

Floodlighting Application Summary

Currently Mapledurham Lawn Tennis Club (MLTC) have 4 all-weather tennis courts, two of which are floodlit. This permission was granted over 15 years ago. Each court (courts 1 and 4) have 6 x 1kW Multi vapour lamps in boxes mounted on 6.7 metre columns; boxes designed to concentrate the light down and give very small light leakage away from the courts. See the attached diagram labelled 'original Floodlight leakage'.

Recent Developments

In 2014 MLTC successfully applied for Sport England funding and in the Summer of 2014 nearly £70,000 was spent on improving the club facilities including:

- Court resurfacing and painting
- New perimeter fencing
- A covered veranda
- Wheelchair access
- Tarmacadam car parking outside
- Landscaping in front of the veranda

In return for the Sport England contribution of £40,000 we promised to:

- Triple the use of the tennis courts
- Restart a weekly junior coaching program
- Provide free weekly tennis coaching for special needs children
- Try to start a wheelchair tennis coaching program

Within 2 years we had achieved and exceeding all of these objectives with the exception of the wheelchair tennis, a project we are still working on.

In 2016 we were awarded by the Lawn Tennis Association **'The AEGON British Tennis Berkshire Community Venue of the year'**

Because of this success the courts are being used more often and at peak times in Autumn, Winter and Spring there is a big demand for the two floodlit courts.

The peak times tend to be late afternoon and evening week days. That is; after school for the juniors and after work for the adults. The floodlit courts are used late evenings right through the Summer up to 10 pm but in the Winter the light can be poor enough to need lights at 3.30 pm.

So from October to March Monday and Wednesday club nights, 6 pm to 8 pm, we are then restricted to 2 courts.

Junior coaching, which runs from 5pm to 7pm on Tuesdays followed by adult coaching 7pm to 8pm.

Then Junior coaching on Fridays from 5pm to 7pm.

Coaching nearly always needs both floodlit courts.

This only leaves Thursday, Saturday and Sunday when members can plan individual matches late afternoon / early evening.

As the club has become more popular and members more actively involved the competition to use these floodlit courts has increased to a point when it is not unusual to see players using the unlit courts whilst waiting for a floodlit court to become available.

In addition we now have no opportunity to expand our Junior / adult coaching programs in the afternoon / evenings or introduce new activities e.g. team practice sessions, which are being requested.

The committee believe this is a genuine requirement and also a safety issue with players using unlit courts and so we would like permission to add flood lighting to our other two courts.

Fortunately, because technology has improved since we installed floodlight over 15 years ago the proposed addition of LED lighting with back shields will not actually increase the light leakage into the gardens on two sides of our tennis courts.

You will see from the location plan and the Midland lighting report that on the other two sides of our courts we have the MPF pavilion and the playing fields.

I think it fair to say that whilst neighbours may had reservations when we first applied 20 odd years ago, now they realise it was not really a problem as the type of lights used have very little 'spillage' and the lights are automatically switched off at 10 pm every night.

Please refer to the attached block diagram. You will see that shows a plan of our courts with the position of the existing columns and light boxes marked in black and the new light positions marked in red.

I have also attached the Midland Lighting report which describes the addition of 12 LED floodlights with back shields to light courts 2 and 3.

The leakage grid (see page 6) shows how quickly the light leakage falls away to 1 or 2 lux at the edges of the gardens to the East.

Please note this is the theoretical leakage. Because there is a solid wooden 6 foot fence along the edge of these gardens plus a very mature hedge (See attached photographs). We believe that there will be virtually no light leaked into these neighbouring gardens to the East of the courts.

Whilst to the North there maybe a few extra theoretical lumens leaking into the right hand corner of the garden (again this depends on the effect of the hedge, see attached photographs). However we should keep in mind those houses were built and sold fairly recently with the tennis club already in full swing with 2 floodlit courts.

Our current membership is 244 which includes about 50 juniors. Many are local families.

By providing floodlit court facilities for local residents to play tennis after work in the Autumn, Winter and Spring as well as Summer months, we feel we are supporting the governments policy for people to be more active and take more exercise.

The adding of floodlights to two more courts means we would have the potential to cater for 8 more players for an extra 42 hours per week.

If on average players use the court for 2 hours sessions, we have enabled a further 168 players to be actively involved in playing tennis every week for the 7 months of the year when floodlighting is necessary.