

Wigmore Questions and Answers for Members.....

Q How do I find people to play with?

A As a new member, one of the best ways of meeting other people to play with is to attend some social tennis sessions. These run on Wednesday evenings (all courts) and Saturday (2 courts) and Sunday (all courts) afternoons. Wednesday evenings are often followed by a supper kindly cooked by a fellow member and socialising around the bar is a great way to get to know your fellow members better.

You can also sign up to play in the ladder leagues. We are running up to 7 divisions with each division typically having 5 players who compete in 4 matches within a given time. Sign-up sheets are available in the corridor outside the Men's and Ladies loos. For more details, contact Vijay Johan on 07726 793886 or e-mail vijaymohan18@hotmail.co.uk

One of our newer members has recently suggested that we have an on-line bulletin board where people can post their availability and request games – we're looking into this, but in the meantime, feel free to post a note by the booking system in the clubhouse if you're looking for someone to knock-up with. We're also trying to see how this could work on Facebook – let us know if you have any other ideas!

Q I'd like to be considered for a team, what should I do?

A In the first instance, please talk to one of the coaches who will be able to look at your standard of play. You will probably be invited to attend a team practice evening (Tuesday 8-10pm) to help assess what team squad you would be best placed in. The committee is currently looking at re-instating a selection process but nothing has been agreed yet. A list of current team Captains is on display in the club porch.

Q Can I bring a guest?

A Absolutely! However, please note that a £4 guest fee is payable per adult guest each time they come to the club – and they can only visit a maximum of 4 times in one year. Please put the guest fees due in one of the small brown envelopes and mark your/your guests details and the date on it – then post in the hole in the wall in the wall backing onto the kitchen. If your guest has come down a couple of times and then decides to join, we will let them deduct their guest fees from their subscription – provided their guest fees were paid during the subscription year they are joining. E.g. If they play twice in September and then want to join the club they can deduct the £8. However if they played twice in August and then want to join the September-August period, no deduction can be made! Junior guests also have to pay a fee - £1.50 per visit (and this also applies to non-member juniors having coaching – this guest fee is payable at EVERY lesson).

Q I've booked a court on-line – do I have to do anything else when I come to play?

A YES! All members have received a copy of the on-line booking guidelines but we suspect a few have not read them! When you get to the club, you need to go into the clubhouse and log into and then out of the booking system. If you do not do this, you will have a 'NO SHOW' by your name too many of these and we reserve the right to take away your booking rights! If you want to read through the on-line booking guidelines again you will find a copy in the Members' only section of the website.

Q I'm a Junior Member – can I book a court?

A The quick answer is no, you can't. However, we do have a number of junior members that play to a very high standard and also play in matches for the club. These players may request booking rights from the committee. Otherwise, any junior member wanting to play – particularly during peak adult playing times (weekends and evenings) will have to take their chance on a court being free.

Parents of junior who are members may book a court to play against their junior offspring!

Q How do I pay for lights?

A The 'pay' machine is in the kitchen to the left of the fridge in a cupboard. You will need £1 coins. Select the court you are playing on and then add the appropriate amount of £1 coins. The committee decided in 2011 to make the cost of the lights the same for each court and to reduce the cost of the lights for the time being to £2 per hour per court. They will monitor income and costs during the winter and will re-evaluate the situation later in 2012 – comments on this will be welcome at the March AGM.

Q Other clubs provide lights as part of the subscription – why can't Wigmore?

A As stated above, we are currently looking into the cost of lights and options available to us. We are considering what other clubs do and comments from our members

Q I've seen that Wigmore has a ball machine – how do I 'book' it?

A Wigmore now has 2 ball machines – the latest being a remote controlled 'Lobster' machine. Please refer to the Members' only part of the website for further information on booking it for use and instructions on how it works. The old ball machine is still available but you'll need to liaise with a coach if you want to use it as they have the keys to the shed where it is stored!

We are looking at getting an outside box with a coded padlock for the new Lobster machine but in the meantime it is being kept in the clubhouse. If anyone wants to volunteer to make us a shed (we'll pay for the materials!), please let Mark Draper know.

Q Can I buy balls at Wigmore?

A Yes you can. We sell tins of new or 'match used' balls. You can buy these from the bar or talk to Rod Booth. Prices available at the bar.

Q I've seen people wearing Wigmore Sweatshirts and t-shirts. Where do I buy them?

A Limited stock is available from behind the bar – otherwise contact Dino Skeete who has the rest of the stock. Encourage your team to wear them for club matches!

Q I have seen that something is broken – what should I do?

A Please advise one of the coaches or a committee member who will figure out what to do. I might be that we are already aware of the fault – but often we are not so please don't be shy about telling us that something needs fixing! Mark Draper is currently the guy to contact regarding anything broken in the Clubhouse, and Mark Longden for anything in the grounds. If they aren't around, try e-mailing Louise McKerchar.

Q Can I water the flowers?

A We would be delighted if all of our members could take a look around when they come to the club and see if there is any small job that they can do to help. Watering the flowers during dry spells is particularly helpful! While we employ a gardener and cleaners, they don't work full time and would appreciate any help we can provide. If you make a mess – clear it up – don't leave it for others to do!

Q I think the artificial grass courts need watering – what do I do?

A Water them! There are hosepipes by each court – the tap is under a disc in the grass. Turn on tap and spray the courts.

Q Why isn't the bar open more often?

A Well, this club is run by its members, for its members we simply haven't got enough members who have come forward to volunteer to man the bar. It's simple to do – training will be provided – and actually it's a fun way to meet your fellow members and socialise. However, in a bid to get the social side of the club more active, the committee is currently trialling paying some of our members to open up the bar on a regular basis. It is currently open every evening and during the afternoons at the weekends. The drinks and snacks at the bar are reasonably priced and we encourage you to support your club rather than the local pub!

We are currently in need of a Bar Secretary – if you'd like to volunteer for this position please let one of the current committee members know. The licensees for the time being remain as Mark Saunders and Di Cester.

Q How do I find out what activities are planned for the year?

A The club's calendar will be up on the website as soon as dates and events are confirmed and these are also e-mailed to members, announced in newsletters and on posters in the clubhouse. We are about to purchase a Whiteboard which will be put up in the bar area to announce forthcoming events. The committee is also looking at printing a mini Calendar of Events book for all members ... but we keep thinking of new events so aren't quite ready to print this yet!

Q What sort of competitions does the club run?

A Well, tennis ones mainly! We run the main Club tournament in the summer (mens singles and doubles, womens singles and doubles, mixed) but also run a number of junior tournaments during the year, a Grade 4 Open tournament in August each year, handicap tournaments and Camilla Ray has kindly run a one-day (well afternoon actually) American Tournament the past few years. Other than that, we run Quiz Nights, Bridge Nights and will happily reinstate a darts tournament or start a table-tennis tournament/league if anyone volunteers to run them!

Q Can I use the kitchen?

A Of course you can, it's your club. However we would appreciate it if you would clear up after yourself – just load your mugs/plates in the dishwasher or wash them up. Please

DON'T use anything in the cupboards or fridge that looks like it belongs to someone else. Equally, if you want to put something in the fridge and don't want it to go astray, please mark it with your name!

Q Can I hire the Clubhouse for a special occasion?

A Probably! It depends on whether the Clubhouse is already booked that day/night and what you want to use it for. Please contact the Secretary, Louise McKerchar, if you want to put in a request to use the Clubhouse.

Q I'm moving out of the area – can I get a refund for unused months of my membership?

A Yes you can. Please contact the Membership Secretary – currently Louise McKerchar lmckerchar@peanutsusa.org.uk – providing notice of when you wish to resign from and she will liaise with the Treasurer regarding the refund due to you. Please provide us with as much notice as possible.

Q I have a bad injury or major illness that means I can't play tennis for the rest of the season. Can I put my membership 'on hold'?

A In certain circumstances we will put your membership on hold, but only for long-term injury or illness – for example if you break your leg badly, tear your Achilles heel, have a major illness. Please contact the Membership Secretary, Louise McKerchar and she will discuss your circumstances with you.

There is a suggestions book on the table under the hole in the wall safe – feel free to add your suggestions to it – we do look at the book at committee meetings and discuss requests! Please don't however use the Visitors book to put in your suggestions – and please ask any juniors you see scrawling all over the book to kindly stop doing so!

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