



# Press Release

For immediate release

9 November 2011

## **Tennis courts in Rothamsted Park brought up to Beacon status**

Redevelopment work to bring the tennis courts in Rothamsted Park, Harpenden is now close to being completed and they are set to be awarded 'Beacon' status by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and Tennis Foundation.

The courts will be awarded Beacon status, as part of the AEGON Parks Tennis programme in recognition of their high quality, affordable community tennis programmes, at an official opening on Saturday December 3.

To achieve Beacon status, facilities must offer access to quality, low cost coaching as well as regular competitions for all ages and abilities and the park joins 195 Beacon sites across the country to achieve the national accolade.

The three existing tennis courts are currently being resurfaced with all-weather tarmac and will be enclosed by fences, which will help bring them up to standard to accommodate a coaching programme.

Refurbishments began in early October and are due to finish around in mid-November with the work was made possible thanks to a £80,000 grant from the LTA, with support from Sport England, towards the total cost.

The funding has been provided as part of British Tennis' facilities strategy which has received substantial investment from Sport England. This makes an important contribution to the drive to increase tennis opportunities for people to participate, compete and get access to coaching at all levels of the game in communities nationwide.

AEGON Parks Tennis aims to increase community access to tennis in parks and communities nationwide. Delivered by the LTA and Tennis Foundation, AEGON Parks Tennis is a key programme in British tennis' drive to increase participation and grow tennis at all levels. The long-term aim is to have an AEGON Parks Tennis site acting as a centre of community tennis excellence in each of the local authority areas in Britain.





To find a playing partner, a local court or coach, register at [www.allplaytennis.com](http://www.allplaytennis.com)

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the national governing body for British tennis, which supports and governs the sport
- The Tennis Foundation is Britain's foremost tennis charity and works in close partnership with the LTA
- The LTA has contributed a grant of £80,000 to the cost of the redevelopment, supported by Whole Sport Plan funding from Sport England, with the club contributing the remainder
- Sport England is a major investor in British Tennis through the LTA, and supports the LTA's work to increase and sustain participation and identify and develop talent, including through substantial investment in facilities improvement
- Improving places where people play tennis is a major priority for British Tennis. All clubs receiving investment are required to be Tennis Clubmark accredited or working towards Tennis Clubmark, and are required to demonstrate increases in participation as a result of the investment
- AEGON Parks Tennis, delivered by the LTA in partnership with the Tennis Foundation, is helping to increase access to tennis in parks and local communities. AEGON Parks Tennis is part of British tennis' commitment to increase opportunities in the sport and grow the game at all levels
- AEGON is Lead Partner of British Tennis, and supports the game at all levels from grassroots programmes such as AEGON Schools Tennis and AEGON Parks Tennis, through to supporting British talent in the AEGON FutureStars programme and Team AEGON. It is also title sponsor for the AEGON Classic, International and Championships at Queen's Club. For further information visit [www.aegontennis.co.uk](http://www.aegontennis.co.uk)
- To find a playing partner, local court or coach please visit [www.allplaytennis.com](http://www.allplaytennis.com)
- For more information on the LTA and British tennis, visit: [www.lta.org.uk](http://www.lta.org.uk)
- For more information on the Tennis Foundation visit [www.tennisfoundation.org.uk](http://www.tennisfoundation.org.uk)

