

Orrong Park Tennis Centre Court Resurface February 2007

In its commitment to the quality of the tennis venues it operates, the Victorian Tennis Academy has just completed the resurfacing of the Orrong Park Tennis Centre En tout cas courts.

STAGE 1 – THE BASEWORKS



The process took almost 3 weeks, commencing with heavy labour of removing all the lines, en tout cas, nets, posts and other various debris from the courts.



The next project was the ground works. This involved laying several levels of various rock and soil. This process both provides an even playing surface and an excellent drainage system, meaning play will be possible on the courts almost immediately after any rain.

STAGE 2 – LAYING THE GRASS



It was fantastic to see the first “green grass” laid after almost two weeks of work on the court base. Synthetic Grass has many benefits as a surface. It is easier to maintain, is a more comfortable playing surface and most importantly is more environmentally friendly.



The extreme heat during the project presented tough working conditions. The court technicians were unable to lay the synthetic grass during the day as the glue used to join the courts dries too quickly in hot conditions. As a result they spent hours working deep into the night to ensure the project remained on target.

STAGE 3 - SANDING



The courts looked in immaculate condition once the synthetic grass had been laid. But at this stage they are still unplayable. Huge amounts of sand need to be poured into the pile to finish the job.



Court 3 is ready to play, fully sanded and new net posts inserted. Over 14 tonnes of sand is needed for every court, and this needs to be carefully worked into the pile to ensure an even, consistent surface. Over time, rain and careful grooming will create a perfect playing arena.

STAGE 4 – THE FINISHING TOUCHES



The courts were fully operational by Thursday of the 3rd week of the project.

Water Saving

Perhaps the major benefit of the entire project was the enormous water savings generated by replacing the en tout cas courts. With Victorian water levels falling from 97% in 1997 to 34% in 2007, water conservation is everyone in the community's responsibility.

Studies have shown that one en tout cas court can use considerably more water than a family of four in 12 months. The VTA estimates as much as ½ million litres will be saved each year as a result of the conversion. With so many tennis venues in Victoria using en tout cas courts – it is very important that the tennis industry sees to need to save water and seek alternative playing surfaces.

Many thanks to Sports Surfaces Australia – the contractors for the job – and the Staff of the Victorian Tennis Academy for their hard work.