



Newsletter



Welcome to our new newsletter, aimed at keeping you up to date with club happenings! In this edition, we are focusing on the results of the recent membership survey as well as few other updates...

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Thanks to everyone who took the time to fill out the 2024 ND LTC membership survey - 78 members (26%) responded, with a proportional representation of membership reflected in the responses. We are already actively using the survey to help inform committee priorities! A summary of the 3 key findings is below.

OVERALL SATISFACTION

Very positive responses, including:

85% overall satisfaction with the club. The friendly atmosphere, social tennis and lovely grounds were all singled out in the comments.

81% satisfaction rate with tennis activities with junior coaching and the American Doubles tournaments particularly praised

77% satisfaction rate with the club facilities

69% satisfaction rate with court availability.

SOCIAL TENNIS

63% wanted to see more regular bar openings. The committee has now arranged a bar rota for Friday social so from 25th Oct the bar will be open every week.

49% wanted to see monthly American Doubles tournaments during social sessions. We will therefore organize these starting in November and monitor their popularity

46% wanted to have a facilitator for social sessions. Matt has arranged for a coach to facilitate the Wednesday social sessions & we will monitor this.

COURT RESURFACING

59.1% of respondents prefer the artificial grass courts compared to 19.7% preferring the hard courts and 21% with no preference

Note, we are considering resurfacing the courts - possibly as soon as next Spring and are getting updated costs and feasibility for a number of surface options.

Factors we will consider include relative cost, court lifespan, maintenance needs, resilience to rain and cold, bounce and playing styles.

We will keep you in touch with progress on this, but in the meantime, please email us with your views!



Help us track what members want

- In addition to the survey, we are looking for volunteers to join a smaller focus WhatsApp group to represent the membership body and feedback their views throughout the year.
- Thank you to all those who have signed up already and if you'd like to be part of this group, please email Becky via rebeccatyersfreelance@gmail.com.

GENERAL CLUB NEWS & REMINDERS!

We do not employ people every day to keep the club and courts clean and safe - so it's up to all of us to do our bit! Some top tips...

- If you are last the leave, please lock the clubhouse, middle gate and front gate when leaving
- Help keep the courts looking great! Before playing, blow or brush the courts clear of leaves and seeds.
- Become a NDLTC Litter Tzar! Put rubbish in a bin or, even better, take it home. Proactively tidy any litter you find on court or around the benches - even if they have been left by others!

If you find anything amiss at the club, contact a committee member or post on the 'Anyone for Tennis' group chat and we will pick it up!



CLUBHOUSE REDEVELOPMENT

Our lovely but aged pavilion has some major structural issues and the changing rooms, kitchen and bar facilities could all use a refresh. Any plan we implement will seek to retain its charming period character.

- We are engaging an architect to produce updated plans from which we can then get builders to fully cost the project. We will keep you all up to date with this.
- Significant additional fundraising will be required to make this possible. If you have any thoughts on how we raise some of those funds, or would like to help with this, please let us know!

FUN UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES & BOOK!

1. Tuesday October 27th (7.30pm) Tuesday Talk: Hogarth's Political Art (Rupert Dickens)

2. Saturday November 2nd (afternoon)

Charity Event: The Karla Cup - an inclusive doubles tournament

3. Saturday November 9th

Ceilidh dance evening - an amazing fun evening for all ages and fitness levels!

4. Saturday December 7th

Club Christmas Party

COURT BOOKINGS

- When booking a court on MyCourts, always add your opponent's name
- Pay for your guest by selecting ***GUEST £5*** as your opponent on the booking
- Pay for the ball machine by selecting ***Ball Machine £5*** as your opponent on the booking
- Please don't waste valuable court time by booking and not playing - cancel it so someone else can play

SOCIAL TENNIS BALLS

To encourage social play we provide excellent, long-lasting Trinité balls, but sadly we do find they are often left on the courts - recently we found 13 balls on the courts after a social session! So a few reminders to help...

- The Trinité tennis balls provided by the club are for Wed/Fri/Sun social tennis sessions only, not for personal use. If you want to buy balls, then please buy the Slazenger balls from the locked chest on the verandah
- PLEASE don't leave any balls on court to get soggy! If you are in the last group on a court, have a good look round before you leave, collect all the Trinité balls and return them to the clubhouse basket.



LEAF BLOWER

If you have a hit booked this autumn, why not arrive a few minutes early and clear your court? The Leaf Blower is quite fun to use, so feel free to give it a go and play your game on pristine courts!

- It's stored in the clubhouse - just insert the battery and use
- Return to the clubhouse and **please then take out the battery and recharge it** - so the next user can immediately use it!
- You can sweep courts 3 & 4 if you prefer, but the top courts 1 & 2 must only be blown



BALL MACHINE

We have a modern easy to use ball machine for your use. Its great fun and will allow you to practice that top-spin backhand when no one is watching!

- Stored in the clubhouse. Pay £5 via your MyCourts booking
- Use the mixed balls in the machine or replace with your own if you prefer
- **Please leave it recharging once you are finished**

LAWN

Mike does a great job keeping the lawn and gardens looking lovely, but it's a tough job during the autumn & winter, when it can become a mudbath - so please keep off the grass as much as possible during these times. Thanks!



OTHER WAYS YOU CAN MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP...

- ✓ Join in Social Tennis, Box Leagues and friendly Tournaments
- ✓ Try out the wide variety of fun & inclusive social events - eg Quiz Night, Music Nights, Wine Club, Tuesday Talks, Xmas Party - and bring your friends and family along!
- ✓ Get your tennis balls and racquet restrung from the club (see Matt)
- ✓ Join a team and play against other clubs! If you are interested in playing for the Teams please contact hellojomotennis@gmail.com

CONTACT US

- Tell us what you think - all committee members' phones/emails are on the MyCourts directory.
- For questions or comments for the whole committee, email northdulwichtennis@yahoo.com
- For coaching, email Head Coach Matt Cowie at matt@coachcowie.com
- Find people to play on our Anyone for Tennis WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/D4UI6xxcQ7tAfELF1ibD24>

YOUR FRIENDLY COMMITTEE

Chair: **Zac Campbell**

Community Liaison Officer: to be appointed

Development: **Sean Haggerty**

Grounds & Facilities: **Mike Almond**

Head Coach & Website: **Matt Cowie**

Junior Representative: **Enatina Stamati**

LTA liaison & club ball supplies: **Keith Ball**

Membership Secretary: **Andy Carter**

Members Representative: **Becky Tyers**

Secretary: **Linda Irwin**

Social Secretary: **Ian Hirst**

Tennis Manager: **Jo Morris**

Treasurer: **Olivia Paterson**

Welfare Representative: **Helen Freeman**

