

As winter is upon us it is timely to issue an annual reminder to all floodlight keys holders that the lights should only be switched on using the inner drawer key and light switch for official league matches, week day club sessions from 7.00 – 9.30pm, team practice sessions Fridays 6.00 – 8.00pm, weekend club sessions if required later in the afternoon and official tournaments such as a Christmas event.

With regard to matches and club sessions, please only have the lights on the courts where play is taking place and remember to switch floodlights off as soon as possible after play on each court has finished.

Members, including floodlight key holders, should use tokens purchased from the club at £1 each for 30 minutes, on all other occasions including the preliminary knock out rounds for the annual club tournament. There should be ample time to play preliminary rounds without the need for floodlights and, as you will appreciate, non-key holders and some key holders already purchase tokens for this purpose

This policy which has been in place for many years ensures that it is fair for all, whether a member has floodlight keys or not. It is also reasonable that the club should have some controls in place to prevent wastage or misuse.

We have seen a 40% increase in the clubs electricity bill last month compared with November 2016 which has not been offset by the sale of floodlight tokens in November or the preceding months. This is real increase in the cost of electricity v/s income from the sale of floodlight tokens as we are on a fixed rate tariff which commenced 1 August 2016. Of course, heating in the club house also consumes electricity.

Since installing the new Tiger Turf surface, we anticipate that the courts will be in use through most of the winter which may increase the amount of social tennis played, whereas in the past, the courts were often frozen and slippery in the colder weather. Last week was an exception as the snow was very wet and slushy making it difficult to clear without the risk of damaging the new Tiger Turf.

On a general housekeeping note, if it is felt necessary to put the heaters on in the club house, please spread the word that all doors should remain closed apart, of course, for entry and exit. If you are the last to leave, ensure any non-essential electrical appliances such as fan heaters and radiators are switched off as well as all club house lights, including the outside terrace, and of course the floodlights.