



## **HLTC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019**

2019 has been another step in a positive direction, the retention and growth of the membership base, strong showings from our teams, tournament numbers up and county call ups for members of our junior tennis squads.

### **Grass Courts**

I must start the Chairman's Report by thanking all the ground staff at Horsham Sports Club for the hard work that they have put into the grass courts this year. Richard Marshall, Lawrence Gosling, and Richard Allingham plus the other members of the team worked tirelessly to ensure that there has been an improvement in the playing standard of the grass courts again this year. I only heard positive comments regarding the grass courts this year from our members and this is a trend that we would like to continue. The work on the courts has already begun and I'm looking forward to another successful summer next year.. It is important for the club that we continue to develop these courts as they can really be an asset when attracting new members and retaining members at the club.

### **Coaching**

The coaching programme has been steadily growing with players moving up fluidly from Tessa and Alex's Mini Red sessions to me at the club where they are developing in to the future of the club.

Alex and I have begun a 'Tennis for Free' session in Horsham park supported by the charity of the same name. We offer an hour and half session to players for free to try the sport out and have already had a couple cross over to take lessons at the club. We have also started our disability sessions at Bewbush community centre with Crawley LTC offering sessions once a month.

A huge thank you to the team who do a great job everyday (although the weather isn't always kind). We had another successful pair of open days with Sunday Funday and the Nature Valley Big Tennis weekend where the club, once again, picked up some new members who are already finding their home on the court.

I would also like to place on record a huge congratulations to Horsham LTC players Billy Johnson and Zach Hodges who have been called up to the Under 14 and Under 16 Sussex county squads respectively. For me it comes as no surprise not only with the talent and the hard work they put in during their sessions but for the attitude to the club, with both players volunteering at junior sessions on a weekly basis. Congratulations again to you both.

### **Future Planning for HLTC**

A lot of work has gone into looking at the future direction of the facilities at the club. There are two main areas for development that need addressing:

1. Court surfacing
2. Lighting

As an interim fix for both issues, by the AGM, I expect all the courts to have been professionally cleaned and the current lighting system to have had the faulty bulbs replaced. There are, however, longer term decisions to be made.

### Court surfacing

The tennis committee is continually looking at ways to improve the facilities at Horsham Lawn Tennis Club. Courts 4 and 5 require resurfacing over the next 12-24 months. We are currently considering the option of replacing two of the hard court surfaces (courts 4 and 5) with an artificial clay surface. Consultation with our members is an integral part of the process to ascertain the best way forward. We have been given a positive response from the LTA that a loan would be available to cover half the work which would reduce the initial outlay that would be required for a resurface.

There are many benefits to a tennis club having an artificial clay surface, a surface generally accepted as being easier on the joints. Furthermore, Horsham would be one of the few clubs in the region to have three surfaces (grass, asphalt and artificial clay) to suit the preferences of all players. Here is summary of pros and cons and a table of expected lifespan.

Please come to the AGM and let us know your thoughts/feedback or, otherwise, email Glyn.

Pros & Cons of Artificial Clay			
✓	Surface delivers the highest number of playing hours throughout the year.	✗	Player maintenance before and after the playing session.
✓	Surface is not affected by frost or freezing conditions.	✗	Weekly drag brushing by club staff is an essential requirement.
✓	Suitable for junior coaching and liked by junior coaches.	✗	If localised problems exist with the surface, it is harder to patch repair the surface.
✓	Low cost replication of real clay playing characteristics, ie slow pace / medium bounce.	✗	Surface requires raised kerbing to prevent clay infill from migrating outside the fence line.
✓	Surface has the potential to deliver long lifespan if maintained properly.	✗	Foot grates are required for players exiting the courts to remove sand from footwear.
✓	There are a number of surfaces available on the market, which offer different playing characteristics and different price points.	✗	Sand infill will migrate beyond the court block boundaries.
✓	Daily maintenance can be carried out by non-technical individuals	✗	Failure to attend to infill levels and distribution may see increased wear of the stability mat.
		✗	The cost of replacement infill is relatively high.
		✗	Availability of infill is often restricted to certain

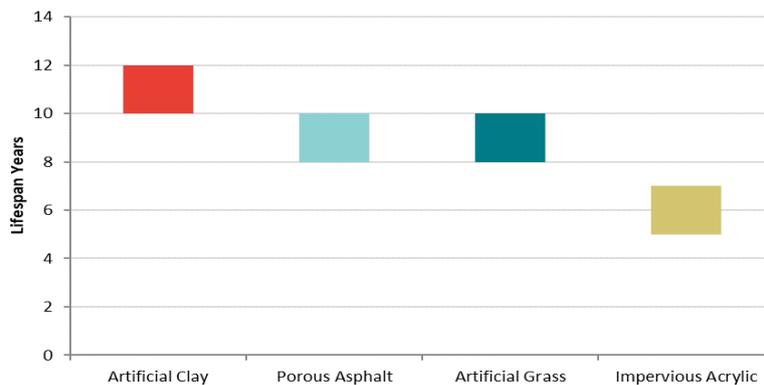
manufacturers and certain countries. This affects maintenance costs



It is not possible to change the supplier or type of infill after the surface has been installed.

## Pros & Cons of Porous Asphalt

✓	Low capital cost to construct	✗	Firm surface can be heavy on players' joints
✓	Low maintenance costs over lifespan	✗	Slow pace / high bounce
✓	Hard & robust playing surface	✗	Surface can soften in early years during summer
✓	No court user maintenance requirements	✗	Poor aesthetics where repainting is left too long.
✓	Can be used for other sports	✗	Overpainting can lead to cracking and porosity issues
✓	All materials are locally sourced in the UK	✗	Courts may be unusable in periods of cold weather
✓	Easy and cost effective to restore if poorly maintained	✗	No difference between manufacturers / suppliers
✓	Minor repairs are easier to complete		
✓	Can be used at outdoor venues or within low cost indoor structures		
✓	Long term flexibility as the sub base is used in other porous surfaces		



## Lighting

We are also looking in to the possibility of renovating our existing lighting system to LED lights. LED lights are more energy efficient and cheaper to run. They typically provide more uniform lighting across the court with no warming-up/cooling-down of the lights. The committee has been working over the past year obtaining quotes and looking at opportunities for development. Our original quote was £46,000 to change the lighting system, which was felt to be an unrealistic expense. However, we have now had a quote of under half that amount which we would like to explore as a committee. Discussion will take place with the main club and funding sources to make this development another step closer.

## Club Tournament (Report by Sandy Miller)

*Below is a report from Sandy Miller who organised this summer's club tournament. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Sandy for all the time he put into its organisation.*

This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Tournament Director and I'm pleased to report another successful Club Championships and another increase in member participation up another 13% to 76 members entering one or more of the six tournaments. This year 75 matches were played with 14 walk overs, 4 due to injury the rest were forfeits due to matches not played and no contact with the TD. We also expanded the Championships to include three new plate competitions for Men's Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Unfortunately, there were not enough entrants to hold a plate competition for all tournaments. Plate competitions allow first round losers to enter another draw thus guaranteeing at least two matches for all.

Prizes this year were also increased and expanded to include trophies for the plate competition winners, and as part of the drive to make the finals day a special event for all club members and spectators, all finalists that turn up to the presentation ceremony after the last match on finals day collected a tin of new balls and a re-string discount voucher donated by Sandy Miller ProStringer.

Next year's entry will open (as always) beginning of May 2020. Congratulations to all the players that entered and I look forward to another successful tournament in 2020.

2019 FINALISTS			
Mens Singles	<b>Zach Hodges</b>	bt	Andrew Machin
Mens Doubles	<b>Glyn Jukes Dom Robeson</b>	bt	Daud Sadiq Dominic Hall
Ladies Singles	<b>Sophie Kitson</b>	bt	Mars Schellevis
Ladies Doubles	<b>Tessa Walder Helen Windwood</b>	bt	Sophie Kitson Mars Schellevis
Mixed Doubles	<b>Dom Robeson Sophie Kitson</b>	bt	Glyn Jukes Mars Schellevis
Junior Singles	<b>Zach Hodges</b>	bt	Ryan Mustard
Plate Mens Singles	<b>Dom Hall</b>	bt	Jo Byrne
Plate Mens Doubles	<b>Ivo Petrov Peter Vermeer</b>	bt	Paul Brett Dan Smith
Plate Mixed Doubles	<b>Stephen Hoad Susannah Engelmann</b>	bt	James Tavolieri Lisa Harrison

## Competitions

The teams have held their own over the past 12 months, with many of the teams missing out on promotion by 1 place and in some cases in the last game. The Men's First team were close to another promotion in both winter and summer leagues missing out by 1 place in both seasons. The second team were also consistent in both seasons only just missing out on promotion. The third and fourth team shared a couple of draws after competing in the same leagues in both winter and summer

seasons. We now have over 10 juniors playing regularly across the teams having been given the opportunity to move up and play at a higher level, thus giving space for new players to join. The men's fifth team was, unfortunately, unable to complete all their matches and, although we have plenty of willing players, it can be difficult to pin them down to play on the weekends.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Paul Copeland, Neil Cochlin, Stuart Malcom and Tessa Walder who have done fantastic job captaining the sides.

#### **Standings Winter 18/19**

- Mens 1 Position 3 of 8 in division 7W
- Mens 2 Position 4 of 8 in division 9W
- Mens 3 Position 5 of 7 in division 11W
- Mens 4 Position 6 of 7 in division 11W
- Ladies 1 Position 3 of 7 in division 3

#### **Standings Summer 19**

- Mens 1 Position 3 of 7 in division 7
- Mens 2 Position 4 of 8 in division 10W
- Mens 3 Position 7 of 8 in division 11W
- Mens 4 Position 6 of 8 in division 11 W
- Mens 5 Position 8 of 8 in division 13 W
- Ladies 1 Position 3 of 7 in division 3

#### Committee & LTA matters

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for the work they have put in. We have had unified, strong representation. We have had good discussions and clearly identified roles. This has really helped the ongoing running of the club. The club achieved the highest level in the new LTA accreditation and has continued to adhere to the new steps from the LTA with all coaches having a LTA License or Accreditation. I would also like to thank Alex Fiveash and Richard Oscroft who are standing down from their committee member and treasurer roles respectively. They have both been great assets to the committee and will be sorely missed.

Remember, this is your club. Bring friends and family down and show everyone a warm welcome and great time at Horsham Lawn Tennis Club.

Glyn Jukes  
HLTC Chairman.