

Bulletin No 38 Tennis court opening!

We are pleased to let you know that the refurbishment work on the tennis court has gone according to plan, and it is going to be opened with a special event on Saturday 18th August, starting at 2pm. There will be an opportunity for adults and children to play some tennis, with some refreshments. No rackets or balls required, just the correct footwear – see below. Please come along to play, or support!

The court now looks like this:



Tennis Court Rules

In order to keep the surface and net in good condition for as long as possible, there are going to be some rules, which will be displayed on a notice near the gate, and inside the court, on the fence near the net. The rules are based on those used at other courts, and the contractor's advice. We will develop these, if necessary, as we gain experience with the use of the court. The initial notice will look like this:

Tennis Court Rules

- Please wear flat soft-soled shoes
- Please relax the net after play
- No cycles, skateboards or rollerblades
- No football
- No food or drink to be taken onto the court – water only
- No litter or chewing gum
- Please lock the gate when you leave

Booking System

There is going to be an “appointments” diary for bookings, kept in an enclosure (an external meter cupboard) fixed to the fence inside the court, near the net. The idea is that residents can book their slots of up to 90 minutes in the diary, for tennis, netball, or other activity. Of course, people can just turn up and play, if no one is using the court, but they would need to stop playing if a booked party arrived. We do not think block (multiple) bookings should normally be allowed. The booking system will be monitored, and modified if necessary.

Maintenance

We will be meeting the contractor in the next few weeks to discuss and agree a maintenance regime. This will be published, so that it can be used for the long term maintenance of the court, by any management team in the future.

Our thoughts at this stage are that the court will be kept free of leaves and other small material on a day to day basis by Mark and some of the users, using a blower, which we will buy. It is also important to regularly remove any bird droppings, by locally washing. We have a number of things in mind to discourage birds perching/roosting on the fence, and any overhanging tree branches will be removed.

The bank in front of the hedge needs special attention, and will need regular maintenance to stop leaves and twigs spilling onto the court. A paved “gutter” arrangement is planned, which will be easy to sweep clean, as part of the regular maintenance. To further protect the court on the far side, a fine mesh barrier, which would be fixed to the bottom section of the chain link fence, is being investigated.

Longer term, we expect to get the contractors to carry out moss treatment, at least once a year. When/if necessary, the contractors will pressure wash, but they have already said that effective moss treatment is the most important job, and if done properly, can mean that washing is not needed.

Best wishes

Richard Pollard	Crambeck House
Andy Craig-Smith	No 53
Peter Roberts	No 8
Mark Lowry	No 32

13.8.18