

Club to host tennis competition league matches, tennis coaching sessions and tennis practice. Newly installed floodlighting will enable the courts to be used all year round.

As Norman comments it has been a challenging project, "We did it in the end! But it really was a challenge for our committee members getting the funding package together and ensuring we met the different outcomes required by each of the funders."

The Club recognised their existing courts were coming to the end of their life and major decisions had to be made, not only to allow the Club to continue to provide tennis facilities for the local community, but also to offer a higher standard of facility to meet the ever increasing Club membership, especially younger children.

Norman enthuses, "Now we can see the results of our hard work and it is making such a huge difference. With the old fashioned courts and no floodlights, we really didn't have a long-term future. We can offer a year round facility now and we are keen to see our exciting community facility maximised."

The upgraded courts will see the Club continue its role as the central hub for tennis in the Stepps area, allowing them to expand and develop their activities. This successful community Club has grown since having a membership of 70 members in 2007 to over

170 members in 2011. The Club has trebled their junior coaching programme and now provide a greater range of courses to suit children aged from 4 – 16 years. This programme will be further developed with having the new facilities. In addition, Stepps currently run professional coaching, Club competitions for seniors and juniors and participation in local tennis leagues.

Norman continues, "Our Club coach, Karen Christie has been very proactive in reaching out to our local community and has been developing close relationships with our local schools. Another huge benefit of our new facilities is that we are now able to participate in the local leagues."

The total project cost including fees and VAT was £184,000 with £84,000 from sportscotland, £30,000 from the Environmental Key Fund, £30,000 from Viridor Credits Scotland, £30,000 from the LTA and £10,000 from the Robertson Trust. In addition, North Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Leisure contributed funding of £10,000 to replace the Clubhouse roof and repair the exterior walls of the building.

Norman adds, "The Club is delighted to have received financial assistance from sportscotland and all the other key funders for this project. The award has not only helped to preserve, but will greatly enhance this important community facility allowing the

Club to expand and develop its activities ensuring that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in the sport of tennis."

Stepps hosted an Open Day early in June when current and potential new members were all invited to come along to see and try out the new facilities and find out more about the Club's future activities. This was a big day for the club as they celebrate a key development in their 105 year history.

As Norman sums up, "This is the time to celebrate an exciting, new start for Stepps. We are already seeing the benefits. We are seeing people playing late into the evening and we are attracting more young players into our coaching sessions. We have also launched our own website and have seen many more players at our Club nights. So come along and join in!"

HAVE A TASTER

Come along and join a Taster tennis session with our coach, Karen Christie or get more details on our family membership. Our Club Night on Wednesday from 6.30pm and Saturday from 2.00pm is open to senior members over 18. **For further details, visit our website www.stepstennis.co.uk**

Stepps Tennis Club is located on Lenzie Road within the Stepps Public Park in Glasgow.