

Dear committee,

I'm reaching out as I have recent experience of installing artificial clay courts at Steep tennis club, where I was chairman until a couple of years ago. The change of surface was a contentious topic in the club and there were a number of factors that we needed to consider in order to reach the final decision

I am interested to see the materials in your presentation, which I hope you will also email out to club members after the meeting. The key factors in Steep's decision, which I think would also be valid for West Surrey are:

- 1) cost and lifetime of installing the surface compared with replacing the existing hard with new hard courts
- 2) comparative maintenance requirements of the surface (both annual and weekly/monthly/after each use) compared with hard or artificial grass.
- 3) different types of surface (i.e. not all artificial clay is the same), there is variance in speed of the surface.
- 4) whether you are only intending to change one court or multiple courts
- 5) reason for the change, i.e. what's wrong with the current surface.
- 6) will it mean the club has to put up its membership fees

What we found in terms of maintenance is that it's imperative that there is sufficient drainage under the existing surface to ensure the base does not stay wet forever otherwise the court will fill with water. Also the regular maintenance pattern and in particular the annual maintenance are essential otherwise you will end up with algae/organic materials building up which will compromise the drainage. Initially we thought that the post use brushing of the surface would be sufficient to maintain the courts, however this turned out not to be true as the baseline in particular would get relatively bare over time and the edges of the courts fairly seep and so it was needed to have a more aggressive monthly maintenance to move the sand around and add more as needed.

Finally, if West Surrey does change all the courts, it will change the nature of play at the club and may not suit some, as it will somewhat neutralise the advantage of faster ball speed for some players.

I hope you find this email helpful. If you want to see the quotes from Chiltern sports for Lane Grand Clay that we used at Steep, please let me know and I will share.

Graham

### **Responses to Graham's points:**

- 1) cost and lifetime of installing the surface compared with replacing the existing hard with new hard courts – [see our accompanying documents for cost comparisons for WSTC.](#)
- 2) comparative maintenance requirements of the surface (both annual and weekly/monthly/after each use) compared with hard or artificial grass – [see our accompanying documents on maintenance and budgets approved by the golf club.](#)
- 3) different types of surface (i.e. not all artificial clay is the same), there is variance in speed of the surface. – [see Trevor May Limited Contractors - ARC advantages and considerations.](#)
- 4) whether you are only intending to change one court or multiple courts – [we intend to resurface all three courts.](#)
- 5) reason for the change, i.e. what's wrong with the current surface – [see presentation slides explaining reasons for considering a change of surface.](#)
- 6) will it mean the club has to put up its membership fees – [no.](#)