm for Peak, Over 63 and Student members
- Thursdays 10am to midday for Peak, Over 63, Off-peak and Student members
- Sundays 2pm to 5pm for Peak, Over 63 and Student members.

Members mix-in and play doubles, rotating after each short set. New members can contact our Head Pro, James Charman, at james@charmantenniscoaching.com or membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk to discuss attendance.

18.

Social Events and Club News

The Club aims to organise several social events throughout the year. Regular events include:

- Open tournament finals day BBQ in July
- Bank holiday mini tournament in August
- AGM drinks in November
- Christmas party in December

We also have a social committee who arrange other events from time to time including a quiz night, wine tasting and charity fundraisers.

News on our social events and any other relevant Club updates will be communicated by email through MyCourts. Please ensure you have set your preferences accordingly. Information is also posted on the noticeboards and screens in the court-side tennis pavilion and on our Instagram page: [blackheathlta](https://www.instagram.com/blackheathlta).



19.

Main Clubhouse Bar

All members have full use of the main clubhouse bar where we hold many of our Club social events. The main bar is fully licensed and offers alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, including tea, coffee and hot chocolate, and snacks at very competitive rates. It is fully equipped with large TV screens and is a great place to watch live sporting events. The clubhouse is also available for hire for private events. The main bar is generally open from 6pm on mid-week evenings and midday at weekends, however these times are subject to seasonal adjustments.

20.

LTA British Tennis Membership Scheme and Wimbledon Ballot

You can sign up to become an Advantage member of the LTA British Tennis Membership scheme. There are a variety of free and paid Advantage membership options which give you access to exclusive benefits, upcoming events, and programmes. Advantage membership also enables you to opt-in annually to the LTA Advantage Wimbledon ballot which offers you the chance to attend The Championships.

21.

Code of Conduct

Members can help keep our Club standards high by adhering to the following:

- Respect the rules of tennis and address disputes with common sense and appropriate language.
- Ensure all members and visitors are respected and welcomed.
- Wear proper tennis clothes and non-marking trainers.
- Show courtesy to each other and our neighbours.
- Refrain from swearing or arguing.
- No chewing gum or smoking.
- No littering.
- No dogs.
- No ball retrieval from gardens.
- Keep the kitchen area tidy and wash up and put away after use.
- Sweep the clay courts after use following the method shown in the tennis pavilion.

Set.



Match.

22.

Constitution, Committee, Team and Volunteers

The Club is an unincorporated association, managed by a committee which is appointed by the members of the Club in accordance with the Club’s constitution. A copy of the Club’s constitution can be found online and in the tennis pavilion.

Committee members are volunteers who are voted in at each AGM. The Committee is assisted by a Head Pro, a Club Administrator, and a team of volunteers. Committee members are entitled to a discount on their membership fee of 10% for every year of service, subject to a maximum of 50%.

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help with the running of the Club. If you’d like to get involved, please contact : membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk



Role	Name
Club President	Cathy Reid-Dick
Chair of the Committee	Di Gaines
Club Treasurers	Steve Harrison & Rachel Bohling
Facilities Team	Nayla Solh
Fixtures	Di Gaines
Club Administrator	Chelsea Meiring
Social	Carol Clapshaw & Chelsea Meiring
Coaching	James Charman
General Committee Members	Kate Hands, Chris Mills, Hari Patel, Luis Patel, Jonathan South
Welfare Officers	Emily McCann & Chelsea Meiring
Juniors Captain	James Charman
Men’s Captain	Ajay Kidambi
Ladies Captain	Di Gaines
Mixed Captain	Jonathan South

**23.****Policies and Procedures**

We take the safeguarding and protection of our members, visitors, and team very seriously and have a variety of rules and policies in place to ensure that, in the event of an incident of any kind, there is a clear procedure and point of contact in place. All Club policies and procedures are available on our website and in folders kept in the tennis pavilion.

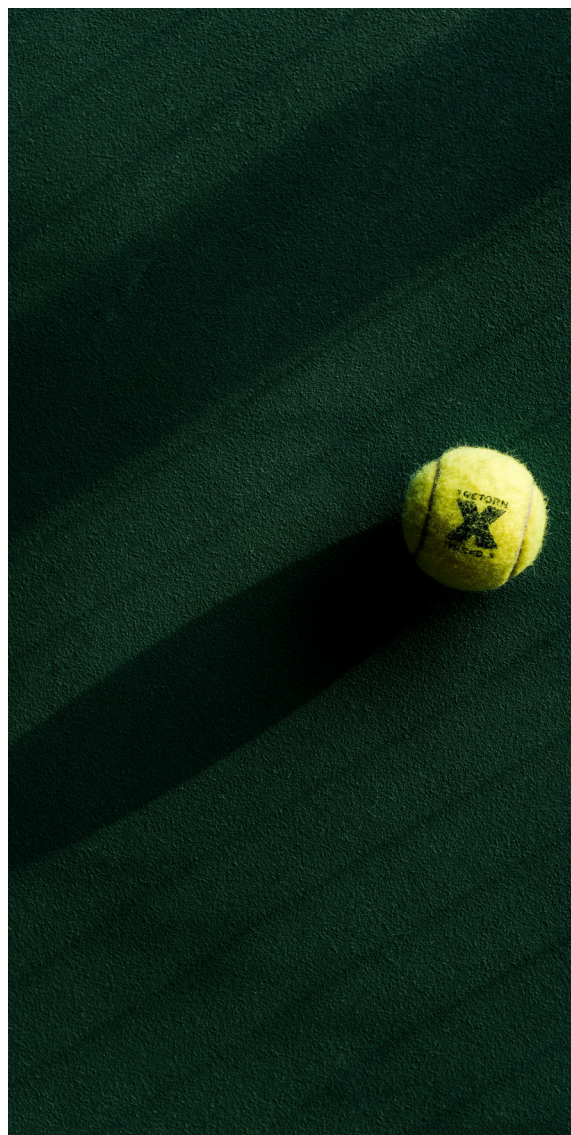
24.**Welfare and Safeguarding**

The Club adheres to a comprehensive set of welfare and safeguarding policies for children and adults, in line with LTA guidelines.

Our Welfare Officers has responsibility for maintaining a safe and inclusive Club environment. They are the main point of contact for all children and adults to report any welfare or safeguarding concerns and disclosures. They are trained to handle concerns calmly and sensitively in line with the Club's reporting policy and procedure, and to always prioritise the welfare of the child or adult at risk. To contact our Welfare Officers please email **membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk**. In an emergency, please contact the emergency services.

25.**Comments, Suggestions and Complaints**

We would like to hear from you with your comments and suggestions and are keen to address any complaints that cannot be addressed informally in the first instance. Our formal Comments, Suggestions and Complaints Policy can be found on our website and in the tennis pavilion.



26.

Contacts

Resource	Email
Committee	membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk
Facilities	maintenance@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk
Membership	membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk
Coaching	james@charmantenniscoaching.com
Box Leagues	membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk
Welfare	membership@blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk
Website	www.blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk



*I will develop
the next vaccine*

**Apply now
for a
Sixth Form
Place**



BLACKHEATH HIGH

SIXTH FORM

GDST

Our girls have the best foundation to build skills for the future, thanks to our £18m investment in new state-of-the-art facilities.

Where girls boldly go

blackheathhighschool.gdst.net

Rated 'excellent in all areas' - ISI



www.blackheathlawntennisclub.org.uk