

Dear Member/Parent

**Some good news at last: we will be able to play tennis again from 2nd December and we have brand new courts on which to play.**

The Club has invested a large proportion of its funds in re-surfacing all three courts, one with artificial grass and two with synthetic clay - many past and present members have contributed to the cost of these courts, it is now our responsibility to look after them for existing and future members. **Please read the notes below about maintaining the court surfaces and ensure that the instructions are followed whenever you use the courts.**

Please note that the clay on the synthetic clay courts will initially be quite loose and deep; there needs to be a period of approximately two to three weeks of play on these courts to allow the clay to settle into the pile of the carpet underneath. This means that the bounce on the clay courts may be uneven, this is normal until they have settled. The contractor, Trevor May, will come back to the Club in 4 - 6 weeks' time to check the levels of infill and adjust them accordingly.

Some of the 'wind breaks' may not be in place when we start. This will be fixed in the next week or so.

Given the on-going situation with COVID, the same rules as before will be in place:

- The Clubhouse should only be used to visit the toilets or access the first aid equipment
- Players must provide their own balls except for organised social tennis
- Social distancing must be maintained at all times
- Players should sanitise their hands before and after entering the court.

The courts will be available for play from 2nd December and booking will open on Monday 30th November. Booking of courts must be done before playing - this is now a Club rule not a COVID rule.

We all look forward to welcoming you back on court - PLEASE read the detail below on court maintenance.

Regards

The Playing Committee

**COURT MAINTENANCE**

In order to optimise the playing life of all the courts and to ensure that members get a true playing experience on modern artificial grass and synthetic clay surfaces, all members are requested to adhere to some basic protocols before and after play.

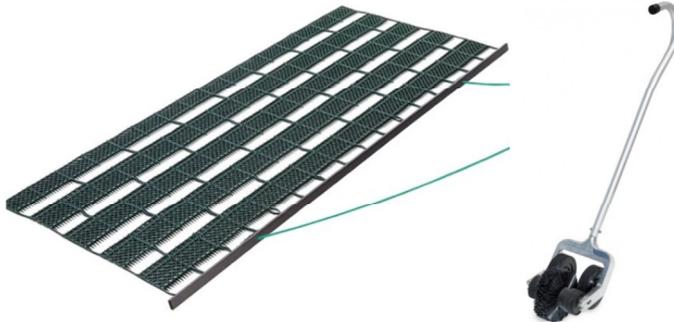
In respect of all courts, please:

- Ensure that the shoes you are wearing have shallow profile soles - deep profile soles (including AstroTurf Trainers and those with rubber 'spikes') can damage the surface/carpet pile;
- Check that your shoes are not muddy and, if they are, please clean them before entering the court.

## SYNTHETIC CLAY COURT MAINTENANCE – PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Before starting play on the synthetic clay courts please.....

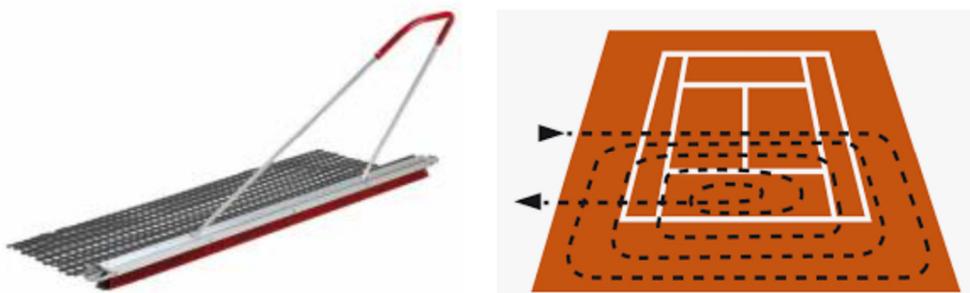
1. Remove any organic and other debris on the court by dragging the court with the Aussie Cleansweep drag mat provided (see picture below) – then replace the mat on the ground (it should not be hung up). Please remove the leaves etc. from the court and put them in the garden waste bin;



2. Use the line brush (see picture above) to clear any lines obscured by the clay infill; and
3. If the previous court users have clearly not dragged the court after their play to smooth the surface, then this should also be done.

After the conclusion of play please.....

1. Drag the court surface in concentric circles, on each side of the net, using the drag mat provided (see picture below and refer to the on-court instructions), to bring the clay infill back into the main playing area and level it – this should take no more than a couple of minutes (it is conventional for the losing player(s) to do this). Please note that dragging the court in wet weather can lead to ridges/lumps of clay infill on the surface so please desist if this is occurring;



2. Replace the drag mat on the hooks provided and try to avoid any loss of clay infill beyond the court perimeter;
3. Use the grille and shoe brush outside the entrance to Courts 2 and 3 to clean your shoes when exiting the clay courts.

## **ARTIFICIAL GRASS COURT MAINTENANCE – PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Before starting play on the artificial grass court please.....

1. Ensure all clay is off your shoes before entering if you have just played on the synthetic clay courts - use the grille and shoe brush by the entrance to Courts 2 and 3 to clean your shoes;
2. Pick up and clear from the court any large pieces of debris such as twigs;
3. If there are a large number of leaves on court use the drag brush on Court 1 to remove the leaves from the playing surface;
4. Clear the leaves and detritus accumulated from brushing the court and place in the garden waste bin;
5. If you ever notice any loose seams on court please report it to a Committee member;

The actions above will:

- ensure the court surface is clear of debris that may affect the bounce of the ball; and
- limit organic matter being ground into the pile of the court surface during play, where it will decompose and adversely affect both the consistency of the surface, the court drainage and ultimately the surface playability.

A couple of times each month the courts will be subject to brushing/raking. On an annual basis, the courts will also be subject to treatment for moss and algae growth and an external contractor will visit to clean the court and de-compact the clay using mechanical equipment.

Thank you to all Members for abiding by these simple actions to keep your courts in good condition