

9. ST MARTINS VALLEY TENNIS CLUB

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Activities 3.1 text 23	

The purpose of this report is to summarise and provide further information regarding the St Martins Valley Tennis Club (SMVTC) funding application presented to the Board on 5 October 1999.

SMVTC are seeking funding to re-surface four tennis courts (details in attachments). As requested by Board members, Beckenham Service Centre and the Club Management Committee have discussed ways in which community access to the tennis courts can be enhanced. The Club finds itself in the same situation as other local tennis clubs in that they charge for use of their facilities, via a range of annual subscription rates, and casual use fees. Junior coaching is effectively subsidised, as the full cost is not met through subscriptions.

A number of initiatives are currently undertaken on a regular basis to “introduce” the public to the club facilities:

- Twilight tennis: run during daylight saving
- Open days: run throughout the season, with a “bring a friend” philosophy.
- St Martins School use the Club’s courts on Thursday afternoons, which are also well used by teachers during lunchtimes.

SMVTC have, in the past, run “theme” days such as “Mums Day”, to cater for those in the community who may miss out on recreation opportunities such as tennis. The Management Committee have expressed enthusiasm to trial such theme days again, as well as working on several other initiatives:

1. Stronger links with local community groups, and the development of “community group rates” for facility usage.
2. Subsidised rates for families/individuals who simply cannot afford the standard rate. SMVTC already apply a great deal of flexibility in setting rates for specific circumstances. This scheme is envisaged as being more proactive in the sense that key trusted community contacts will be approached on a regular basis, and asked if they know of any families/individuals who might benefit from playing tennis, but cannot afford the subscriptions. This scheme would need careful targeting by the SMVTC.

This project meets the following Board objectives and performance indicators:

- 6.1 Identify, liaise with and promote co-ordination between community initiatives, which seek to enhance the physical and mental well being of local people of all ages.

- 6.2 Seek to enhance accessibility to and support such initiatives as:
- Local recreation programmes
 - Out of school programmes
 - Youth and elderly recreation facilities

Recommendation: That the Board support ongoing community usage of the St Martins Valley Tennis Club facilities.