



Town nets court date

BERKHAMSTED is to a purpose-built indoor tennis centre, thanks to a massive £325,000 cash injection from the Lawn Tennis Association.

The Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club was one of 13 tennis clubs in Britain to benefit from a £4 million LTA money-pot committed to improve tennis facilities.

Work on the new £780,000 centre will start in November and it will be ready for play by March next year. Architects' drawings have already been released - pictured above.

Dacorum Borough Council also donated £10,000 into the development and the tennis club had to raise 10 per cent of the total monies needed.

Adding to the club's 12 outdoor courts, the finished centre will boast a tennis tent containing two acrylic courts for year-round use, five floodlit

courts and a dedicated kids' zone. The kids' zone will be a practice area where young players can practice ball skills and swings on a half-sized court.

The local football club will also benefit because it will be able to share a multi-sport and fitness training area. All facilities will be available to local schools.

Club chairman Steve Elms said: "The new centre will act as a hub for the smaller clubs in the area. They will send their players here and we will take them on to the next level."

The club has 1,000 members and an overwhelming need for indoor facilities because early evenings in winter and bad weather prevent play.

The new indoor facility will give it the opportunity to play tennis regardless of the weather and extend the opening times for the club.