

# The Oak Bay Tennis Club for Dummies:

## A Friendly Users Guide to the Greatest Little Tennis Club in Canada

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Welcome to the Oak Bay Tennis Club! We hope that you enjoy your membership in our great little Club. This friendly user's guide has been prepared to make sure that you get off to a great start.

**Website:** If you haven't already checked it out, the Club maintains a website at: [www.oakbaytc.com](http://www.oakbaytc.com). On the website, you can find information about the Club's interesting history, the Club Calendar, upcoming events and tournaments, photo galleries, contact numbers for the current Board of Directors, the detailed rules and regulations, and the formal club by-laws.

**Club Keys:** If you haven't already received your key, please contact Nigel Gillet at 250 477-0636 or e-mail [gilletts@shaw.ca](mailto:gilletts@shaw.ca). The same key works all the gates on Bowker and Cavendish, the clubhouse itself, and the storeroom for the balls which faces court 1. Junior keys open only the outside gates and the Clubhouse.

**Emails:** You should already be receiving emails from [victobtc@gmail.com](mailto:victobtc@gmail.com). If not, send an email to that address and ask to be added to the distribution list and send any future changes to your email address. If you are using a spam filter, you should tell your email software to add the Club address to the "safe senders list" to ensure these helpful updates aren't spammed or junked.

**Annual Season:** The Club's Opening day is mid-March each year with our closing in mid-October. Check the Club calendar on the website for exact dates each year. Members are welcome to play in the off-season but will need to bring your own balls and remove any trash.

**Hours:** Being a good neighbour is really important to us. Courts are open to play Monday to Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and at 9:00 on Sundays. In general, we try to vacate the Club within an hour after dusk, unless there is a Board-approved function going on.

**Parking:** If at all possible, please try to park your car in front of the Club property on Bowker Avenue or Cavendish Road. Please try to avoid parking on St. Ann Street or on Bowker west of the club. Better yet, if you can; walk, jog, cycle, bus, skateboard or ride share!

**Rules and Regulations:** Ok, yes we do have some rules and bylaws and they are worth reading through. You can find these on the website at <http://www.oakbaytc.com/Rules.htm>

**Balls:** are supplied from opening day to closing day – after that, you're on your own. There are separate racks for the seniors and juniors and a set rotation. Junior balls are kept in a rack by the Clubhouse door. Basically, return the balls to the right rack and lock the Seniors balls in the storeroom and the Juniors balls in the clubhouse at the end of the day. When in doubt, ask someone.

**Guests:** Guests are welcome, but for liability reasons and so that they are covered by our insurance, you need to make sure that you register them in the guest book in the clubhouse beside the telephone before you play – this is important. Guests are welcome up to a maximum of ten visits per year. The member pays a \$4 guest fee (billed annually), or use a yellow or green guest pass.

**Recycling:** The OBTC has gone green and has established a recycling program! A recycling storage center complete with various containers has been set up so that recyclables in various groups can be regularly deposited. Details are on the website and posted on the bulletin boards. Any suggestions for improving the program are welcomed and should be sent to Bill Bell via his email at [b.squared@shaw.ca](mailto:b.squared@shaw.ca)

**Court Priorities:** We don't use a reservation system and it is the first to come that get first serve. You are always welcome to pre-arrange matches but will have to wait your turn when you arrive for the next available court. In general, Seniors have priority over Juniors except on Monday afternoons after 4:00. Juniors have equal access when they are playing with a Senior for the duration of their set, or on weekends before 11:00 and after 4:00 on Sundays. Use the singles court for singles when all the doubles courts are full, and move over to the singles court if there are people waiting to play doubles. When all the courts are full, we move to the "Board" system.

**"The Board":** When in doubt, ask somebody about this (it's explained in some detail on the website under section 5 and 6 of the rules). It may seem complicated at first, but is quite straightforward. You will have a block in the storeroom with your name on it and when the Board is in use, get your Block and put it at the end of the waiting line. There are also blocks for your guests. If the Board is in use, there will be veteran members around to explain it to you. It's a great way to meet other members and find people that play at your level.

**Social Drop-ins:** Every Saturday, Sunday and Holidays during the season, there is a "Drop-in Tennis and Tea" from 12:00 to 4:00. The Board will be in use, and tea and goodies are served. Many new members find that this is the best way to get into the swing of things. We also have a men's drop-in on Tuesdays from 1 to 4:00. On Wednesday afternoons there is a women's session which runs from 1:00 to 3:00 pm., followed by tea and goodies. It is run on a WEEKLY sign-up basis and any woman interested in playing should contact Mary Beardsmore for details ([marybeardsmore@shaw.ca](mailto:marybeardsmore@shaw.ca)). These are great opportunities to get to know your fellow members better.

**TGIFs, tournaments and other events:** Stay tuned to the emails or check the calendar on the website for notice on TGIFs – a fun evening of tennis, BBQ, free food and drinks, and good times to celebrate the end of the work week. The Board will be in use and lots of folks to play with. We have also taken to recording some of the big tournaments like Wimbledon and the Opens, and often have a breakfast social event to watch the semis and finals together on the big screen in the Clubhouse. Finally, there are lots of tournaments and team play, both social and serious throughout the summer months, so check the emails and the website for more details. And if you are a Bridge player, a group plays every second Wednesday @ 7pm year round. Send an e-mail to [jrea@shaw.ca](mailto:jrea@shaw.ca) to be placed on the email list.

**Volunteer!:** The best way to meet people and become an active member is to volunteer to help out with the various club events and the routine chores. This is a member-driven club, so there are plenty of opportunities.

**Last Person Left?:** If you are the last person at the club, it's your job to make sure that the balls are returned to racks, lights are out, the heat is turned off to help with our hydro bill, and the doors to the storeroom, clubhouse and gates are all locked.

**Questions?:** Our "New Members' Mentors" for 2011 are Pauline Price (250-294-6088), and Jamie Alley (250-658-0816). If you any questions just give Pauline or Jamie a call and they can get you an answer.