**Hilden Tennis Club**

**Prospectus**

**Background**

Hilden is one of the three member sports clubs forming the Lisburn Racquets Club and joining Hilden gives automatic membership of the other two – namely Alpha Badminton Club and Lisburn Racquets Squash Club.

The Lisburn Racquets Club is a Registered Charity and Hilden is currently preparing an application for the Sports Council award of ClubmarkNI.

Hilden is affiliated to Tennis Ireland through its Ulster Branch. There are four all-weather synthetic grass courts (laid late 2015) two of which are covered by our state-of-the-art sports dome from September to March, allowing play all year round.

**Aims**

The basic aims of Hilden Tennis Club are to provide an excellent environment for our members and guests to have an enjoyable tennis experience, developing skills, enhancing fitness and providing suitable competition within the club and against other clubs. Anyone considering joining may play for a few weeks free of charge before committing to join.

**Adult Clubs**

Hilden has about 60 active adult members with the main playing day being Saturday afternoon with one other Club Day during the week. From 1st September to 31st March the club has a dome covering two courts thus allowing rain-free play. The club subscription covers balls, lights and all match fees. Also one evening adult coaching.

A beginners/improvers “Social club” is held with a coach on Monday evenings, allowing play and coaching in a supportive atmosphere, building skills and confidence to gradually mix into the other club play sessions.

Club Championships are held each year with the Finals on President’s Day at the end of August.

Teams are entered in the Belfast and District League with competitions in singles and doubles all year. Teams also play in the Evergreen Leagues and Winter Leagues.

**Casual Play**

In addition to the hours of club play members may book courts with Reception at other times up to 8 days ahead for personal casual play. This availability will vary through the seasons depending on home league matches. Members can use this process to have their own group play at off-peak times.

They may bring non-members, except for club play, and a small charge is levied. Courts are also available to non-members at a court hire fee but they may book only 2 days ahead. Rackets are available on loan free of charge at reception. The only day the Club is not available for booking is Christmas Day.

**Social**

There is an early summer BBQ , Christmas night and other gatherings as organised by the committee.

**Juvenile Clubs**

On Saturdays, Hilden have up to 5 groups playing on Saturdays all year round with players selected by ability/age and approximately 25 player per group. A supervised Club is also held on Friday evenings from 7.00 – 8.0 for Fun Play.

The children’s subscriptions cover all Saturday play and coaching, including courts, balls and coaches fees. Prospective new members may play for a few weeks free of charge before committing to join. Rackets are available on loan.

Children, whose parents are not members, may play with their parents free of charge – just book a court at Reception.

Additional coaching is available after school for children with an extra charge. Prices vary depending on age, groups and length of sessions. Squads are cheaper for members. Contact Alex Watt our head tennis coach for more details at alexwatt76@gmail.com

An Open Juvenile Tournament is held each year which is part of the Governing Body programme.

Teams are entered each year in the Juvenile League and an internal league is run for the team reserves.

In August each year Club Championships are held for each age group with the finals on the President’s Day.

**Coaches**

The Club has two level two coaches and one level one tennis coach. The coaches are available for personal hire by members. We would wish to see a broad base of talented youngsters, with good technical skills that may progress to represent the club at more elite level competition. Currently some of our members have been invited to Ulster and Irish squads for advanced work.

**Lisburn Racquets Club**

As stated earlier, Hilden shares the ancillary facilities with Alpha Badminton Club and Lisburn Racquets Squash Club under the joint name of Lisburn Racquets Club. A member of one Club is automatically a member of all three. The Racquets Club Management Committee looks after the overall finance of the Clubs on behalf of a Committee of Trustees and also the day-to-day operation of the facilities.

The Racquets Club has a Fitness Suite available to all members free of charge after induction by the Supervisor for a small fee.

A defibrillator is available and standard allowable medical equipment is held at reception.

There is a bar/lounge available for functions for the three clubs and also for members and non-members for anniversary parties.

We see a bright future for Hilden Tennis Club, we think you and your family will enjoy tennis and we would love you to try us and join us. We’d welcome your feedback.