



FTC Clubmark Report

Background

Clubmark was introduced by Sport England in 2002 and is currently being implemented across 34 sports. The LTA administers its own version of Clubmark based on the National guidelines for best practice combined with real life examples of successfully run places to play across the Country.

There are over 900 Clubmark accredited places to play in the UK, of which Faringdon Tennis Club is one, with a further 600 working towards the best practice accreditation.

Clubmark provides us with the tools and resources we need to ensure our Club is delivering a quality tennis development programme and operating in line with best practice. Benefits of this include ongoing programme development, increased membership, increased participation, staff development, raised profile and access to more funding opportunities.

We achieved Clubmark in 2011, and are working hard to ensure we meet the criteria to maintain this standard.

Clubmark is awarded to Clubs that can demonstrate the following....

- Ensure the place to play has a fair and transparent operational structure
- Adhere to best practice policies and procedures around safeguarding junior and adult members/users
- Deliver a comprehensive and all encompassing tennis programme for all ages and abilities
- Produce a clear plan of action for long term sustainability and future growth

We are currently in the process of being re-evaluated by the OLTA and hope to keep our Clubmark status for the coming year.

Minimum Standard currently and moving forward.

As defined by the LTA, the specific criteria that needs to be met are -

Restricted Place to Play – no floodlit courts (Southampton Street – OLD COURTS)

- One weekly mini tennis red session, one weekly mini tennis orange/green session and at least one session a week for juniors aged 11+, with coaching sessions for mini tennis and yellow ball running during appropriate school holidays/half-terms
- Ensure competitive opportunities are incorporated into coaching sessions, with at least one internal competitive opportunity in each term for mini and juniors age groups and promotion of 'open' competitions for mini and junior players at other local places to play

- Offer at least one coaching session a week for adults; beginners, rusty rackets, cardio tennis, team drills and regular internal competitive opportunities for adults; box leagues, ladders, leader boards
- Participate in local competition; adult and junior county and/or district leagues and annual closed tournament (all age groups)
- Link with at least one local school and/or community group

We currently meet or exceed all of the above.

...Moving forwards to our NEW COURTS

Small Place to Play – up to three floodlit courts (new site)

- Two to three weekly mini tennis red sessions, two weekly mini tennis orange sessions, one weekly mini tennis green session and at least two sessions a week for juniors aged 11+, with coaching sessions at red, orange, green and yellow ball running during school holidays/half-terms
- Ensure competitive opportunities are incorporated into coaching sessions, with at least one internal competitive opportunity in each half term for red, orange, green and junior age groups. Also host at least one Grade 6 one day event including the red, orange, green and yellow ball ages
- Offer at least two coaching session a week for adults; beginners, rusty rackets, cardio tennis, team drills and regular internal competitive opportunities for adults; box leagues, ladders, leader boards
- Participate in local competition; Road to Wimbledon, AEGON Team Tennis; adult and junior county and/or district leagues and an annual closed tournament (all age groups)
- Link with at least one local school and/or community group

A tougher challenge, but we're already hitting many, if not all of these standards

So, taking the club forward, we'll look to -

- Increased participants, coaches, officials and volunteers
- Build better relations with the local community
- Give indications that the club is outward looking
- Gain funding support from more sources

Mark Mobey