

LEAF CLEARANCE

Purpose:

To ensure playing surface is kept clear of leaves.

To prevent accumulation of wet and rotting leaves on out-of-court areas and consequent moss growth. This is particularly important on the Lennox Street side of the courts which is permanently in shade during autumn and winter periods.

Equipment:

Drag mat)
Yard brush)----- Stored on wall at Lennox St end of Court 1
Snow shovel)
Wheel barrow Stored near Dean Park Crescent gate

Use of Drag mat

Users should be aware that this is a relatively expensive piece of equipment (~£600).

- The mat must be used the correct way up with the arrow on the pulling bar pointing upwards.
- Pull the mat behind you whilst walking at a brisk pace using the full length of the cord.
- As a general rule, empty the leaves from the mat onto the paving stones at the Club House side of the courts. This is done by shaking the mat, wet leaves may need to be brushed off.
- For heavy leaf coverage and when brushing all 4 courts, the leaves will need to be shaken off the mat after each double crossing. Repeat crossings over the same area may be required in these circumstances.
- Remove the collected leaves from the court area using the wheel barrow, the snow shovel can be used to pick up the leaf piles. Dump the leaves on the ivy covered ground near the Dean Park Crescent gates.

Areas close to the fence on the Lennox St side of the court

The court surface on the Lennox St side of the courts accumulates the greatest level of leaf fall. Leaves adjacent to the fence are difficult to remove with the drag mat. At times of heavy leaf fall the use of the yard brush is recommended. This should be done by dragging the brush towards you.

Role of gardeners

Spruce Garden services are scheduled to visit the club on Tuesdays at two-weekly intervals until the end of October and monthly from November to April. One of their tasks is to remove leaves from the courts and other areas of the grounds. Although they use leaf blowers for the rest of the site, they find the drag map more suitable for the court area. They remove the pile of dumped leaves beside the gate away from our site.