



Lowestoft Town Tennis/Pickleball Proposal

Presented By Lowestoft Town Tennis Club Committee

15th Feb 2024



Document Outline

A Simple Overview

Within this short proposal Lowestoft Town Tennis Club will demonstrate how a truly aligned approach with Lowestoft Town Council views on providing 'Free Tennis For All' and promoting increased participation could look from 2024 and beyond.

Club Operations

To provide an understanding to councillors of the current operational costs of the tennis club.

Understanding

To outline the current understanding of LTC's FTfA approach for tennis in Lowestoft.

Alignment

What LTTC are proposing to completely align with LTC and their approach to tennis and pickleball for Lowestoft.



Club Operations

What it takes and costs to run Lowestoft Town Tennis Club

- Our current model of membership subscriptions provides for the playing of tennis in a safe and enjoyable environment.
- We do not levy a charge towards court costs, as these are provided free in line with the Council's current policy of 'Free sport for all'.
- Where we are required to pay for tennis balls (£900pa) Also for Suffolk LTA and League affiliation fees to be able to participate in competitive leagues / competitions (£980pa), and coaching for our membership which is mainly centred around youth development and attracting new people to tennis (£1,200pa) then we seek to cover these costs through membership subscriptions. - **Club annual operational costs stand at circa £3000.00**
- Currently Lowestoft Town Council's scheme of offering 'Free sport for all' is applied to all its sporting venues and as Lowestoft Town Tennis we fully support this initiative, but in order for our members to be able to participate in competitive tennis through local leagues, run a coaching programme and offer open social tennis sessions (which are and have always been open to all for free on a trial basis), we need to have assured access to some of the courts at the Denes Oval at certain pre-agreed times.
- To facilitate the above, from 01/04/2024 we would be seeking court time allocated for league match play, tournaments, open days, and coaching of juniors and adults, and two open social tennis evenings, and a Saturday per week
- Of the 6 tennis courts at the Denes Oval available for play, at no time would any more than 3 courts (50%) be used for the above activities, always leaving courts available for public use for anyone that wanted to play their tennis on a more ad-hoc basis. (A document covering the above requested court bookings is attached)



Understanding

Our knowledge of LTC & FTfA view and future approach

- LTC wish to continue with a 'free sport for all' at all of their sports venues across Lowestoft.
- Investment into the Denes and forthcoming at the other tennis venues within the town demonstrate this commitment - in conjunction with the LTA
- Upcoming parks project will further enhance this opportunity and increase participation across all venues
- Free to play means no need for equipment or court hire fees. The only over and above element will be floodlit play at Denes Oval
- LTC wish to maintain a commitment to 'the only competitive venue' by offering the opportunity to play in social tournaments and leagues (as currently organised by LTTC)



Alignment

How we can see it coming together

- Completely remove any perceived barrier. Lowestoft Town Tennis Club, Will be known moving forward as Lowestoft Town Tennis & Pickleball Hub - a destination site for where a more structured environment is available for both sports if desired by players.
- We have consulted the LTA and this offer of providing free tennis within a club environment is fairly unique across the UK. By encouraging participation with all of the benefits normally associated with a subscription-based membership.
- 'Free to play - scheme' totally embraces and will work in harmony with the policy of the Council.
- We have a modest amount of reserves and are ready and willing to utilise these to fund the zero membership cost for the next 2 years. (This is subject to review after this period)
- In addition, the committee have agreed to offer full refunds of the small subscription charges that were made to players that were playing at Normanston Park, Kensington Gardens and Nicholas Everitt Park until those venues closed.
*This membership, with a reduced subscription, was introduced to enable those groups to access the Denes Oval courts using the Lowestoft Town Tennis room and keys, before the Council made arrangements for the Denes Oval and the tennis courts to be opened to all between the hours of 9am and 3pm each day.
- Following a recent committee meeting, as Lowestoft Town Tennis & Pickleball Hub we are very keen to embrace and support the initiative of the Council's 'Free sport for all' and like yourselves we want to see as many people playing sport across the town, including tennis and Pickleball.
- As Lowestoft's only LTA affiliated venue our main objective is to grow participation in tennis and offer a safe and friendly environment to children and adults across the town.

Proposed Concept for 100% Alignment with LTC & FTfA

After thorough consideration to pull all elements necessary for all parties, we have taken a decision to offer **completely free membership** to **all** players social or wanting to play competitively for the next 2 years in order to remove any perceived barriers to entry of playing tennis in a more structured environment.



Court Requirements For April - September

Monday (League match play) 2 courts 6.00pm -9.30pm Court Nos. 3 & 4
Tuesday (Social Play) 3 courts 6.00pm – 9.00pm Courts Nos. 2,3,4
Wednesday (League match play) 2 courts 6.00pm – 9.30pm Court Nos. 3 & 4
Thursday (Social play) 3 courts 6.00pm – 9.00pm Court Nos. 2,3,4
Friday - Not required
Saturday (Social play) 3 Courts. 2.00pm – 4.30pm. Courts 2,3,4
Sunday – Not required

Saturdays x 2 (Open Days) 4 Courts. 10.00am – 2.00pm Court Nos. 1,2,3,4
(Dates tbc).

Sundays x 3 (Club tournaments) 4 Courts. 10.00am – 2.00pm Court Nos. 1,2,3,4
(Dates tbc)

*When the Pickleball courts are painted and use of them is increasing there will be a future review for what social sessions will be required for the number of players active, to begin creating a community around the new sport and facilities.

Coaching

Monday - (Junior Coaching) 16:30-17:30 courts 3&4 / 17:30-18:30 courts 1-4 / 18:30-19:30 courts 3&4 - Adult Coaching 18:30-19:30 court 4

Tuesday - Adult Coaching Cardio Tennis 09:30-10:30 court 4, Walking Tennis court 3&4 (Junior Coaching) 16:30-18:30 courts 3&4 or 7&8 Adult Beginners 18:30-19:30 Court 4

Wednesday- (Junior Coaching) 17:30-20:00 17:30-18:30 courts 1-4 / 18:30-19:30 courts 3&4

Thursday - Learning Disability Group 13:00-14:00 Courts 3&4 (Junior Coaching) 16:30-18:30 courts 3&4 or 7&8

Friday - No Requirement

Saturday - Cardio Tennis court 4 09:30-10:30

Sunday - No Requirement

