

Pit Farm Tennis Club

December Newsletter

A Christmas Message from Tim Martin, Club President

As we approach the final few weeks of the year I would like, on behalf of all the committee, to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

2025 has been a really good year for Pit Farm with well-attended club sessions, a successful tournament, competitive team play and many new coaching initiatives. My thanks go to all members for their part in this success and especially to Paul and Ashley our exceptional coaches, to all those who represent the club in matches and to those members who regularly attend the mix-in sessions and have helped to create the excellent atmosphere around the club that we currently enjoy. Thanks of course to the hard working committee and to our club administrator Caroline for all that they have done this year.

We were, of course, sorry to see Derek's long service at the club end when he retired in the Autumn. I still speak to him regularly and he is in good form and looking forward to visiting the club quite soon, maybe when the weather begins to get a little better, to see all his friends. I am sure he will receive a warm welcome from us all. Thank you all those who have helped to organise club sessions over the last few months.

So, as we move into 2026 I wish all of you good health and happiness and plenty of time on court. We pride ourselves, as a committee, on being open to new ideas and suggestions so feel free to contact me at any time about anything at all to do with Pit Farm. I love to get to know as many members as possible too so do come and have a chat when you see me at the club.

With my very best wishes for the festive season and the year ahead.



Tim's top fashion tips:
how to stay snug as a bug
on court this winter!

Christmas Party

at PIT FARM TENNIS CLUB

2 course dinner
! glass of fizz
live band & dancing

Sat 13 Dec • 7pm
to midnight

Come join us for
drinks, dinner and
dancing at the
Pit Farm Tennis Club
Christmas Party!

Get your ticket
before they sell out!

BUY NOW!

£20 per head. All members & their
friends & family welcome. Bar
closes at midnight. 18+ yrs only.





A Christmas Gift Idea

Fed up with being the best tennis player you know? This Christmas, why not treat your spouse, friend, or playing partner to a tennis coaching gift voucher? They can level up their game – making your time on court together even more fun. It's a win-win!

Contact Paul or Ashley to purchase a gift voucher for an individual or group coaching session. A pdf voucher can be emailed to you to pass on or emailed direct to the recipient.

pk@paul.tennis
ashleymount87@gmail.com



Minis & Juniors Christmas Session

Calling all Minis and Junior players, coaches and parents!

Come join us for some festive treats, mulled wine, mince pies, on-court fun, games and prizes at our

Minis & Juniors Christmas Session.

At usual session times from 4pm to 6pm on Wednesday 10 December.



A Christmas Message from Nick Williams

At Christmas, Christians remember that God stepped onto the court of humanity, not as a distant spectator in the stands, but as Emmanuel, God with us. In a world full of unforced errors and double faults, Jesus came as the ultimate coach, showing us a new way to live the game of life.

Like a player who studies every angle of the court, God saw our weaknesses, our misplaced priorities, and our missed opportunities to love which kept us stuck on the baseline. Yet instead of abandoning the match, He entered it as a humble child in Bethlehem, and throughout His life, Jesus became the model player, displaying patience, humility, and sacrificial love.

He showed what it means to respond with gentleness when others slam harsh returns our way. He taught that greatness is found not in powerful serves but in serving others.

In the busyness of this season, it's easy to feel like we're deep in a long rally, scrambling from corner to corner, doing our best simply to get the next shot back over the net. Yet the story of Christ's birth invites us to pause, steady our footing, and remember that Emmanuel, God with us, walks through every rally of our days. The child in the manger grew into the Saviour who conquered sin and death, securing the match we could never win through our own serves, volleys, or strategies.

Pit Farm Tennis Club sits in the parish of Christ Church Guildford. Nick Williams the vicar, is a member of Pit Farm having joined this summer. He can usually be seen trying to volley (unsuccessfully) at the net.

December is
a great time to...

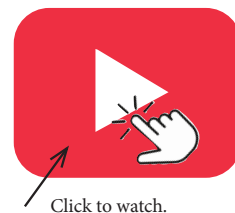
Watch us on
 YouTube

Pit Farm Tennis Club
December 2025 Newsletter



If the grey, rainy weather is keeping you off the courts, it's the perfect time to sharpen your skills from home with our free online coaching sessions. Our YouTube channel has already reached nearly 10,000 views, thanks to the excellent lessons from coaches Paul Kozak and Ashley Mount (and excellent filming from Jerry Tai) – and we're adding new content every month.

Our latest video, *Grip Like a Pro*, has just been released and hit 2,000 views in just two days! It's clear that players are keen to understand the differences between the chopper, western, and eastern grips and how each one can improve their game. Tune in this month to level up your tennis skills! Click [here](#) or below to watch and follow our social channels for new Pit Farm Tennis coaching videos in 2026.



Click to watch.

Grip Like a Pro



How to Return a Serve



How to Volley



The Split Step



How to Improve your Serve



The Backhand Path

Welfare Update by Liz Hill-Smith, Welfare Officer

I've been in the role since the end of July, and thankfully it has been a relatively quiet four months on the safeguarding front as I find my feet. Safeguarding at the club is everyone's responsibility but my role as Welfare Officer is to ensure that safeguarding is very much on the 'agenda' and to work with others to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all.

I have met with Paul and the Junior coaching team to introduce myself and get to know them a little. Paul makes sure that safeguarding stays high on their radar as they work with the junior programme. I've also been keeping abreast of what is happening in the Sport and Tennis safeguarding landscapes. The NSPCC has a Child Protection in Sport Unit which is looking to support the alignment of policies and practice across all sports <https://thecpsu.org.uk/news/2025-06-what-s-new-for-safeguarding-in-sport-this-summer/>. This may impact some of our future approaches.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns about welfare, discrimination, poor practice and abuse, Jim Langan and I, as club Welfare Officers, are the first point of contact. All concerns raised are treated in confidence.

Report any concerns to: pitfarmwelfare@gmail.com or langanjames62@gmail.com



December is a great time to...

up your game with some **Group Coaching Sessions** run by our Senior Adult Coach **Ashley Mount**. Sessions are run on a pay-per-play basis and the timetable can be viewed online [here](#) or below.

Book directly with Ashley Mount by calling/ messaging **07769 810550** or emailing **ashleymount87@gmail.com**

Fee per 60 min session: £10 members /£15 non-members

Fee per 90 min session: £15 members / £20 non members

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MORNING					
9AM TO 10AM		BEGINNER /IMPROVER		WOMENS INTERMEDIATE	
11AM TO 12 NOON	MIXED INTERMEDIATE				
AFTERNOON					
12 NOON TO 1PM	BEGINNER /IMPROVER				
1PM TO 2PM					MIXED INTERMEDIATE
EVENING					
7PM TO 8PM	MENS ADVANCED (90 MINS)		MENS INTERMEDIATE	BEGINNER /IMPROVER	
8 PM TO 9.30PM			WOMENS ADVANCED (90 MINS)		

Are you a **PURPLE**, **RED** or **CYAN**? Or somewhere in between? We have coaching sessions to suit all abilities. Please note Ashley will be taking a much deserved break from 13 December to 5 January so sessions will not run during this time.



December is also a great time to...

pop our AGM date in your diary! The **2026 AGM** will take place on **Friday 6 February**, 7pm. Our committee would love to see as many members attend as possible.

If you're interested in joining the committee next year, please contact our club secretary at pitfarmsec@gmail.com

Pit Farm Tennis Club is run by dedicated volunteers and thrives because of the energy, enthusiasm and support of its members.

Help make the club the best it can be – bring your voice and your vote to the AGM in February. The bar will be open. First drink on the house.





Love tennis? Turn your passion into pounds by coming to work at Pit Farm Tennis Club. We are looking for a Club Steward and new Junior Coaches - so read on for more details, and please share with anyone you think might be interested.

Club Steward

Role

- arrange playing 4s for adult members during social mix-in club sessions
- manage the tennis ball allocation/distribution during social sessions
- welcome potential new members who are attending club sessions (to try out the club)
- whilst on duty also undertake some house-keeping duties eg clear any loose tennis balls from courts and grounds, placing in the tennis ball bin and ensure club/grounds are generally tidy

Hours of work:

Tuesday & Thursday 5-8pm

Saturday & Sunday 1-5pm

14 hours a week

Salary: £15/hr

Please send a covering letter and CV to pitfarmsec@gmail.com to apply.



Junior Coach

Are you 14 or older and passionate about tennis? Have you ever thought about getting involved in coaching?

Our Head Coach Paul Kozak is always looking for enthusiastic young players to join the coaching team. It's a fantastic opportunity to develop your tennis, planning, communication and leadership skills. Plus gain valuable work experience while giving something back to the sport and the club. Coaching also counts as a great volunteering role if you're working towards your Duke of Edinburgh Award.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please contact Paul Kozak at pk@paul.tennis or call 07538 571149 to learn more about the hours, wage and how to get involved.



A coaching position at Pit Farm Tennis Club will give you valuable skills and experience to include in job and university applications.





Please note

Fire Evacuation Plan

Please click [here](#) and review in case of an emergency.

Access gate - for security/safety please can you shut the access gate after entry/exit as a mag lock is now in place. The code (required for entry) has been updated and was sent out to members last month. If you did not receive it, or have forgotten it, please email membership.pitfarm@gmail.com. There is a push button located on the wall by the gate for exit.

Playing opportunities - we have many different playing opportunities at Pit Farm Tennis Club from club sessions to league matches. Outside of the club timetable there is a regular and well-attended Wednesday morning session for members, where the players organise games themselves. There is also a new Tuesday lunchtime session for beginners to intermediate players - again organised by those who attend. Should you be interested in joining these sessions please email for further details. membership.pitfarm@gmail.com

We have seen a huge uptake for the Box League and if you are waiting to join or are seeking playing opponents for singles or doubles matches please get in touch (on email above) so we can link up members for playing opportunities.

If anyone would like to send Derek a Christmas card this year - please email membership.pitfarm@gmail.com for his address.



Guests at Pit Farm Tennis

Please note, as a member, you may bring a guest to play with you, but please adhere to the club rules:

- Only one guest per member is permitted at a time.
- Each guest is allowed a maximum of 6 visits a year.
- **The guest's name must be included in the court booking.**
- Please add your guest's name to the visitor book in the clubhouse.
- You will need to pay the guest fee before playing. This can be paid in two ways:

Online:

Bank: Lloyds

Name: Pit Farm (Guildford) Hard Court Tennis

Sort Code: 30-93-74

Account number: 00171127

In person:

Put the cash in an envelope clearly labelled with your name, your guest's name and the date. Put this in the guest fee box in the clubhouse.

- The cost is £5.00 for seniors and £2.50 for juniors.
- Members may bring their children for £2.50 per visit, with no limit on the number of visits.

Best wishes and we hope you have a very merry Christmas.

Your Committee 2025-26

Tim Martin – President • Gary Wicks – Vice President • Ian Kenyon – Treasurer

• Dawn Davies – Secretary • Cephas Vazquez-Howard / Alex Orr Co Chair • Bridget Parker – Club Captain

Committee: Barney Whiteman, Jim Holloway, Jonathan Freeston, Jackie Shaw, Laurence Fletcher, Matt Jones, Paul Taylor, Phil Rowlands, Ruth Iles, Thom Van Every.

Non-Committee: Liz Hill-Smith – Welfare Officer, Caroline Rowlands – Membership Secretary, Richard Morris – Examiner

Contact pitfarmsec@gmail.com

