

Bagshot Tennis Courts

Below is a compilation of the feedback from the visiting group:

Dear All

Thank you for being a part of the focus group to report back on the ‘clay court experience’.

Your feedback is an essential part of our decision-making process, so we very much appreciate your time to let us know your thoughts.

As a guideline to help you to consider, these are the areas that would be useful to know about:

	Your comments
Playing conditions when assessed was it wet, dry or raining etc.	Dry and sunny
	Dry
	Dry and sunny
Ball bounce , was it higher or lower than macadam?	Higher Slower
Was the ball slower/faster?	I really liked it – it gave me extra seconds to get to it!
How did this impact on your play?	Lower, ball checks and kicks up slightly Slower Probably have more time to hit some balls
	Lower bounce Slower Had more time to get to the ball

Line calls - was it easy to assess the ball being in or out? Were the lines clearly visible?	Yes Yes
	I found it much more difficult as the lines are not so clear, and I couldn't see the far base line at all when serving Near sidelines were visible. Less so the distant ones the other side of the net
	I found it harder to recognise lines at the far end of the court. As above, I found that the service line was harder to judge, particularly given the sunny conditions.
Ease on joints – did you find it more forgiving or less forgiving than macadam? What difference if any did you notice?	It was easy on the joints. It felt comfortable Softer underfoot
	Much softer and easier than macadam, felt more like carpet than concrete feel of tarmac It makes for a different game of tennis, not better or worse.
	This surface is softer and more forgiving on the joints.
Sureness of footing - how did it feel underfoot? Did you feel secure?	I didn't have a problem – but I think you would need to get used feeling a little more unsure when 'taking off'
	Harder to push off, but fine when moving
	Surface felt fine although I did slide at one point. Worth noting that the slide is quite short

<p>Court maintenance - did you sweep the court after play?</p> <p>How was that process?</p> <p>Was it preferable to sweep the court before or after play?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>It was quite painless – although there was a line sweeper too which didn't seem to work very well.</p> <p>I think it is better to sweep the court before play</p>
	<p>Yes we did: Bagshot's regime is sweep after play, Camberley before, which is going to me more reliable It's a little tedious, especially as at both clubs the gadget than cleans the lines after sweeping the courts would not work, making them hard to see.</p>
	<p>Swept after play</p> <p>Easy</p> <p>Probably better to sweep before play</p>
<p>Any other comment</p>	<p>I liked it – it suited my game. I can see there being maintenance issues in which case we would need to employ someone with direct responsibility for the full maintenance of the court.</p> <p>They have 5 courts at Bagshot. They said that the clay court courts get booked far more quickly and are more popular than the hard courts.</p>
	<p>I'd like to try the textile surface (carpet with a sand dressing), which I have played on before. I'd like to see how the maintenance requirement and cost and effort compares to artificial clay before making a choice. For me, either are preferable for play than macadam.</p>
	<p>This surface will require more maintenance than the existing surface and members will need to commit to the process of sweeping and allow the necessary time which is why it is probably easier if the courts are swept before play.</p>

	Some sand/clay gets into socks and shoes.
Would you want to change the courts at WSTC to Artificial Clay?	Yes – maybe just courts 2/3 to start with?
	On balance, yes.

If you get the chance to speak to members at the visiting club:

- Are there any times that the courts are not playable?
- We were told only once when it had been very snowy
- Do they water courts in the Summer?
- Do they have them professionally swept once a week? Or on any regular basis? I don't think so
- Are any trees etc nearby that could affect the freezing or foliage that lands on the court?
- Yes for that purpose they had not transferred all of the courts to clay. They said the moss and leaves were a problem with the trees near to those courts.

- Are there any times that the courts are not playable? Yes, snow and hard frost not recommended due to damage to the carpet when frozen
- Do they water courts in the Summer? Not needed
- Do they have them professionally swept once a week? Or on any regular basis? Periodic maintenance at Bagshot by installer
- Are any trees etc nearby that could affect the freezing or foliage that lands on the court? Yes, at Bagshot tall trees prevented 2 hard courts being converted to clay due to leaves, shading and moss issues. (see their website)
- MJD 24-3-22