
HADDINGTON TENNIS CLUB

2022 Annual General Meeting – Secretary’s Report

Following the gradual release from the constraints of the Covid 19 pandemic Haddington Tennis Club has experienced a successful 2021.

In order to maintain a high standard of court facilities the Club has planned to carry out court maintenance work this year.

In 2021 the Club were advised by the court maintenance contractor who laid the courts in 2016, that the surface of the playing area remains in a sound condition and should remain so for a further five years provided they are well-maintained. In line with their recommendation the courts will be cleaned and re-painted with the work expected to be completed in one week, subject to weather. It is planned that this work will commence on 25 April and the courts will be closed from this date. The Club has purchased two new nets to be fitted in the Spring after completion of the cleaning and re-painting.

The Pavilion in Neilson Park has limited use for the Club as it is in a state of disrepair and is frankly unusable other than for the storage of equipment. The Club lacks access to any facility where players and members can meet, shelter from inclement weather or simply socialize. As a consequence the Committee has approached East Lothian Council to discuss the potential for future use of the Neilson Park Pavilion. This has had the support of Councillor John McMillan. It is felt that that unless urgent remedial and repair work is carried out on the Pavilion there is a risk it will be closed and possibly demolished.

A meeting was held at the Pavilion on 16 February 2022 with Haddington Tennis Club, representatives from the Council, Enjoy Leisure, the Cricket Club, Friends of Neilson Park and Support for Start to outline the opportunity for the Pavilion to be used in future. The initial proposal is for it to act as a community resource and not just a Club House for the tennis and cricket clubs. The Council representative, Ed Henrickson indicated that the council are in agreement with this proposal and are prepared to pass, through a Lease Management arrangement, the refurbishment and re-purposing of the Pavilion. As a first step the council will provide the Club with a draft Lease Management contract outlining the terms of the lease and the annual cost for utilities etc. As the principal users Haddington Tennis Club will then give consideration whether this is a viable option to take forward.

The council have acknowledged that the building is in urgent need of remedial work particularly in regard to weather-proofing the building and related damage. The council advised that the ‘Properties’ department will take this forward.