

## ROGATE TENNIS CLUB

The Club was founded in 1982 with the aims of promoting, encouraging and facilitating the playing of tennis in the Rogate area and amongst the community at an affordable cost. We are an LTA Registered venue, meeting their latest standards in relation to Safeguarding, Welfare, and Diversity and offer social, and friendly competitive tennis, principally for local families throughout the year. Coaching is also available on our courts, including after school coaching for children in all age groups during term time. From time to time, we also organise introductory coaching and family events open to non-members. True to our founders aim of providing affordable tennis, our subscriptions are amongst the lowest around, even in these inflationary times. Annual subscriptions start at just £15 for juniors and students. A single adult subscription costs £45 and the price of a family subscription (up to 5 people) is a mere £85.

The highlight of the last year was undoubtedly the resurfacing of our courts at the end of August. The old courts had held up reasonably well until last winter accelerated their decline in the last few months of their life - but the new surface is in a different class. It not only plays well with a consistently true bounce but also drains well – a feature which has proved important over the winter and, especially, the last month of the old season. Although much of the funding was raised by the club itself, we are very grateful for the financial assistance provided by Chichester District Council, The Rogate Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity and the Parish Council.

A sign of the return of a post-Covid normality was the excellent club dinner held at the Tea Barn, Durleighmarsh in February, complete with light-hearted quiz. The Sunday and Tuesday drop-in sessions continued throughout the year as did wide range of coaching for adults and juniors provided by Richard Hopp on our courts. Last month we re-instated our “Rusty Rackets” events run by coach Richard Hopp to prepare for the new season and both sessions were well attended, despite the drizzle on the first occasion. A lot of useful tips were learnt (or re-learnt) and it will be interesting to see how well they are put into practice as the season progresses.

Richard Hatfield  
Secretary, Rogate Tennis Club  
April 2023