

**FACILITIES REPORT**  
**FOR RAMSBURY TENNIS CLUB AGM**  
**29<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

Once again, before I deal with the individual matters, I would like to thank Amanda our cleaner, Catherine our coach and Roger for all they do in the Pavilion to make sure that it is as clean and tidy as possible for our members.

**Court Surfaces**

All the courts are playing well. The Clay continues to be the most popular by a long way. We are still using different drag mats over the winter, and they work much better than the drag mats with brushes when the clay is wet. Once again, after Easter we will revert to the original ones. We still have a good stock of Clay in store and will put some more on the courts when we do a pre-season overhaul.

Courts 3 and 4 were resurfaced in 2019 and resprayed in 2021. They are playing very well but the paint surface is wearing. They will need repainting in 2025 and resurfacing in about 2028 unless we bite the financial bullet and resurface them in clay before then. Courts 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 should need no major work during this time.

Courts 6 and 7 are excellent. They have the advantage of having a much larger run off. The only problem we have is debris from the nearby trees (not owned by us) but more the larch needles than the leaves. The leaves can be easily dispersed but the needles have proved much more difficult especially when wet. As clearing the courts proved to be so difficult (because as soon as they were cleared more leaves and needles fell) we decided to block the courts for booking in November and December. The new Committee will continue to consider different solutions to the problem.

**Court Fencing**

The court fencing to the South and East of Courts 3 and 4, is going to be renewed this year. That is the last run of fencing which is original.

**Lights**

In 2022, we replaced the lighting heads on Courts 1 & 2 with LEDs. We had a few teething problems which seems to be inevitable with new kit, whatever it is, but the new lights have meant a huge improvement in light quality and cost less to run than the metal halide bulbs. And so, the headline this year on lights is that we have fitted LEDs to Courts 3 and 4 as well. So, we now have LEDs on 6 of our 7 courts with only Court 5 to be done and I am pleased to say that we hope to do that this year. The Recreation Centre will replace the MUGA lights with LEDs at the same time so all the lights on the Sports Field will be LED.

We have also introduced a new contactless payment system for the lights and again there were some teething problems but this now all seems to be working well.

So, with all the LEDs the Club should now receive lower electricity bills and now we are of course charging those who use the lights. There is less wastage as lights are not left on now for very long after people have stopped playing.

### **Pavilion and surrounds**

The Pavilion is a Recreation Centre building and is used by both the Tennis and Cricket Clubs. The structure of the building is the responsibility of the Recreation Centre, but the internal condition is the responsibility of the Clubs.

So, the Recreation Centre has replaced all the light fittings in the Pavilion with LED fittings. An expensive exercise but an important one.

Whilst our Cleaner is very reliable and does a very good job, please continue to help her by keeping the Pavilion clean and tidy. All litter and recycling should be put in the bins provided. If there is a lot of recycling, for instance boxes of new tennis balls, please take the boxes and the empty tubes home and recycle at home and don't leave them in the Pavilion for someone else to deal with.

I have put plastic feet on the sofas which did not have them, and the others have tennis balls on the feet. This is because people were dragging the furniture across the oak floor and scratching it badly. Please take care when moving furniture so as not to cause damage. It would be nice generally if people treated the Pavilion as they would their own homes.

Similarly, please take your water bottles and empty ball containers off court when you leave. Please also make sure you take all your kit home with you, and make sure as best you can that your children do so too. The amount of lost property generated is still rising!

On a general note, I will be having a good tidy up around the Pavilion and the courts just after Easter. I already have a group of willing volunteers to help.

### **The area around Courts 6 and 7**

We have tidied this area up by creating some steps down to the Courts and a small seating area. The general area is not quite finished as we need to level the ground and put down a couple of loads of stone to make access and car parking easier.

When driving to the Courts, please park as near to the Courts as reasonably possible and not in the area by the Bowling Club. We want to try and get on with our neighbours, not antagonise them!

Further soft landscaping to the bank to the north of the courts and the Bowling Green will be dealt with by the Recreation Centre as soon as funds allow.

### **The Track**

Once again, it is useful to remind members that they should park in the car parks and walk down to the courts and not drive down the track to the courts, even when dropping and collecting juniors who are having coaching. We need to keep the traffic on the track

to an absolute minimum especially when there is coaching. This is a Health and Safety issue with so many children about.

Obviously, this does not apply to members using courts 6 and 7.

Incidentally, the Recreation Centre hopes to provide a new tarmac track from the entrance off Hilldrop Lane to join up with the existing tarmac track. The work should be done this year.

We have a programme of maintenance/improvements which the new Committee will look at again at our next meeting. In this respect, can I just say that Padel Tennis does not feature as the Tennis Club has used all the land the Recreation Centre has allocated to it and there is simply no more space available. But the Recreation Centre has facilitated the playing of Pickleball as we have marked out a court in the MUGA.

My thanks to Kevin Jauncey for his help this year and also to Geoff Doel for spraying all the weeds around the courts to keep them under control.

And so, to conclude, if any issues arise, whether on the Courts, lights, Pavilion or surrounds please report them to me (details below) or to any other Committee member so they can tell me, and I shall see what can be done.

We have the most amazing facilities, and our aim is to maintain those at the highest possible level. The bar is set very high indeed and if anything is wrong, I need to know so that it can be addressed. If I don't know, I can't fix it!

Finally, my thanks to everyone for their input and help over the last year, but particularly Roger who has been first my counsel on all things to do with facilities. I am not sure what I will do without him!

Ian Smith – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Mob: 07977 473975

Email: oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk