



## COTHAM PARK TENNIS CLUB

### How we developed our club facilities over the last 10 years

- In 2015 we applied for LTA and Avon Tennis (Avon LTA, as it was then) funding to replace our 2 Polymeric courts for 2 Tarmac and to get our artificial clay courts rejuvenated
- These courts were our USP, with young county performance players coming solely to use them
- The LTA had originally given us a grant to have them for the performance programme we were delivering at that time
- We managed to secure a grant of £4,575 and a loan of £4,575 over 10 years from the Avon Tennis 'Grant & Loan scheme' which were to be used in conjunction with LTA funding of £18,300 and the club's own funds of £9,150 to initially complete the major court project
- As part of the agreement the club had to implement a marketing strategy towards growing the membership by an additional 110 members in 2016 which was 172 in 2015
- As of now we have 229 members, and we don't hold a waiting list

### Developments between 2016-2025

- The club transferred from being an unincorporated to a corporate entity in 2016, a Limited Company by Guarantee. This has helped us to be more organised with our business aims and to share the liability with our members
- The Directors help to shape the agenda for the committee, by having an annual membership survey, reviewing and rewriting the coach's contract in line with the business aims, being aware of the LTA and Sport England's priorities and using them as guidelines. We knew we needed to increase our finances and membership
- With the pandemic in 2020 we all faced different challenges and opportunities
- Membership increased from 169 in 2019-20 to 271 in 2021-2022, we saw a big increase in young men in particular joining, which has remained the case.
- We tried to get another loan from Avon Tennis to resurface the artificial clay courts but was unsuccessful
- However, we were very fortunate to receive a Covid 19 Government Business Rates Grant and made the decision to resurface our 2 artificial courts with Clayrite MF artificial clay at the cost of £37,850.00 plus VAT. Fosse Contracts Ltd completed the work in June 2020
- The courts are very popular with our men's teams in particular; however, the maintenance has been an ongoing challenge i.e. keeping sand off the tarmac courts is tricky. Members do come up with various solutions, but it's a problem, as our access is awkward.

## LED Floodlights

We had discussed installing LED floodlights for many years but became more serious in 2022 when we were aware of increasing electricity costs

- The Tennis Volunteer Floodlight Facebook group held a Q&A in Nov 2022 with Lee West a Director of Sports Facility Planning and Design limited consultants specialise in the design and a specification of indoor and outdoor tennis courts, floodlighting and other sports facilities
- He undertook an assessment in Feb 2023, which gave us more questions than answers, so we involved Zoe Bambridge and Karen Shepley from the LTA to assist. Eventually we decided to go with Luminance Pro after much ado.
- We secured planning permission from BCC in Nov 2024.
- We had enough monies in our sinking fund, and our financial forecast allowed us to not have to apply for any further grants or loans
- We went with Luminance Pro who gave a reasonable quote and could do the work in August 2025 to fit in with the coaching programme Total cost: £41,376 They were excellent.
- Our monthly electricity bill has reduced from £942.50 on 19.11.24 to £374.28 on 18.11.25, a considerable reduction.
- We have reduced the hourly rate from £5.50 back to £4.00 for the members and have reflected this in the coach's contract.



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