

# Welcome to Sphynx

As part of our policies and procedures, all new Adult members are given an induction pack which includes all you need to know about playing tennis at Sphynx, coaching and competition programmes, facilities and the rules of the Club.

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## Induction Pack for Adult Members

Please find attached the following information about the Sphynx Club.

Contents:-

Membership and Club Information

Coaching and Competition Information

Courts, Clubhouse and Facilities Information

Club Code of Conduct 'Introducing Miss Etiquette' and other rules

If you have any questions about any of these items, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mailing:-

[info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

or visit our website at:-

[www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

Many thanks and enjoy your tennis.

## **Induction Information for Adult Members**

### **1. Membership**

Your membership of Sphynx Club is valid until 31st March next year.

There are 7 types of Adult membership:-

- (i) Full playing adult (renewal),
- (ii) Full playing adult (new),
- (iii) Student,
- (iv) Country,
- (v) Winter
  
- (vi) Parent of U11 member and
  
- (vii) Social

You will have stated the form of membership on your application and paid the club membership fee, and will have received an e-mail confirming your membership type.

For each type of membership (i) through to (vii), please read below to find out what is available for you at Sphynx Club.

### **2. Sphynx Club**

The club is a tennis club, established in 1920, and its purpose is to provide tennis, social and other activities to encourage the playing of tennis.

It is a non-profit making organisation run by the Management Committee, a group of members who volunteer their time for the benefit of the club and its members.

The club is committed to providing a range of coaching and competition programmes, and is Clubmark accredited with the LTA.

We have a full time Head Coach and currently have 4 teams in the Southport and District Adult Tennis League, 1 adult Aegon team and also several cup teams.

The club website is [www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

### **3. Tennis Courts at Sphynx**

The club has 6 courts, designed for all year round tennis for members.

Courts 1-4 are the artificial (or synthetic) grass courts with flood lights.  
Courts 5-6 are the tarmac hard courts at the end of the grounds

### **4. Rules of Access to Courts**

Courts 1-4 are locked for security reasons. Adult playing members (membership type (i) to (v)) can obtain keys from the Management Committee for a £3 refundable deposit.

Parents of U11 members (membership type (vi)) can also obtain a key from the Management Committee for a £3 refundable deposit). Conditions for access apply (see below). Social Members are not permitted keys for the courts.

Courts 5-6 are not locked and can be used by all members including Junior Members as they also have markings for junior size courts.

Foot wear for the artificial courts must be non-ridged and non-marking.

For all courts, clothing must be suitable for sports activities, e.g. no jeans.

Conditions for Access: Junior members are not permitted a key for courts 1-4. They are permitted to use the artificial courts when supervised by an adult member (membership type (i) to (v)).

However priority shall be given to full playing adult members if all 4 courts become occupied.

Conditions for Access: Parent of U11 player members (membership form (vi)) are permitted to use the courts when playing with their U11 child. It is not permitted to play at other times.

## **5. Coaching Programme**

The club has a full-time Head Coach, Chris Parkes, to develop and run the coaching programmes for the Club. We also have 2 assistant coaches, Sam Jalloh and John Baldwin.

A comprehensive range of coaching is available for all ages and abilities.

For information on Adult coaching sessions, contact Chris Parkes.

Individual 'One-to-One' Coaching is available for both one hour and half hour sessions. Bookings to be made directly with the head coach.

Contact: Chris Parkes, Tel. 07753 143 007 or visit [www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

Note: The club coaches have priority over all members for use of the courts.

## **6. Competition Programme**

The club encourages and invites all adult playing members (membership type (i) to (v)) to play competitive tennis.

Currently there are 4 Sphinx teams in the Southport and District Adult League, competing weekly during the April to August tennis season.

Selection for the teams is managed by the club's 'Chairman of the Selection Committee'.

Contact: Richard McGregor E-mail: [info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

The club also has a programme of 'friendly' competitive fixtures through out the year for all ages and abilities.

At other times the club has a 'Club Night' where all playing members are invited to come to the club to play competitive tennis with other members, and to meet new members and socialise.

To learn more and find out what's on, contact the club's 'Chairman of the House Committee'

Contact: George McGregor, E-mail: [info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

## **7. Clubhouse Facilities**

The Clubhouse has the following facilities:-

- Fully Licensed Bar - Open on Friday nights throughout the tennis season and later as demand requires (~April to ~October).
- Comfortable lounge area with seating for up to 100 persons
- Changing rooms, Showers and Toilets (both Male and Female).
- Table Tennis Table
- Television
- Kitchen

The Clubhouse is generally open when the Head Coach is on site and available for all members to use as required.

During all other times the Clubhouse is kept locked for security reasons. Keys can be made available for full playing adult members (membership type (i) to (v)) subject to terms and conditions. Contact a member of the Management Committee for details.

From April to October, Friday nights are the focal point of the junior coaching programme. On these nights the Clubhouse and the Bar are open, and food is served on a regular basis. Members and non-members are welcome so feel free to drop by with your friends and enjoy a drink and a bite to eat in a warm and friendly family atmosphere.

The synthetic grass courts 1-4 are fully occupied for these sessions, so please check with the Head Coach to avoid disappointment (check tennis programmes notices in the club house for times of other coaching sessions).

All members may also hire the clubhouse for private functions, see section below for details.

## **8. Social Events**

The club holds regular social events for members and their families and friends, such as quiz nights, wine tasting evenings, fish & chip supper nights etc.

For details of what's on, visit our website [www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk) or contact the club's 'Chairman of the Social Committee'.

E-mail: [info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

## **9. Floodlights**

Courts 1-4 have floodlight facilities, and these are coin operated from the lobby of the Clubhouse. Members can therefore only pay for the lights when access is available to the clubhouse Courts 1-2 are on one circuit, and require 20p and £1 coins. Courts 3-4 are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> circuit and require 50p pieces.

If the club coach is not on site and the clubhouse is not open for you to access the lights, please contact a member of the Management Committee and someone will normally be able to assist.

Floodlights can be operated all year round but must be off by 10pm at the latest in consideration of local residents and comply with planning permission restrictions.

**10. Guests**

Members (membership type (i) to (v)) can invite guests to the club to play tennis. Guest fees are £2 per visit per adult visitor and £1 per visit per Junior visitor. Each guest is limited to 4 visits per season, as after this the visitors must join as a member.

Guest fees should be paid to a member of the Management Committee.

**11. Clubhouse Hire**

The Clubhouse can be hired to Members for private functions. Applications to be made in writing, addressed to:-

Sphynx Club Secretary, Paul Bond (E-mail to [info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk) )

Costs for an afternoon or evening function (with or without the bar facility) will normally be £75.

For some events, an additional charge may be required for a temporary events notice/license from the local council.

**12. Club Rules and Standing Orders**

A full set of Rules and Standing Orders are available upon request and can also be found on the Notice Board in the Clubhouse.

**13. Code of Conduct**

Members of the club are expected to behave appropriately and in the best interest of the club when they are either on the club's premises or when they are representing the club elsewhere.

A copy of the Club's Code of Conduct 'Introducing Miss Etiquette' is included with this induction pack.

Other rules and standing orders for the club can be found on the Notice Board in the Clubhouse, together with various other policies and procedures in place at the club.

**14. Membership Notes for Winter Members**

This membership is for adults who only join the club after 30<sup>th</sup> September during the membership year.

**15. Membership Notes for Parent of Under 11 Member**

This membership is for Parents (or Guardians) of Under 11 Junior members. It is a reduced rate to encourage parents to play tennis with their child, however there are some restrictions that apply to this reduced rate of membership. These include:-

- Access to tennis courts for the Parent is only permitted when the U11 Junior is also on court.
- Court keys are available for this membership (£3 deposit required – refundable on return)
- Parent is not permitted to play on court at other times.
- Parent is not permitted to represent Sphynx in any tennis teams.
- Parent is not permitted to compete in the Sphynx Club Tournament.

Parent members should also note that priority for playing on the courts is given firstly to Sphinx teams and organised Club competitions during the competitive season, then to our Coaching team for coaching sessions, then to Full Playing Adult Members.

For further details, visit [www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk) or e-mail [info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

**16. Membership Notes for Social Member**

This membership is for adults wishing to enjoy the club's facilities but who do not want to play tennis. The following restrictions apply:-

- Adult is not permitted to play tennis at Sphinx, or represent Sphinx in any teams

For further details, visit [www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.sphynxtennisclub.co.uk) or e-mail [info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sphynxtennisclub.co.uk)

**17. Sphinx Club Annual General Meeting**

Sphinx Club Annual General Meeting is held in early December to review the year's activities and vote on any matter arising for the club rules and standing orders.

All members are invited to attend, however only those Full Playing Adult Members (types (i) and (ii) ) are permitted to vote.

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# Introducing Miss Etiquette



Hi Everyone,

Just to say hello to all of you as the newly appointed Club Captain.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Doreen Bradley and have been a member of the club for 25 years.

One of the main reasons for writing to you is to introduce my friend, Miss Etiquette. She joined the club in 1921 and has been a terrific role model to both myself and many of the people who have passed through the club over all those years.



Miss Etiquette is Sphinx Tennis Club!!

She is what makes it one of the friendliest clubs in the league and one of the reasons that visiting teams love playing their matches at Sphinx. (Apart from beating us that is!!) Seriously though, Miss Etiquette was so good at showing me the ropes when I first joined, I wanted to make sure you have met her before the new season begins. Please forgive me if you already know her and that you do follow her advice.

The things that Miss Etiquette taught me mean that everyone at the club can work together and create a fabulous atmosphere.

You will never find her advice written down in any rule book but it is so good.

She told me that she thought of home matches in 4 ways:

## 1) Before the Match:

Help to prepare for half time by getting out the tea/coffee mugs, the glasses and juice and filling the kettles.

It's a bit annoying when the same people are left to do this while others stand gabbing or playing on their phones!

This helps the team captain by enabling them to get on with filling in the team card.



## 2) On the Court :

(a) If people have already started their match, be courteous and wait until there is a break in their game before you walk across the back of their court.

(b) Changing ends, again be courteous and if you are crossing at the same side as your opponents let them cross first.

(c) Don't forget to shake hands at the end of the game.



### 3) At Half Time/End of Round 1

Don't forget to offer your opponents a drink of juice! Don't leave it to other team members to do this.

I know these days many people bring their own drinks but it is still polite to ask them.

### 4) At the End of the Match:

(a) If you are first off court, get brewing the tea and getting out the biscuits - offer a plate of these to the opposition.

(b) Offer people a cup of tea as they come off court.

(c) When everyone has finished, help to wash and dry the pots so that the kitchen is left in a clean state for the next evening.

Again don't leave this to be done by the same people each week!

Miss Etiquette says if we all try to do our bit it makes for a really friendly atmosphere in the club so please help me to spread the word.

Let me finish by wishing everyone a great season and a successful one!

Best Wishes,  
Doreen.

