

WOOD VALE LTC

PLANNING STATEMENT COURT NR 5 RECONSTRUCTION

Wood Vale Tennis Club has successfully grown over the past 5-6 years from a membership of 130 adults and a minimal number of juniors to its current level of 230 adults and thirty juniors. We have carried out major work on our clubhouse using our own funds and renewed four of our courts with the assistance of LTA and Middlesex LTA loans (both of which will be fully repaid by December 2027). Although the facilities we offer have greatly improved, we have had to close our membership and we now have a waiting list, as have the rest of the clubs in the area.

We have four all-weather porous asphalt courts. Our fifth court has an Italian clay surface but is in a generally redundant condition and subject to heave and displacement. It has reached the end of its useful life and is now practically unfit for play. Although technically available for members, it is in no condition to attract new members and is rarely used by the existing membership.

We now have the funding in place to renew our fifth court which we estimate would allow us to increase our membership numbers by 20% and afford more opportunities for our coaches to be involved with the wider community, including extending our junior programme.

Over the last 2-3 years we have succeeded in attracting younger members and families within the community and we want to continue this trend, offering opportunities to more of the community to get involved with tennis. We currently have four coaches offering various levels of coaching (adult and junior, beginner to intermediate, group and individual) and we have teams in the Middlesex leagues (currently four women's teams and three men's teams in the summer leagues). With an extra all-year court, we will be able to accommodate more members; extend court availability for members; and offer more opportunities for adult and junior coaching (both of which are available to members and non-members).

Our emphasis is on social, inclusive tennis - available to all - but also with opportunities to play more competitive tennis. We have no restrictions on ability of potential members. We block book our courts on Saturday afternoons for social tennis where members of all abilities can come along and mix in. We also run monthly American tournaments to encourage members less used to competitive play to join in without the pressure of more competitive events.

We want to be able to futureproof our club, building on its reputation as enthusiastic and welcoming, by attracting a new, younger membership who will take the club forward, continuing to offer both social and competitive tennis for players of all abilities, including encouraging those wishing to take up tennis.

MARCH 2024