

# CARE OF THE ARTIFICIAL CLAY TENNIS COURTS AT LANSDOWN

Updated August 2020

## Summary

1. Stop play 5 minutes before the end of your session
2. Remove any surface debris you find
3. Brush each half of the court and surrounds in an inward spiral pattern
4. Report any defects to the General Manager
5. LEAVE THE COURT AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND IT

## Purpose

In recent years, a major investment has been made on your behalf to install four artificial clay courts at the Club (Courts 4-7). It is important we all work together to ensure these courts are kept in good condition and provide an optimal playing service which will last for years to come. This set of instructions will help you and the Club do just that.

These artificial clay courts consist of a carpet layer with a loose sand dressing of a thickness sufficient to cover the carpet fibres. Members should be aware that the surface will be damaged if play takes place when the carpet fibres are exposed. This will significantly reduce the playing life of these courts. Exposed parts of the court surface also become slippery and potentially dangerous to play on, especially in dry weather. To counteract this problem and keep the courts in good condition, players must brush the courts on a regular basis. This has been done to a certain extent in the past, but we now have an improved method of doing so which is described below.

## Brushing the courts

Players should brush ALL areas of the court AFTER each session of play, or at least every 90 minutes whichever occurs sooner. This is to ensure an even distribution of sand is left across the playing surface for the next players on court. Areas well behind the baseline which tend to suffer from excessive amounts of wear should also be brushed. Use the wide court brushes provided.

The preferred method of brushing each half of the court is to do so in a spiral pattern. Start as far back from the baseline as you can. Work the brush around the peripheral regions of the court half, and gradually work your way inwards until you reach its central region somewhere between the baseline and the service line "T". We have a short video which further explains this method:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-95-8-T2KM>

Brushing the courts in an inward spiral pattern helps to push sand displaced during play back onto the court. That's where it is most needed to protect the underlying carpet. It shouldn't take any longer than brushing the courts from side-to-side, but it's more effective.

You should allow yourself 5 minutes before the end of your session of play to complete this work. Once you've finished, please leave the brushes in a location well away from the playing area after use. The handle of each brush should be left resting against the wire fencing of the courts. The brush head should face upwards to prevent its bristles becoming bent over under the weight of the brush.

Please speak to any players you notice who leave the courts without brushing them, and kindly remind them of their obligations. However, please note they can be left unbrushed when the court surface is so damp that the sand becomes congealed and relatively impervious to brushing.

You should remove any debris you find anywhere on or around the court you play on, and put it in the bin provided. You can do this any time before, during or after your session of play. In addition, those players who would like to improve the visibility of the court lines during play can brush them using a special stiff-bristled line brush. This brush is not particularly robust and is normally kept in the Clubhouse for safekeeping. Please return it after use.

### **Leaving the courts - wipe your feet!**

Did you know we lose a great deal of sand from players walking off court with sand on and in their shoes? This is wasteful and contaminates the rest of the Club grounds and the clubhouse itself with red sand. It also puts an unnecessary burden on our ground staff who have to replenish the courts with fresh sand. So please make sure you thoroughly wipe your tennis shoes on the mats provided at the exits of the Courts 4-7 tennis area.

### **Maintenance schedule**

Please be aware that the Club's ground staff undertake a wide range of maintenance tasks on all of our tennis courts. Their clay court tasks are listed below. Those players who use the courts before 9.00am weekdays may be asked to move court to enable this work to be carried out.

### **Daily maintenance - all players**

Brush the courts immediately after each session of play. This includes after each coaching session. Juniors supervised by their coaches should be responsible for doing this after their own coaching sessions on these courts.

Remove any debris.

Report any defects or damage you observe to the General Manager, either directly or through a Committee member.

### **Weekly maintenance - ground staff**

Clear leaves any other debris and rubbish from the entire clay court area. Pay particular attention to the area next to the low stone wall, which tends to shed pieces of weathered stone from time to time.

Check sand levels across and behind the playing areas, especially those areas which experience excessive wear. Remove sand from areas of build-up and redistribute accordingly. Ensure any areas of exposed carpet fibre are dressed with additional sand.

Cross brush the courts.

Clear exit mats of sand.

Inspect all maintenance equipment, report any damage or missing items to the General Manager.

### **Monthly maintenance between March and October - Tennis Sub-Committee**

Organise a small group of volunteers to sand areas of the courts experiencing high levels of wear/sand loss. This will usually be limited to areas extending about 2m either side of the court baselines.

### **Periodic maintenance at least once every 6 months - ground staff**

Check for any moss or algae growth on any part of the court area and treat appropriately.

Inspect general condition of the underlying carpet.

Check all carpet joints and arrange for the repair of any that are failing before they become a safety concern.

Undertake strong brushing of the courts.

### **Annually or as necessary - Tennis Sub-Committee and General Manager**

Call in a specialist contractor for an annual inspection, who should be tasked to deep clean the carpet and repair it as necessary.