

Christmas is a time for Miracles

I drew back the curtains to be greeted by a thick covering of snow. My first thought was “no work for a while”, my second was “looks like the project will be delayed until next year”.

We had finally received the funding to start the new project, and work was to commence in late November. The contractor had been booked and access had been agreed so there should have been nothing to stop us. The initial preparation had been done before the snow arrived, but this was going to take a while to clear. The carpet had been ordered and was being delivered on the 7th Dec and the carpet fitters were due to start on the 8th, but the courts were still covered. The snow was cleared from the courts and work began on the 9th. There was forecast a window of five days without snow, as it turned out, just enough time for the carpet fitters to complete what looked like an impossible task. Freezing conditions and extremely cold fingers meant that the job took longer than usual, but complete it they did against all the odds.

On a roll, the contractors then set about the first phase of constructing the two new Tarmac courts. The work had to be carried out during school holidays as the only point of access was through the British Legion car park, and this is full when the schools are in.

Construction began on the 17th Dec, but was delayed due to the extreme weather conditions. The first digger was delivered, but could not be used as it had frozen solid to the transporter and they could not get the caterpillar tracks to move. The machine finally gave up the ghost as the diesel froze, so they were a little bit dead in the water. A new machine was ordered and delivered, the same day, but time had been lost, something we did not possess much of. The work had to be completed by the 23rd, as the building trade shuts down for Christmas and the New Year, and there was much work required.

Things went from bad to worse the next day as one of the 20 wagons required to remove the soil got stuck and had to be assisted in its exit from the area. This delayed proceedings further as a stone ramp had to be laid to assist the wagons in their departure from the courts. Having removed all the soil, we were welcomed with a further snow fall the next morning, meaning that the entire area had to be dug out again to remove all the snow before the drains, membrane and first level of foundations could be laid.

Work was completed late on the 23rd and the workers will return hopefully during the next school holidays in February to continue with the construction. We are hoping to have the project completed by the time the season starts in April.



A Bit of a Drag

It has been noted that some members are reluctant to drag the courts after play. This is an important part of the courts maintenance programme and must be carried out on all of the carpet courts. There have been comments “you can see no difference so we don’t see the point of doing it”.

Our response to that is we have received advice from the experts and would be happy to discuss the matter with any members with more qualified experience than the manufacturers, fitters and surface restorers. We thank all members that do drag the courts for their assistance.

TIGER TURF, Love it or Loath it?

Having laid the new carpet in extreme conditions, the fitters were unable to get in the full amount of sand required, so the courts have some spongy dead patches. The remaining sand will be distributed when the weather improves, so the courts will be better in a few months. The surface is different from the other courts, in that time has moved on and so has the carpet industry. Having studied the pros and cons of both surfaces it was decided that this new surface would suit the club best, as it should need less maintenance over the forthcoming years and will be less slippery in the summer. The jury is still out with some people as comments of “it didn’t bounce” or “it stopped dead” are being heard. The truth of the matter is that it will be a slower surface than the other courts, it does take spin well and rewards certain types of shots. To sum up, it will take a bit of getting used to, but in the end no matter what type of surface we had installed they are all like Marmite, people either love it or loath it. My view is it is nice on the joints, it allows me to get to more shots and therefore makes me look quicker around court. They look great and it puts the club another notch higher than all the other clubs in the area. All positive in my eyes.



Bottom Courts to Receive Deep Clean In Spring

Due to the amount of traffic pollution, the courts have become clogged and have compacted. We had the baselines de-compacted, but the problem has spread throughout the rest of the courts. We have received quotes to have the problem rectified, and we are looking in the region of £6000 to have the work carried out. This work will hopefully commence in late spring when the weather improves and should restore the courts to their original condition.



New Courts Not Bookable

The committee has decided to leave the two new hard courts free from booking as much as possible. It was felt that as extra court time was being taken with the inclusion of two new senior teams; it would be fairer to have two courts where members could just turn up and play. The booking system works well for those wishing to secure a regular slot to play, however to be fair some members would like courts to be un-bookable. The policy of finishing your set if others are waiting will be implemented. The committee is not intending to use the courts for matches coaching etc, but if situations arise they may require them. Notification will be circulated if the matter arises.

Senior Team Trials

Due to the inclusion of an additional two teams this year the committee feel that it is even more important to see as many players as possible to make sure that the teams are correctly balanced. We are therefore running team trial/selection sessions on the following dates and times. If you would like to be considered for a regular team place, or would like to be considered to fill in when required we would love to see/meet you. There will be six men's and five ladies teams this year, so there is plenty of opportunity to secure yourself a place if you want one.

Men's

Sundays
7:00pm – 9:00pm

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, March

Ladies

Saturdays
2:00pm – 4:00pm

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March.

Pathway to Courts

Now that the car park is no longer one huge puddle, it has become apparent that the members are now using it in accordance with the Parish council's requests. We thank you for your cooperation as it goes a long way to maintain peace keeping negotiations. We have highlighted however that the walkway between the car park and the clubhouse is completely unacceptable especially in the winter and plans are afoot to have a proper path laid to protect member's footwear and the courts from mud. Work should be carried out when the contractors return in the next few months.



Don't like the gym?

Would like to be a bit fitter?

Need to tone up for the season ahead?

What is Cardio Tennis?

- **Fun, Energized, Motivating Group Fitness Activity hitting lots of tennis balls (not coaching)**
- **ALL levels of players can participate**
- **Optional Lower Compression Green Ball**

Changes the way tennis has been traditionally experienced. It is less about forehands and backhands... more about getting players moving!

"Cardio Tennis is a fun calorie burning heart pumping way to play tennis"



Sessions will be run on Tuesday evenings. They begin on 1st February and run for 6 weeks

The first session is 1 ½ hours and the remaining sessions are 1 hour.

This is due to Dave explaining how the sessions work and fitting you with heart rate monitors.

Sessions start at 7:00pm

1st February
8th February
15th February
1st March
8th March
15th March

Please sign up in the clubhouse, numbers are restricted so sign up asap to guarantee your place

Take a minute to think !

How old would you be if you did not know how old you are?

Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does!!

Happiness is not a station you arrive at but a manner of travelling!!!

GOOGLEMAIL CHANGES TO GMAIL!!

Google have decided that it takes too long to type googlemail and that the time saved in typing gmail will give us more time in our lives for other things. I thank them as it will now enable me to have one extra coffee before I die with all the seconds that I will now save.

Please note the new club email address is!!!

hartfordtennisclub@gmail.com

Coaches Corner

The importance of a good Attitude

Results of Stanford University Study

92% of success or failure in life is based on attitude

75% of the reason someone learns a skill or not is based on attitude

85% of the reason someone gets or keeps a job is based on attitude

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.

New Renewal Forms

The amount of work required in processing the membership forms has been out of hand for a number of years. We have therefore decided to have two forms. You will receive a **RENEWAL** form this year.

After filling in your name, please only supply additional information if different from last year, i.e. new email address or change of address etc.

This will enable us to establish which information needs updating and which we can avoid duplicating when your form is processed.

This should save our membership secretary about 100 hours of needless administration.

As the job is done on a voluntary basis you can imagine the difference this should make.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation

Please Notice

Any member wishing to display information on the club noticeboards, must first seek permission from the committee.

Your Committee

Chairman	John Melliush 01606882568
Treasurer	Philip Benjamin 01606889360
Secretary	Jacqui Wood 07866540645
Membership	Mary Followell 07862242396
Teams	David Glenn 07703501188
Marketing	Andrew Moores 07850710561
Tournament	Andrew Moores 07850710561
Head Coach	John Walsh 07801822855

Saturday Coaching

Coaching has now resumed after the Christmas break.

9:00 – 10:00	8 + Under
10:00 – 11:00	9's
11:00 – 12:00	10's
12:00 – 13:00	11's + over

Sessions run for one hour and are £3.00 for members.

Sessions are run by John Walsh, Dave Forrest, and the mini tennis leaders.

www.hartfordtennisclub.co.uk