

# THE COURT

by Alistair Higham from 'Off The Frame -  
The Lighter Side of Tennis'

[www.offtheframe.co.uk](http://www.offtheframe.co.uk)

*It's not exactly fast or slow,  
Not grass, nor hard, nor clay,  
It's not that strictly by the rules,  
It's officially fit for play.*

*It's a different type of hard court,  
Been repaired from patch to patch,  
With different types of tarmac,  
For a different type of match.*

*Its' net can let a ball through,  
A basketball in fact,  
Its' fence is kind of shipwrecked,  
Its' lines are mostly cracked.*

*It suits my one-off hit-miss game,  
And my mis-matched patchwork kit,  
It's weathered like my chipped return  
And my crosscourt drop miss-hit.*

*And it suit all kinds of game styles,  
If you choose your place to play,  
The far back downhill backhand court,  
Is where you'll find the clay.*

*There's clumps of grass in the service box,  
If it's chip-charge in your heart,  
Though if you have an all-court game,  
You'll not know where to start.*

*You may prefer the uphill end,  
Depending on the rain,  
Coz the cracks around your service line,  
Give the stream a place to drain.*

*It's at its' best in the wind and rain,  
Against a player who plays indoors,  
Who's never seen this type of court,  
With so many different floors,*

*A player with a silky swing path,  
Who prefers a bounce that's true,  
Who finds it hard to time the ball,  
Where the tree roots' breaking through.*

*Hit that patch in the service box,  
For a sure-fire clean-roll ace;  
Hit the moss up by the baseline,  
Then watch your opponent's face.*

*It favours those who view it,  
With an eye for a lucky patch,  
Whose favourite bounce is bounceback,  
Who has a plan to hatch*

*It'll give you hope of turning points,  
When your back's against the wall,  
A lucky bounce escape route,  
From a last-ditch hacked-back ball.*

*A chance to turn the tables,  
To turn the match around,  
From a floaty flicked-back flightpath,  
That falls on stoney ground.*

*So look for the court that's overgrown,  
With a net that's wearing thin,  
Challenge those that play indoors  
And plan your greatest win*

