

Copmanthorpe Tennis Club – Refurbishment of tennis courts

In late 2017, the members of the club agreed that we needed to resurface our three macadam courts. They had last been resurfaced 19 years previously, when a new surface was simply laid over the existing courts. Cracks were appearing, particularly where cleaning had broken up the surface and there were drainage issues on the third court, which was lower than the others.

The club committee formed a smaller group to oversee the project, to review the types of surface we wanted (macadam was favoured over carpet), the finish (colours and edging), the fencing requirements and the raising of the height and improvement of drainage for the third court.

With the assistance of Yorkshire Tennis, who provided practical support and financial advice, the sub-group identified and approached four contractors who were able to scope and price most of our requirements. Tenders ranged from £43,000 to £56,000.

At that point in time the club's financial reserves amounted to £12,000. Our target was to contribute at least 50% of the costs up front, therefore considerable additional funds were required.

The additional finance was raised through the incredible hard work of many of our members, who organised and hosted fundraising events such as a BBQ, stall at our village carnival, scarecrow trail and a gig featuring a local band. By running external events we had tried to ensure that some of the finance was raised from non-tennis playing members of our community, to reduce the burden on current members, whose subscriptions had increased, and to reach a wider audience, hoping they might consider becoming a member.

Yorkshire Tennis provided us with a £4,000 grant and offered us a loan of £25,000 to be repaid over 10 years, which we accepted.

En-tout-cas were selected as the contractor. They had a local base (just 25 miles away) and were the most practical and cost efficient in dealing with access across communal sports fields. Access was not allowed across marked sports pitches, leaving just a small gap for light/medium vehicle access. Other contractors had insisted on unaffordable heavy duty tracking to support vehicles on damp ground. En-tout-cas utilised a perfectly acceptable roll-on roll-off carpet system, with the proviso that work could only be done when the ground wasn't too wet.

Work commenced in November 2019, with a forecast 4-week timescale. Due to the atrocious weather in that month, the contractors left the site for a couple of weeks, before returning to complete two of the courts. Temporary lines were marked on the unpainted macadam, enabling us to play over winter. The third court was constructed in January 2020, during a dry week.

The courts were painted in the first week of May 2020, which was timed to perfection, as the club was re-opened on 13 May following the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown.



Photo: Members enjoying the new courts June 2020.

Graham Garbett
Treasurer - Copmanthorpe Tennis Club