

Stonehaven Tennis Club: proposal for indoor tennis courts at Stonehaven Recreation Grounds.

Stonehaven Tennis Club (STC) is one of the largest sports clubs in the local area with around 430 members, of which about 40% are juniors. It has been long recognised that the club's courts near the beach front pose a great challenge to all-year participation with the wind and winter conditions often combining to reduce the amount of play. This impacts both recreational participation and the coaching program, which sustains two full-time coaches at present. It is not unheard of for after-school tennis coaching sessions to have to sweep the snow from the courts before being able to start.

STC in partnership with Stonehaven Recreation Grounds have secured £250k from Aberdeenshire Council's Participatory Budgeting process to provide an indoor tennis facility on the site. Due to the increase in construction costs because of the current economic climate, it has been decided to pursue an inflatable 'sports-dome' solution which keeps the overall price lower than a fixed structure. STC representatives have been working with Aberdeenshire Council planning department to reduce flooding concerns by identifying the best location on the grounds and by specifying a porous court surface. There has also been consultation with site stakeholders about the most acceptable location to reduce the impact of the new facility. It is anticipated that most of the works will be completed in the off-season when caravanners are not on-site and the outdoor bowling club has stopped for the winter. The dome will be dual-skinned to provide insulation and reduce running costs and the exterior skin will be coloured in a green hue to blend in with its surroundings.

STC and Recreation Grounds seek the Community Council's backing for the project and further cooperation whereby STC submits the planning application on behalf of SDCC which will allow the fees to be reduced by 50%.

