

OUTDOOR TENNIS AND INDOOR (TOUCH TENNIS)

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We came into existence in May last year, some weeks after the 2022 Open Day. We have had a successful season and have continued playing 'Touch Tennis' on a single indoors Badminton court, throughout the Winter. Consequently, the Open Day this year was our first appearance for recruiting players. We found four new players who have adapted well and now enjoy the game. We are seeking more new players. It needs to be noted that previous tennis experience is unnecessary and we welcome complete beginners.

So, what are we about? Firstly, this is not an elitist group and we do not take ourselves too seriously. Secondly, we have some experienced players who have not played actively for 15 or more years. Most of our players have not played serious tennis, a number have played social tennis in the past. We have one competent player who has never played tennis before.

It helps if you have 'hand-eye coordination' which may have been acquired at some other activity. It is my experience that almost everyone can hit a tennis ball

The easy way to find out if this game will suit you, is to try it for FREE..... just come down to the Tennis Courts at Yew Tree Road Playing Fields (this is the home of North Lonsdale Tennis Club). We will supply the rackets and balls.

All you will need is a pair of trainers or sport shoes and comfortable clothing for moving around the court. Below is an 'unposed picture', taken hastily when members were about to depart after a recent session. I believe it illustrates the relaxed, informal way we approach our sport.

We are happy for anyone to just turn-up. However, if we are expecting you, it will ensure that we have enough spare rackets – currently five in number. We play every week on a Monday, starting at 10.00am until 12.00 noon, providing it is not raining. In the event we are unable to play, I have a reserved booking for most weeks on a single badminton court. This is the short tennis which is not as popular as the Outdoor.

The Outdoor courts consist of three artificial grass courts all of which are at our disposal. These are arguably some of the best courts in the county.

There is a ball machine which we have occasionally used. This is excellent for practise, but my group prefers the 'real thing'

The use of the machine has generally had a mixed reception – it is a bit like asking a pianist who only wants to play a tune, but instead, is asked to practise scales repeatedly! – Um!

I have a system of communication with all the regulars so they know where we are playing. With anyone new, it is essential I have their information, in order to contact them when venues are cancelled or changed.

Please supply me with your contact information if you are interested. Everything is treated in the strictest confidence and only shared with other members of the group when someone joins.

Fees for members

Members of the Tennis Club and also the U3A – FREE

Members of just the U3A - £3.00 for a two-hour session

Membership of the tennis club - - £130 for 12 months

David Houghton