

# Tennis

and a whole  
lot more...

## At long last! Construction of the new courts starts 16<sup>th</sup> March

After much delay an order has been placed for the new courts, and in May we will have 4 new, synthetic grass courts. Please be patient during the construction process - we will get great new facilities for now and years to come.

First of all, please accept our apologies, it was planned that these works would start in February, but the contractor let us down at the last minute. After much frantic work we have replaced him with a superior contractor, and on budget. We had the choice of either commencing now, within our budget, or proceeding next year at a higher price, which would in all likelihood mean one less court. As the shale courts would not have been ready again until mid April, we decided to go for it and lose an extra few weeks to provide the new synthetic grass courts and to re-establish Court 4. We appreciate that members will be deprived of play at the club until the work is completed, but after the new courts are ready we hope you will enjoy playing on them, come rain or shine!

The club will cover the cost of substitute club sessions at Wimbledon Park, for 3 courts for up to 3 hours on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday & Friday evenings, for fully-paid-up members only. Receipts should be handed to Nigel Tabbron for reimbursement. If you book a court on behalf of the club, please let Nigel know ( [nigel.tabbron@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nigel.tabbron@tiscali.co.uk) ) so that a tally can be kept and nobody is left out of pocket. Club session rules will apply to all courts for which reimbursement is claimed.

Any member renewing membership, or new member joining, during April will pay a fee of £170, as opposed to the normal annual fee of £185. From 1st May, the membership fee will revert to the normal £185. This is to compensate for the lack of play at the club during April.

By May we will have:

Courts 1-4: existing surface(s) removed, tarmac base laid and fully covered with synthetic grass to give medium pace courts, all with new nets and posts.

Courts 5 & 6 cleaned and refreshed.

Thank you in advance for your patience during the works. On completion we will have courts that can bear comparison with the best!

### ***The Gardens Committee***

If you have any comments about the courts please feel free to contact  
[Brian.Hoban@mac.com](mailto:Brian.Hoban@mac.com)



# Why we had to replace our shale courts

- Only two (day time only) playable courts for 3-4 months of the year (weather permitting!)
- Shale courts are lovely to play on when just right, but they are out of action, sometimes for days on end, when it is very cold, when there is medium to heavy rain
- They require constant watering during very dry spells since they can become dusty and slippery
- The shale courts require 2000 kg of dressing per court every year
- Only one English shale supplier is left and the cost, inevitably, is rising

## The solution

### Artificial Grass

Playing characteristics - good

Pace and bounce – adjustable

Rain - playable during light rain and shortly after heavy rain

Easy on the joints

Clear and re-establish Court 4, giving us 6 all-weather playing surfaces.

Artificial grass can be the closer to shale characteristics than all the other artificial surfaces, but with the huge advantage that it really can be played in all weathers. The maintenance is minimal, mostly relating to applying sand

Over the last few years we have improved our facilities,

We have:-

- Cleaned and decorated nearly every surface we could find
- Installed the wooden deck
- Refurbished the tarmac courts and applied a lower slip surface
- Installed flood-lights allowing play until 9pm

This has helped contribute to:-

- 40% increased membership
- 7 competitive teams, 4 men's, 2 women's and 1 mixed
- A refurbished bar
- A structured coaching programme
- Mini tennis accreditation

We are an eclectic, character filled club that welcomes all comers and we will continue to improve our facilities for the benefit of our members.

