

# Highbury Fields Tennis Steering Group

Meeting Friday 9 March

Present Viren, Hitesh Soma, Jon Paul, Manu, Sally, Wendy, Jill McLaughlin

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## **Saturday Mix In**

Jill introduced herself as the founder/organiser of the Saturday social mix and was co-opted onto the steering group. Jill made the case for it having pre-booked courts for the mix-in. She said there was no other opportunity for members of the public to drop in and play on HF, and that it had been running successfully for ten years. It was agreed to press for this at the meeting with the court management team on Friday 21.

## **Coach block booking**

Hitesh raised the issue of the how many block booking for coached sessions might be allowed. Sally agreed to collate current coach usage (see below)

Jon Paul said court availability is quite restricted. He didn't believe we are providing all the kids coaching services to the community that we could be and wondered if the Highbury Tennis Club had too many teams. Wendy raised concerns about the approach of the ITC in the past to using the HF courts for courses. Viren said Rob Achille was the Tennis Development Officer for the borough and within his rights to use the HF courts. He added that the Indoor Tennis Centre was the first in the country, built with LTA money, and no rules were applied to it. So while other Indoor Tennis Initiatives (ITIs) have to have county squads, Islington doesn't.

## **Joint approach**

Manu wondered if everyone in the group was working towards the same agenda. Sally asked if we wanted to continue to work together as a group and Jon Paul said the whole point of having the Steering Group is to all make decisions together.

## **Use of courts by Highbury Tennis Club**

With regard to the Highbury Tennis Club wanting to use the lower courts for matches, Viren said Brenda Stewart (who runs the Middlesex League) had raised it as an issue, and Jill wondered if we could come up with a solution and use other sites in the borough, or schools' courts.

## **ADDENDUM**

### **Current Coaching Sessions**

The following run coaches sessions:

Wendy said she ran the following which as part of her coaching income

Mondays: 10-11 2 courts (2 hours) Over 60s

Fridays, 10-12 drop in session; one court, two hours

Saturday 10-11 one court Adults beginner group, one hour

Saturdays; 11-2pm, 2 courts (6 hours in all). Coach-led squad training for two teams

Total: 11 hours

In addition (not coached) courts used for club team training

Thursdays 7-9pm Mens training 2-3 courts. (4-6 hours)

Saturdays 10-12, 2 courts (4 hours) mens training

Sundays 10-12 2 courts (4 hours) Ladies third team practice

Total uncoached practice for club: 12-14 hours a week

**Total for adult club team training (3 ladies and 2 mens teams): 18-20 hours**

Hitesh said he ran the following group coached sessions:

Sundays 11am-3pm (4 hours) courts 9-11

Squads of 9-11 and 10-18 year olds

Total: 12 hours