

Here are some simple guidelines to help everyone get the most from tennis on & off court:

- Always wear proper tennis shoes & clothing – with pockets to hold tennis balls.
- Whites are required for those playing on Summer League teams (and can be worn together with the club merchandise). Colours are permitted at other times.
- Always bring a tin of good quality tennis balls to your game. The club supplies tennis balls for inter-club league matches but for all play, it is up to the players to provide their own balls.
- Talk quietly if you are near tennis courts that are in use for a competitive match. Do not engage any of those playing in conversation.
- Please do not enter the gates to the courts during play, wait for all points to end. When entering or exiting the courts, players on Court 1 & 2 ought to use the main gate, Court 4 & 5, the small gate at Westwood car park and Court 3, the least 'busy' route.
- Never walk behind a court during a point, even to retrieve a ball. Move towards your court as quickly as possible between points, and collect a tennis ball from another court after the point has ended.
- Often a ball from another court will end up on your court. Wait until a player on that court can receive that ball from you or simply roll it safely to the back of their court. If it has disrupted your play, you should start the point again.
- Tennis balls can end up scattered over the court during play. All players ought to retrieve balls so as to minimise risk of injury and at times that can keep the play flowing.
- Send all three tennis balls to the Server unless they expressly ask you to hold one for them. In wet weather it makes sense to keep tennis balls off the ground as much as possible.
- It is important that all players warm up to avoid injury and remember the warm-up is not a chance to practice your 'winners'.
- Players should announce the score after every 2/3 points and if a player forgets the score, they should clarify with the other player(s) before the commencement of the next point. Where players cannot agree on the score, they may go back to the last score on which there was agreement and resume play from that.
- If you are unsure as to whether your opponent's shot was in or out, call it in. If you call a ball out and then realise it was good, you should correct your call.
- Fast serves can be difficult to call. The onus to call out is on the receiver's side with no call made indicating the ball was in. The server ought to be given the benefit of the doubt if they believe their shot to be in. Where neither player is sure, a 'let' ought to be played.
- All players should refrain from using bad language, stalling between points, complaining about calls, or engaging in gamesmanship (attempting to gain psychological advantage over an opponent) during a match.
- Ensure that mobile phones are turned off or left in your gear bag while on the tennis court.
- Only tennis accoutrements are permitted within the confines of the courts - No Bicycles, Scooters, skateboards, skates, baby buggies, Footballs, Rugby Balls etc...
- Smoking is not permitted on the courts or in the Pavilion. If you must smoke, please ensure that all cigarette butts and packaging are disposed of safely in the bin.
- Cycling is not permitted anywhere other than on the main entrance routes and around the periphery of the Railway Union pitches.
- Pets are not permitted within the Tennis Club or the wider Railway Union grounds.
- If you see something that needs doing around the grounds or in the shack, please go ahead and do it! Picking up litter, closing gates, loading the dishwasher – these jobs are everyone's responsibility, and they are all important in keeping our club spick and span.