

New Member FAQ's

The following is a list of the most frequently asked questions but it is by no means extensive. If you have any queries, your first resource is the club website gideaparkltc.co.uk where you will find a wealth of information. The website also has contact details for the club committee, all of whom will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

When joining a club, people often wonder how the club works. Gidea Park is a club run by a committee of volunteers, none of who receive any remuneration and they pay their subscription exactly the same as everyone else. This committee is elected once a year at the AGM in February. The committee is very informal in the way in which it is run and is always looking for additional 'bodies' to help organise the club, so if you think you can help just mention it to any committee member.

Q. Where can I find the club Rules

A. They are all on the club website. Just find the 'members section' button on the home page, click on it and click again on the club rules button in the top right corner.

Q. What kit/shoes do I need?

A. All explained in club rules but basically trainers with a non-marking sole and any shirt/shorts or dress/skirt/top combination that is designed for tennis. I.e. No football kit, rugby kit, beach wear or combat shorts etc. Kit doesn't have to be expensive – a plain T shirt and shorts would be perfect!

Q. What organised tennis happens at the club and how do I join in.

A. The website has a button 'Adult Tennis' and "Junior Tennis". Click on this and the full program are explained.

Q. What sort of court etiquette should I be aware of?

A. There are different conventions at different clubs. At Gidea the main ones are:

- When trying to cross one court to get to another, do it at the net – waiting for the end of a point or game before crossing. Do not try and cross behind the play – it takes much longer and you will be in the way whilst waiting for the point to finish.
- Be aware of the type of ball you are playing with. If a ball comes onto your court from another court just roll it back to the netting at the back of the adjoining court (again waiting for the point to finish). If you do not actually see the ball come onto your court but you find a ball that is not yours send it back to the next court – don't just play with it. If someone says to you 'thanks for one' don't think the worst – they are just asking for their ball back!
- If there is a club match being played on courts 1 and 2 do not just go and play on court 3. Court 3 should not be used in this situation unless all the other courts are full and even then you need to ask the permission of the team captain first. In this situation you need to be sensible – if you are able to rally with your partner and keep your balls reasonably on your court, then it is acceptable to use court 3. If however, you are fairly new to the game and are not able to control the ball very well, then please respect the match players and wait for another court to come free.

Q. How do I book a court?

A. Just inside the main clubhouse door, to the left, is a table with the court-booking book on it. Full playing members can book a court up to 8 days in advance.

There are rules as to when you can book a court fully explained in the website rules section.

Basically you cannot book any court allocated for organised club activities such as Tuesday League, Friday social, Sunday social club matches, practice nights etc. Other than those times you can book any 90 minute session whenever you want up to 8 days in advance. In times of extreme demand players can only book one singles court per 90 minute slot but this is a very rare occurrence and is explained fully in the full rules.

Juniors can book courts 4-7 only up to 6pm Mondays to Fridays and after 6pm on Sundays.

Q. How can I (as an adult) play matches?

A. The club runs more teams than any other club in Essex, including junior team Aegon matches and we are always looking for players. If you are interested in playing matches, talk to the head coach and he will give you an idea of the team best suited to your standard.

Q. How (as an adult) do get a club swipe card?

A. These are not given out automatically to everyone when they join as most people play when the club is already open. However, if you wish to have a clubhouse swipe card you can request one from the registrar, Eric Alen, 07540 821534 who will be happy to help. The code to the outside gate is, for this year, 54321.

Q. How can I get other members contact details?

A. There is a members section on the website. It is password protected to safeguard members privacy so to Access this section follow the simple instructions on the website. Or numbers can be found at the front of the court booking book found in the clubhouse, on the table near its entrance.

Q. Can I bring guests to the club?

A. Yes. Simply put your name in the court booking book along with 'visitor' and adults will be charged £3 (juniors £1.50) at the end of the season. The same visitor may only attend 3 times if they are playing tennis. After this they will need to join or have specific committee approval. If they are simply coming along to watch or having a drink there is no charge and they can attend as often as they wish. Alternatively, they can join as a social member for £10 and come along whenever they want and also play 3 times without charge!

Q. Is there an adult social program?

A. There is a full social activities program with events run most months during the year. You will usually see posters up at the club with sign-up sheets and also full details are also posted on the website. There is also a black tie dinner dance, which is held at a local venue annually in November. This is the presentation evening and is very well attended and is a great night. If you wish to attend, you can come along alone, with your partner, or bring some friends and make up a table.
In addition, the bar is open most weekday nights in the summer and Tuesday and Friday evenings and Sunday social all year round. Drinks are sold at very reasonable prices, so don't go to the pub, bring your friends along and have a game of pool or darts and save money as well as supporting your club!

Q. How can I get adult (or junior) coaching?

A. Talk to our head coach who will advise you as to the best plan of action to achieve your expectations. His Contact details are on the website or email Tom at headcoach.gpltc@gmail.com or talk to him at the club – he is there most days. Coaching is available as individual or group lessons at a range of prices.

Q. What does my membership allows me to participate to?

A. Please check the website and click on 'Membership entitlements', you will find all the details needed.

Q. Can we hire the clubhouse for functions?

A. Yes, you can, please contact Jackie for more information's on 07734 664 927.

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