

# ALTC

Ayr Lawn Tennis Club  
Charity no. SC049014

## SEAFIELD TENNIS COURTS COMMUNITY BENEFITS/WIDENING ACCESS

The proposed new high quality tennis courts with easily available booking and a smart gate access system will greatly improve public access to tennis with subsequent physical and mental health benefits. The club believes that tennis should be accessible, affordable, welcoming and enjoyable by everyone.

The courts will create more opportunities for tennis coaching and engagement with schools. Through the club links with Active School Coordinators the club could provide local school access for PE classes or after school activities at the refurbished courts. For example the courts are within walking distance of Doonfoot Primary School. There is social housing within the developments at Doonfoot and children from these households could benefit from having access to free tennis activity. There are Lawn Tennis Association initiatives such as the LTA Youth Schools programme where teachers receive training and the primary school can receive a £250 reward voucher to pay for a local coach to lead tennis activity in the school or at local courts.

Having access to more courts would allow Ayr Lawn Tennis Club coaches to run more LTA initiatives that are designed to widen access to tennis. Previously the Tennis for Kids initiative gave kids a free tee shirt, racket and balls and 6 group classes for a fee of £25. The club could specifically target local social housing areas and schools in these areas with a leafletting campaign about these low cost initiatives and free Open Days and taster sessions to be run at Seafield Courts.

There would also be more opportunity for coach led classes for Adult Beginners, Rusty Rackets and Cardio Tennis ( which does not require any tennis skill and can appeal to teenagers and adults to keep fit ) and Tots Tennis which also involves the parents. All of these would be more visible to the local community than behind the high walls and closed gate at the club's own Southpark Courts. This should encourage participation by a variety of age groups at Seafield.

Apart from links through Active Schools the club also has a connection with Whiteleys Retreat which provides respite care for children and their families. The club propose to run charity tennis days to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause. The club coach has previous experience in running disability tennis sessions. Disability tennis could be provided for adults and juniors with learning difficulties or other physical or mental disabilities and links to such groups could be made through SAC. The proposed surface at Seafield would be suitable for wheelchair tennis although specially adapted wheelchairs based at Prestwick Tennis Centre would need to be used. In addition the gate access into the courts and access paths would need to be upgraded to be suitable for wheelchairs.

Ayr Lawn Tennis Club is determined that Seafield Courts be available to everyone to enjoy the benefits of tennis. The club want to make it easier for people to find and book a court through the online booking platform combined with digital gate access technology so people can turn up knowing that a court is available for them to use.