

Horsham Table Tennis Club – Return to Play Facility

Access

Theme: Facilities/ Return to Play / COVID 19 / Clubs

Defining the Issue

One significant implication of the pandemic, and returning to play, is access to facilities. This case study explores Horsham Spinners Table Tennis Clubs' return to play after their two regular venues were unavailable for bookings due to COVID 19 and the steps taken to find an alternative facility.

Background Information

Horsham Spinners Table Tennis Club had 2 venues pre COVID 19, both in schools. One a big 9-table venue for tournaments and league matches and the other a small 2-table venue for group & 1-1 coaching sessions.

When Lockdown 1.0 ended and the Club were allowed to play again, neither of the two regular venues were available for external bookings due to fear of COVID cross-contamination. Both venues still remain unavailable

The Club contacted a number of the local schools where they run school table tennis clubs to see if they could use their venues, but they were also unavailable.

The Club started thinking about other venues in the area and identified a village hall very near to the smaller school club venue and enquired about making bookings.

At the time there were no other bookings at the village hall, therefore, the Club were able to book the venue at any time. When the regular bookings mostly resumed, they were still able to utilise the venue 4 nights a week for coaching & practice, plus at weekends for tournaments.



The Outcome

By securing an alternative venue the club sessions resumed after lockdown 1.0 and again after lockdown 2.0.

Horsham Spinners TTC were able to provide 2 hour coaching sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays, as well as a 2 hour practice session on Thursdays, plus small tournaments at weekends and 1-1 coaching sessions. Almost all of the club members returned to play after Lockdown 1.0, except a small number of players, who are more vulnerable to the virus.

The Club have also gained new members after Lockdown 1.0, mainly under 11s and created a new Thursday practice session, which had not existed before lockdown as Thursdays had previously been for league matches



The Impact

By finding an alternative venue the Club has been able to:

- Retain Club members in the game and have also gained new members, particularly under 11's.
- Had a positive effect on the Physical and Mental Health of players during the pandemic.

Key Learnings

1. Keep in touch with your facility hirer to check for any changes to your bookings.
2. If your venue is unavailable, identify possible venues in your local area that may be available (i.e. Village Hall, Churches, Scout Huts, Club Houses etc)
3. Make enquires as soon as you can to ensure the venue can facilitate your bookings.

Need Further Assistance?

If a registered Premier Club, contact your appointed Club Support Officer or email help@tabletennisengland.co.uk and we shall be in touch.



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