



# Court News

November 2017

**There are a number of possible surfaces to consider when the time comes for resurfacing Courts 1 to 4. In each case the cost given is the average price which is current for resurfacing a block of four courts on our macadam base and includes VAT.**

## **Macadam (cost approx. £51,000)**

This is a popular surface for those Clubs who do not have ground staff and represents a large proportion of the courts in the UK. This is mainly attributed to its porous properties which are designed to allow rapid drainage through the entire surface, meaning a speedier return to play after rainfall. Maintenance requirements are minimal. They need regular power washing to clear the surface of debris and maintain porosity, together with re-painting halfway through the life span of the courts. The surface provides a high level of utilisation throughout the year at a low level of initial cost and ongoing maintenance. This is the surface we currently have on Courts 1 – 4 and has been shown to give a true bounce, a reasonable speed and be generally acceptable to young and old alike.



## **Acrylic (cost approx. £144,000)**

This is a smooth non-porous cushioned surface and varies in price according to the number of layers of cushioning applied. The water lays on the surface after rainfall and the courts cannot be used until this has been swept off using a variety of drying aids such as squeegees. Because a gradient is needed to aid water runoff, this would have to be created by putting in a new stone foundation and additional macadam layers including a drainage system, in order to lay acrylic on top of our existing macadam. It is also subject to frost problems and is unlikely to be an improvement on macadam as it is extremely slippery when even slightly damp.



## **Porous Acrylic (cost unobtainable)**

Although this was originally felt to be an improvement on acrylic as the water did not collect on the surface, the mesh tended to break up and this problem has never been solved. Manufacturers are not now offering it, as they are reluctant to lay it. Clubs with these courts are by and large resurfacing with alternatives.

## **Poroflex (cost approx. £102,000)**

This surface looks like macadam, but comprises a rubber mat with specially formulated spray coatings giving a much softer surface to play on. However, it is also affected by frost and becomes very slippery when damp.

## **Matchplay Needlepunch Synthetic Turf (cost £66,000)**

This is a carpet court with a minimal loose top dressing which is easy on the joints and gives a level bounce. There is an option for different speeds of play. The drainage is better than we had on our former artificial grass courts, but the surface will become wet during rainy periods and this will transmit to the balls. It is suitable for play in all weather conditions, including frost, but rarely has the opportunity to dry out during the winter period. Annual maintenance is necessary and is similar to that required for macadam courts.

## **Tiger Turf Advantage Pro Tufted Synthetic Turf (cost approx. £72,000)**

This is a type of artificial grass surface, similar to the one we used to have, but with improved drainage. As with the carpet courts, the surface will become wet during rainy periods and this will transmit to the balls. It is suitable for play in all weather conditions, including frost. Advantage Pro is the market leader for synthetic turf surfaces and has a good life expectancy. The product is sand dressed and is comfortable to play on. Annual maintenance is necessary.

## **Artificial clay (cost approx. £96,000)**

This is what we currently have on Courts 5 & 6. As you are aware the courts are suitable for play in all weather conditions, including frost. The speed of the ball is generally slower than on other courts and the loose dressing allows for sliding, which is something some players like and others do not. The surface requires a lot of maintenance by members. The courts should be dragged after play and the lines swept. Weekly maintenance needs to be carried out in addition, with debris being removed from the courts and top dressing redistributed or replaced. They can also be very messy as the top dressing gets transmitted from the courts to the surrounding paths and even to the Clubhouse. Maintenance equipment such as brushes, drag nets, etc. increases the initial cost. In addition, an annual maintenance by contractors is required.