

FOLLY SPORTS PARK : CRICKET, RUGBY, TENNIS, SK8, NETBALL



BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Faringdon Tennis Club needs a new site. Our existing location on Southampton Street is only big enough for three courts; those three courts are smaller than the *minimum* LTA requirements; the location doesn't allow for floodlights; and there is no possibility of dedicated provision for younger players (for example, a RED zone) . For this reason it's difficult to develop the Club in the way that we would want – and the town deserves. Tennis is very popular in Faringdon, and Membership has increased by 30% compared to four years ago. We feel that this could be doubled with better facilities. Outreach into schools and extensive coaching facilities for juniors are also very important. Two years ago, we attained "Clubmark Status" – a milestone to be proud of – which makes it even more important that we find a more suitable location for the Club.

There are very significant advantages in putting the tennis club on the site where the cricket, rugby and skatepark are now located:

- *Shared facilities – saving costs and benefiting the viability of ongoing activities such as shared Creche, Café, Bar, cleaning, & social events.*
- *Extensive synergies in coaching & training: particularly for younger people*
- *Shared security & safety*
- *Single centre for sporting excellence, with a high profile and a strong identity – a Centre that the town and the district can be proud of*
- *Inter-club activities – leading to a stronger community and more sport for all*

The Tennis Club moved to the Southampton Street site just over 86 years ago, in 1926. We've had 86 continuous years of tennis, but expectations change, and it's now time to rise to the challenge and meet the new expectations that can only be realized on a new site.

The new site on the Stanford Rd will be called "FOLLY SPORTS PARK" .

For the past eighteen months, representatives from the Tennis Club have been meeting regularly with members of Cricket, Skate, & rugby clubs – as well as officers of the VoWHDC and Town Council.

An FLTC EGM took place in early March 2012 to seek membership approval for relocation to the FOLLY SPORTS PARK site on Stanford Rd.

Planning application for four full-sized courts; Red zone and new clubhouse was then submitted to the Vale in March 2012. The Application was successful and granted in May 2012.

However, before building of the new facilities could commence it was first necessary for the land to be transferred into Vale ownership, and all agreements and leases between the various parties (cricket, rugby, tennis, vale) to be agreed and completed.

Outstanding 106 obligations between the existing owner of the site (Bloor Homes) and the Vale (representing cricket & rugby clubs primarily) prevented the land transfer to the Vale from happening. However – these obligations have now all been fulfilled or taken into account, and the land transfer documents are ready for signature.

Because of the nature of the shared facilities (between cricket, rugby & tennis) and shared demise, it is important that all leases and sub-leases are also agreed and signed at the same time as land transfer; to ensure that all shared interests are fully protected. This has required sensitivity, cooperation and compromise. However, the final documents in the complex puzzle are now on the point of being agreed.

The FLTC Agreement to Build and Lease as well as the Lease itself (both with the Vale) have been engrossed and are ready for signature. Our lease with the Vale is for 125 years, at a rent of one strawberry per year (if requested).

At the same time, the Agreement to sell our existing site to the developer “Builders Ede” will then also be signed; as will the build contract with our main contractor. Both documents are ready for signature.

Building can then commence immediately, and will take a total of 24 weeks to complete.

We therefore expect to be playing tennis on the new courts, with new clubhouse, in the spring of 2014.

*Sjoerd Vogt – September 2013
On behalf of Relocation Committee*