



DEUCE SPECIAL: July 2018

CONVERSION OF COURTS 2 + 3 FROM GRASS

Shading from the large tree adjacent to two courts 2 and 3 has meant that the courts continue to be unavailable for all but the warmest months.

The 2016 AGM identified the conversion of these two courts as the top priority, and this was confirmed at the 2017 AGM when the committee reported that the club was seeking financial support from the council and that surface investigations were continuing. A strong preference for synthetic grass was expressed by the members at the 2016 AGM.

In the first instance the committee undertook investigations to determine whether the grass could be retained and improved. The committee supports the retention of grass courts, and in dealings with the council the club has consistently maintained that more courts are required to meet the needs of a growing population. A plan for the addition of three courts to the east was submitted to the council during the Rosalie Park Master Plan process in 2014, however, there is little likelihood of additional courts being constructed in the medium term.

The committee arranged for the groundsman from Cottesloe Tennis Club - Peter O'Dea - to visit OPTC and he concluded that grass on courts 2 and 3 would always be problematic in their current location due to the proximity of the tree. As such, the option of keeping the grass was ruled out.

Investigations into synthetic grass included seeking advice from an independent court consultant. He recommended that synthetic grass would not be an appropriate surface for this situation as litter from the tree, including sticky fruit, and shading to the north end of the courts would cause mould to form and lead to rapid deterioration of the surface. Although artificial grass may be somewhat cooler than painted finishes, we have been advised that it provides no more cushioning than a hard court surface. The cost of artificial grass would be in the order of three times more than other surface treatments. Based on this, the committee has ruled out synthetic grass as a suitable surface.

The committee's investigations of other alternative have concluded that an acrylic painted 'Plexipave' hard court surface similar to the existing hard courts is the most appropriate surface.

The club now has confirmation from the council that they will contribute financially and support the club's application for a grant for the conversion of Courts 2 and 3 from grass to 'Plexipave' surfaced hard courts under lights. If successful, funding would be available in 2019 and the intention would be to have the works carried out over the winter period next year for completion in October 2019.

The committee has worked very hard to review all factors and consider what is considered to be in the best interests of the whole club.

It is the resolution of the committee that the conversion of these courts to hard courts with lights and new fencing should be undertaken as endorsed by the membership at two AGMs, with an acrylic 'Plexipave' surface rather than synthetic grass.

The club is held in high regard by the Council, Department of Sport and Recreation and by Tennis West, and is in the best possible position at the moment - both financially and politically - to benefit from their support. Should the club be successful in applying for grants the aim would be to complete the works in late 2019.

James Edwards
President
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