



Rowledge Tennis Club
Recreation Road
Rowledge
GU10 4BN

1st May, 2018

Dear Members,

As the start of a new membership year begins, and following the AGM last week, we wanted to write to you to highlight some of the progress that has been made on the club redevelopment project over the last couple of years, as well as outlining our plans for the next 12 months.

Club Redevelopment

As members will be only too aware, our clubhouse is in dire need to refurbishment!





In addition to clubhouse, the floodlighting is in need of a substantial upgrade and both courts (particularly court 1) need resurfacing. None of this is cheap and having had quotes for all three elements, we estimate that the total redevelopment cost will come to over **£100,000**.

This is what the new clubhouse might look like:



Planning Permission

Before any work can start planning permission is required for both the lights and the clubhouse. In late 2016/2017 the relevant applications were made (the club having undertaken lighting surveys to prove that the new lighting would be less invasive to neighbours than the current lighting) and we are pleased to report that both applications were successful - so we have all the permissions we need!

Club Lease

Despite the tennis club having been on its current site since 1923, no one at Waverley (our landlord) could evidence any sort of lease and this was restricting our ability to apply for grants to help fund our redevelopment project. Over many, many months, and at some legal cost, in January 2018 we were finally able to secure a 40-year lease. Great news!

Club Funds and Grant Applications

With planning permission and the lease sorted, the focus has turned to fundraising. Over the course of the last 18 months we are pleased to report that we have made successful grant applications to Farnham Town Council, Farnham Institution, Rowledge Village Fayre, Tesco's and Surrey Sports Ground. These grants total **over £7,000**. In addition, the club has



reserves of just over **£40,000** which can be released in order to help fund the redevelopment.

As you can see we are still short, though, and so won't be able to complete the full redevelopment without additional fundraising and successful grant applications. We do have a large application in progress and hope to find out whether we have been successful in early June.

Redevelopment timing

As alluded to above, timing will be somewhat dependent on fundraising. That said, we have committed to have the first phase of the lighting to be completed over the next few months and for both courts to be resurfaced in August this year. This will make a substantial improvement to the playing surface, and to winter tennis later in the year when we hope to have shiny new LED lighting installed (no more excuses!). The clubhouse project may also be viable this year, if we can raise funds. We will keep you informed.

Membership subs and help!

1st May marks the start of a new membership year and having not raised membership subs for the last two years, we are increasing them this year given the reinvestment we are making into the club. We hope you agree that these increases are not punitive and still compare very favourably with similar sized clubs locally.

£165 family

£80 adult

£40 junior (7-18 years) & full-time student (18 – 21)

£70 senior

£10 overseas member

In addition, if there are any members who would like to make a donation to the redevelopment of the club, there will be ability to do so of the membership form this year.

We would be very grateful for any support!

New Committee Positions

Lastly, we thought it would be useful to highlight to you all who your committee members are so you have points of reference in the club:

Chair – Nick Rees

Membership Secretary – Kelly Taylor

Treasurer – Claire Turl

Team Captains – Ladies (Sara Acworth), Men's (Chris Price), Mixed (Claire Knight-Noel)

Club Captain (new position!) – Justine Done

Maintenance Rob Stevenson (Chair for the last three years!)

Welfare Office – Josephine Stevenson

Coaches – Matt Marlow, Paddy Flannery



In summary – there are exciting times ahead for the club and 12 months from now there should have been a significant transformation. We thank everyone in advance for your support and if you have any bright ideas regarding fundraising, please do share!

Many thanks

Nick and the RTC Committee

Attached: Membership form; RTC AGM Minutes