

## **Bracknell Town Council COVID-19 Response**

### **Use of Tennis Courts**

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 the UK government announced from 13<sup>th</sup> May there will be a change to the COVID-19 lock down policy and the partial resumption of certain sporting activities, including tennis. Bracknell Town Council (BTC) has responsibility for nine tennis courts, six at Jocks Lane Recreation Ground and three at Great Hollands Recreation Ground. All the courts are outdoors. This policy is to be read in conjunction with the relevant risk assessment for using the courts during the COVID-19 epidemic. As the situation is fast moving and the government advice changes regularly both this policy and the accompanying risk assessment will be reviewed every seven days and amended as necessary. A limited number of the courts will open to the public on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May and therefore the first review will be conducted on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

The courts at Great Hollands are only bookable by phone or in person at the café in the pavilion. Therefore the courts at Great Hollands will remain closed until further notice as there is currently no safe way to make a booking without increased risk of transmission, plus the café remains closed. The courts must be locked and the nets removed.

The courts at Jocks Lane are in two caged areas each containing three courts. The courts are marked out side by side and are operated by an on line booking system and therefore the transmission risk when booking is greatly reduced or non-existent. The courts are controlled by an electronic keypad where a code must be entered by the user of the court. This obviously carries a risk of infection. The remainder of this policy currently only refers to the courts at Jocks Lane Recreation Ground.

To minimise the risk of transmission the following must be adhered to:

- The safeguards in the accompanying risk assessment must be followed
- The government's guidance on social distancing and community contact must be followed
- The guidelines provided by the Lawn Tennis Association should be followed at all times
- Only two people must use a court at any one time. There will be no games of doubles. Each player must remain on opposite sides of the net
- There will be no competitive tennis, only recreational matches will be played
- No spectators are allowed except one guardian for a minor. They are not allowed to enter the courts except in an emergency
- Each player must have their own equipment. Equipment must not be shared.

- The pavilion building will remain closed to the public. Therefore there will be no toilet or handwashing facilities on site or access to a first aid kit. Users must therefore bring their own sanitising wipes and hand sanitiser for use on services that may be touched by other users, such as the keypads. They should also bring their own first aid kit.
- To prevent users having to make adjustments, the net heights must be checked each day (Monday to Friday) by BTC staff.
- Due to limitations of the booking system, it is not possible to stagger booking times or place a buffer between sessions, therefore people waiting for the courts to be vacated must adhere to the social distancing markers that have been placed alongside each entrance.
- All unnecessary equipment, such as benches must be removed from the courts.
- The policy regarding use of the courts must be clearly communicated to users and notices placed at the entrances

#### **Coaching -**

- In addition to the above **Matt Reid ProCoaching** coaches will adhere to the following guidance:
- The coach must complete their own risk assessment and email a copy to BTC for approval before any coaching will be authorised
- The coach must be in possession of a first aid kit
- The coach must brief each student on the safety measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission
- All coaching must be on a one to one basis with the coach and student remaining on opposite sides of the net
- Equipment must not be shared, including balls
- Coaches must adhere to the social distancing guidelines when setting up smaller courts for younger children

For enquiries regarding this policy please contact Bracknell Town Council on 01344-420079.