

NEWS

>> FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND SPORT

www.getwestlondon.co.uk

Neighbours rally to save their tennis club

Ex-member's plea: 'Don't sell, we can restart club'

by Ian Proctor

ian.proctor@trinitymirror.com

NEIGHBOURS trying to persuade trustees to halt the sale of a defunct tennis club claim there is enough interest to restart activities.

Families living near North Harrow Tennis Club, off Cumberland Road in North Harrow, learned in March that offers were being invited for the site, which boasts three courts – resurfaced with a National Lottery grant in the mid-1990s – and a clubhouse.

The proceeds of any disposal will be shared between players who were

members for at least five years and it is the task of the two remaining trustees, Diane Owen and Joy Hardy, to trace those who qualify for a share of the possible windfall.

Alkesh Patel, an IT worker of Westmorland Road whose garden backs onto the club, said: “I belonged to the club for 40-something years and I have been worried over the last two years about a lack of access and not being able to get hold of the trustees. We weren’t notified about the sale and it’s not a road we want to go down.

“I have got 200 neighbours who are willing to pay £50 to join – that’s already £10,000. Some are



ex-members and some new. We’ve got some really committed people who are willing to volunteer.”

The trustees applied to the Land Registry to transfer the ownership of the club into their name in order to facilitate the sale, as they are fully entitled to do, although Mr Patel has formally objected and a decision is due to be made today (Thursday).

Stanley Beckett, a solicitor representing the trustees, said: “While the club had active members, the facilities were kept in good repair and during the

course of last year the club spent £400 employing a gardener to tidy the grounds. The trustees have received no offer of assistance from local residents and none have made themselves known to the trustees to volunteer their services. In fact, residents complained when security lights were installed.

“Every effort has been made to maintain the membership of the club but regrettably the membership of the club has been in decline for some period of time due to non-renewal of memberships, members moving away from the area and competition from other tennis clubs in the area which can offer better facilities.”

Mr Patel has started a petition to save the club and has organised a meeting for interested tennis players this evening at 8pm at Savoy Court Community Centre in Savoy Court, North Harrow.

■ **CLUB'S SOS:** (Above and right) Petitioners are trying to stop the sale of the land and to restart the club

Photo by Rob Bourne
www.buyaphototms.co.uk

NL20149443

