

Jonathan Stephens, Tennis Secretary, 2021-2022

I am looking forward to taking on the mantle of Tennis Secretary at this busy, but exciting time for the Club. Firstly, I would like to thank Martin Hearn for the incredible work he has done over the last year, dealing with the pandemic and unprecedented court usage whilst welcoming so many new members to the Club. I hope that everyone, even those that have been caught transgressing(!), recognise and appreciate the efforts he has put in to make sure courts are used efficiently and fairly.

As I take over the role, my focus will be on:

- Ensuring that court usage is as fair as possible to all members and especially that members who are able to play less frequently, or only at the busiest times, remain able to access the courts. We will continue to monitor court usage closely to balance minimising restrictions with this need for fairness.
- Ensuring that our many new members feel welcome, meet other members, and are able to enjoy all the benefits of Coolhurst as a Club, and not just a collection of courts.
- Ensuring that the Club continues to invest in the facilities that its members want. Specifically, it is clear from court usage patterns that there is a general preference amongst the membership to play on “soft” court surfaces. As such, I would like to see one set of hard courts (likely 9-11) covered in astro or artificial clay (as was the intention once the tarmac had settled in). In addition, upgrading court 5 to be of the same standard as the other hard courts will have an immediate benefit to members.

I am keen to hear the views of members on all tennis matters. Whilst I cannot promise that all will be acted on, all will be listened to. I am conscious of “survey fatigue” but I hope members will understand that it is vital that the Tennis Committee understand the views of members in order to cement Coolhurst’s position as North London’s premier club.

Cheers,

Jonathan Stephens

