



KENT TENNIS

Oakwood LTC Club of the Year

Club of the Year Regional Award Winner

In 2018 Oakwood Tennis club built 3 new courts, two for team tennis and coaching and the third for Family Tennis for 'Pop' Tennis and the remaining three courts have been resurfaced and improved floodlights installed on the original three courts. The club is proud to be an open club offering both member and non-member opportunities. Its comprehensive coaching programme is open to members and non-members and includes Rusty Rackets, and red, orange and green junior coaching, group sessions for teenagers, squad coaching for adults, an O70's group and cardio tennis. Membership has increased by 56% in juniors and 103% in adults in the last two years and overall participation in coaching has increased from 167 to 316.



In 2018 the Committee restructured to improve the Governance of the club. Instead of being part of a larger social club, Oakwood formed itself into Charitable\incorporated Organisation, breaking away from the finances of the larger social club whilst still remaining leaseholder for the club. This has allowed application for grants to be secured to complete work already carried out and install floodlights on the three new courts. It provides a bed rock for the financial sustainability of the club going forward. The club runs adult and junior teams in the County leagues and in the last few years the number of teams has grown from 0 to 9 junior teams and 2 to 11 adult teams. All this growth is partly through the new facilities but also from the excellent coaching programme. The next phase in the development plan is to build a new club house with finances already in place.

The club membership reflects the great diversity of the local community it serves. All members of the local community are invited to join the club and many social events are held in the Social Club Facilities. The coaching programme reaches 16 primary schools and 4 secondary schools and runs session for disability tennis. An example of this work was an adult member who suffered a stroke and had to be coached to play with a different hand so he could continue to enjoy tennis. All beginner sessions and rusty rackets are open to non-members. Once playing well they are encouraged to join but it is not obligatory.

The club successfully used many LTA initiatives. GBTW weekends are run well always increasing membership, and 5 T4K sessions were run in 2018 with a 50% retention rate. The club and coaches run lots of competitions including The Quorn family cup and Team Challenge.

Club of the Year - Regional Award Winner (Continued)

The club is always innovative and their 'Pop Tennis' is a good example – using a reduced size court and green ball and very popular with families who are new to the game. The coaching programme is led by a very enthusiastic and creative Head Coach and the programme has grown by 90% in the last two years.

Oakwood Tennis Club is an excellent example of a local club serving and embracing its local community. Run by a dedicated group of volunteers it has developed a forward thinking strategy including the renewal of governance to give the club the opportunity to be sustainable over the coming decades, continuing to look for ways to increase participation within the club and look towards developing satellites in other community venues within the area.

