

Clay Court Meeting
Monday 25th April 2022

34 attendees.

Questions arisen:

Q: Will any trees need to be felled?

A: Malcolm Dillon : As members are aware we have seasonal tree debris on the courts from cherry blossom and cherry stones, leaves and tree seeds and hedge clippings. The cherry tree by court 1 and the oak tree by court 3 account for most of this. If we change to artificial clay it is possible that leaf clearance will be needed on occasions before play can commence. Some trimming back of the trees would alleviate the problem to a certain extent.

Q: Will subs go up?

A: Paul Dudley: Don't know

Note: Court resurfacing is not dependant on raising subscriptions

Q: Best for players to sweep before or after

A: Trevor May Ltd - After, because this leaves the court surface in best condition in case of rain, frost, snow etc...

Malcolm Dillon comment: Agree but as Quentin said, it's more likely to get done before play than after

Q: Clearing debris from court before play?

A: Absolutely essential in order to stop moss growth

Q: How long does dragging take?

A: 5 mins if both ends do it simultaneously

Q. How long will it take for the process to happen?

A. 1 day to pressure clean each court
Start to finish 2 weeks

Bedding in will then be needed. Ok to play – but suggest no tournaments etc until after bedded in

Using the courts helps to bed-in and drive in-fill into the pile

Q. Best way to clear autumn leaves from the courts?

A. Trevor May: Every club is slightly different

Courts are usually damp in the autumn therefore a lightly used leaf blower can be used.

Leaves can be sieved to save in-fill

Drag brush can be used to push all the leaves into a pile. A drag brush will cause less harm.

Rake can be used

Tim will work with the club to ensure that we know what we are doing.

Q. Do we need a sprinkler?

A. Most clubs do not spray
Not essential an optional choice but unlikely to be needed
Really dry in-fill will move to the edges
Mostly the clay is taken out on shoes.

Q. Does the in-fill hide the lines?

A. A line brush is required and is important to give the lines a through brush
TM recommend doing court brushing after play. If left overnight all the marks will be left and difficult to brush the next day.

Q. Will the tree/oak debris cause a problem/damage?

A. Some material will get ground in. Contractor can lift that material. "Do the best you can"

Other Comments

Comment from Emily Woodhouse (Member at Bagshot & WSTC)

Emily said that court usage is mainly on the clay and they are the preferred option at Bagshot

Chairman at Camberley said in a straw poll last year 69% of members preferred clay to tarmac.

PD Conclusion – if we are going to do it - do it now

Cost Factor:

Cost to resurface £11-12k per court = say 11.5k x 3 plus VAT (15%) = £40k – lasting 10 years
(incl repaint on 5th year at £5k) = £4.5k per annum over life

Clay costs including VAT ~£61k – lasting at least 12 years – if we care for them/depending on maintenance = £5k per annum over life

So £0.5k difference per annum CAPEX – but more ongoing maintenance cost as set out.

Point is there is not much in the CAPEX costs between the difference surfaces – but there is an increase on the maintenance spend.