

Meopham Tennis Club

Junior Section

Welcome to all the junior members & parents for the 2010 season.

This is a very exciting year at Meopham Tennis Club.

There has been a growing feeling at the club, that there needs to be a larger focus on our Junior Section, so that the Club can expand for the future. Not only in standards of tennis, but also in the facilities that each club member has at their disposal.

Over the winter months there have been a number of meetings and discussions, which have been very helpful and successful in trying to change the way that the junior section is run.

The junior section has always been run by one individual (usually a parent) who has to juggle their own commitments to try and make everyone have an enjoyable season –

Setting up box leagues
Entering teams into the North Kent Leagues
Keeping a data base of members
Organising Club Tournaments
Arranging Fixtures
Answering emails/phones calls etc
Attending committee meetings
Liaising with Club Coaches

The club feels that this is far too much for one person to take on by themselves and have decided to set up a Junior Committee.

We have already had fantastic support from the some club members, including the continued support from

Karen Brett (a non playing mum, who really has done a great job over the past couple of years). Karen will carry on in her role as Junior Secretary.

Tony Cherry & Alex Woolmington as club Coaches. Will be helping the club to reach 'Club Mark' status – which is an important goal for the club in general, to prove that we are providing a quality coaching & tournament programme.

Lawrie Lowe has joined the junior section as Junior Committee Co-Cordinator. Lawrie is 1st Team Captain of the Senior Team & his main aim is to keep all junior members and their parents informed of the clubs ambitions and targets. His focus will be to improve communication within the club and try and gain funding to help the junior section.

To really make this club the best in the area, we need as much support from parents as possible. We are looking for parents to join our committee and take on some of the tasks that are not time consuming by themselves, but far too much for just one individual to handle. We are also interested in two junior members to join our committee, as we feel their thoughts and suggestions are invaluable in giving the juniors what they desire at this club.

Please email lawrie-lowe@blueyonder.co.uk or call lawrie on 01474 533569 if you are willing to be a part of our committee.

I totally appreciate that everyone have other commitments, so the more members willing to help, will mean less work for each member who joins.

There are also benefits that the club will be looking at offering parents and juniors who show their support, as we will be able to look at members going on tennis related courses –

Some points already raised in our discussions:

Availability of courts and facilities to Junior Members.

The club are looking at having a secure box, with combination code on the courts with balls for juniors to use.

Please be aware that all parents of Junior Members are entitled to have a key to the main club house. There is a £5 deposit for this key and full responsibility is given to the parents for the use of it.

Once this key is obtained, the parent would also be given the padlock code to the gate entering the pathway to the clubhouse.

If a parent feels that their son or daughter were responsible enough to have their own key, the suggestion can be put forward to the Junior Committee for consideration. (This would only apply to children above the age of 15 years old).

Junior Tournament

We feel that the tournament should start earlier in the year – Due to so many matches not being played on time last year, we ended up having finals played late and not having the support that they deserved. The committee was considering a £2 entry fee this year, so that it may improve commitment, but it has been decided to waive this fee, but to ask for junior's and parents to make every effort to make sure matches are played by the date specified. You will be updated with further details concerning the tournament in the next couple of weeks.

Coaching Programme

At the moment we have an extensive coaching programme at Meopham. This is covered by Tony & Alex, with the use of outdoor and indoor facilities. The committee have decided that we need to improve our advertising of these programmes, so we will be updating our website and also have large posters at the club, informing members of our yearly programmes & any extra holiday programmes that may be arranged.

Website

The Club already has a Website, but we feel it can be more user friendly for the junior members. We would like to have more details concerning the group and private coaching. We would also like to have a few photos shown on the website. If any parents would prefer not having their children's photos on the website, we would appreciate you contacting Lawrie or Karen.

But again, we feel that the juniors are the best people to ask what they would like on their website, so please send us your thoughts or become involved in the Junior Committee and be Junior website co-ordinator.

Look @ www.meophamtennis.com & www.topspintenniscoaching.co.uk

CONTACT DETAILS –

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