



Shotley & Benfieldside Tennis Club

With a recent refurbishment of 2 courts at the beginning of 2020, the Shotley & Benfieldside Tennis Club started to encounter an increase in court usage. This inspired the club to consider a second phase refurbishment to replace the remaining 3 court surfaces.

Founded in 1893, Shotley & Benfieldside Tennis Club in County Durham, is an established community tennis club with a thriving social scene, consisting of a unique indoor floodlit court and 5 additional outdoor tennis courts, all of which are artificial. The club decided to refurbish 2 of the courts in 2020 as they were worn and in need of replacement. The positive reaction from members enjoying the new courts and the increasing influx of court usage, prompted the club to consider replacing the remaining 3 courts.

Whilst the remaining 3 courts were still in a reasonable condition, they showed signs of wear & tear and had started to become unreliable in poor weather and prone to flooding.



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To help fund the project, members were asked to renew annual fees earlier than normal and were offered the opportunity to purchase a special 5/10 year membership. This investment allowed the club to fund the project and ensure that the work would be completed before the 2021 season began.

The club's committee nominated a working party to investigate the market and test surfaces. Initial findings identified that Playrite's Grandplay surface would provide the unrivalled durability and performance the club was after.

Grandplay is Playrite's most popular tennis surface, suited for tennis players who want a faster pace. With a uniformed tuft density design to simulate a natural grass court with a positive grip underfoot, it makes it the preferred choice for many clubs. To ensure that the surface was the right choice, the committee visited several clubs with Grandplay installed, and tested the surfaces out by playing a few games of tennis.



The committee had several technical discussions with Playrite to agree some amendments to the specification to meet their needs and achieve direct equivalence with the previously installed courts.

Playrite recommended local contractors Fosse Contracts to complete the surface installation, and having partnered together on similar projects, were also able to offer a full turnkey solution that delivered an excellent all-weather playing surface.

Committee Member, Tony Pensom commented "This was our first experience of Playrite products and people. We are delighted with both – good, honest, quality people and a great product".

The project was completed ready for the 2021 season and members have been thrilled to experience the new courts.



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