

Avondale Up-date – 25th September 2020

Following the two sets of Government restrictions announced over the last couple of weeks the LTA has issued its latest Guidance as follows:-

<https://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/news/2020/lta-guidance-for-tennis-players---covid-19.pdf>

The 'rule of six' means that social tennis is now limited by law to a maximum group size of six people. As a result those members who have previously been playing in mix in groups of eight players must reduce their groups to a maximum of six.

Please note in particular the following extracts from the Guidance:-

- When participating in any tennis activity indoors or outdoors, **participants must not mingle in groups of more than six before and after the activity**, while maintaining social distancing with those from another household at all times.
- Attendees must avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group they are with, even if they see other people they know, at all times during their visit.

There are exceptions from the 'rule of six' for coaching and outdoor team sports so the coaching groups already underway may continue and the Winter League matches can commence as planned this weekend. However, participants in such activity must be careful to avoid inadvertently mingling as above.

The recent adverse trends in virus transmission are of concern and there is potential for further tightening of the Guidelines in the coming weeks. We shall watch the position closely and respond appropriately to any further restrictions but in the meantime, we are planning for the months ahead as best we can.

Toilets at the Club

We recognise that the toilet at the rear of the pavilion is not really suitable for the autumn and winter months and we have therefore made arrangements for our cleaner to attend the Club five days a week (compared with twice a week before the lockdown). With this enhanced cleaning the pavilion may now be used for access to the internal toilets as well as the entrance hall.

To ensure social distancing only one person at a time may use each toilet (although parents may help children). Each changing room now has an 'Engaged' lock at the entrance – please ensure you use this on entering. In accordance with LTA Guidelines the changing rooms should only be used for access to the toilets and, as a reminder, the changing benches have been closed off with barrier tape. Only one person may wait in the entrance hall at any time.

Whilst increased cleaning reduces the risk of virus transmission it is impossible to achieve zero risk and it is therefore vitally important to sanitise your hands on entry to and exit from the building.

The lounge area of the pavilion is not accessible other than for league matches and occasional coaching needs. Team captains have been given detailed Guidelines on the use of this area and anyone entering must comply with Government social distancing guidelines and the 'rule of six'.

Generally the pavilion should remain locked when not used for access, so please lock the entrance door as you leave, ensuring that no one else is in the building. If you do not have a key to the entrance door please contact joan_jones@btinternet.com

Test & Trace

You must not come to the Club unless you have booked a court. Please remember to record details of all players for NHS Test & Trace requirements by using the facility on the ClubSpark booking system – see:

<http://avondaletennisclub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Test-and-Trace-instructions.pdf>

If you have booked a court but can no longer play, please ensure you cancel it on ClubSpark to give others the chance to book it and to avoid being caught up in the Test & Trace process.

Annual General Meeting

It will be impossible for us to hold our AGM in the pavilion as normal this year but arrangements have been made to hold it via Zoom on Wednesday 11th November at 7.30pm so you will be able to attend from the comfort of your home. Access links will be provided nearer the time.

Other News

Car Park Repairs. Our car park surface has deteriorated over the last 12 months and we have arranged for repairs to be undertaken at the end of November or early December. We are also taking the opportunity to replace the old footpath adjacent to the car park with a new asphalt surface to replace the paving flags, many of which are broken. The work will take around one week and there will be no parking at the Club during this time. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Singles Box League. We are planning a Singles Box League, starting in early October. Thank you to Peter Archer for organising this. If you enjoy playing singles and wish to play in this Box League please contact Peter on peterarcher.sps@gmail.com.

Paul Treacy
Hon Chairman
Avondale LTC