

No. 01

POSITION	25.34°N 55.52°E
SETTING	Outdoor · West / sea
SURFACE	Blue turf, 8mm
BEST HOUR	The last 90 minutes of light
WIND	Onshore, 8kt
LIGHT	Floodlit until midnight

THE FILE

This is the court the club is built around. It faces west over the water, which means that for most of the day it is simply a good court, and for the last ninety minutes of light it is the best place to stand in the emirate. The sun drops behind the back glass, the surface goes from blue to something closer to slate, and the temperature falls off a cliff in the pleasant direction.

Be honest with yourself about the wind. It comes onshore most evenings at about eight knots and it will move a lob – not much, but enough to make the second one embarrassing. Play the wall instead; it gives the ball back.

The far panel has a chip in the top-left corner that nobody has replaced, so in the last half hour the light comes through at an angle and everyone complains about it. We count it as a feature. If you want the sunset slot, book it midweek for the weekend – Tuesday is usually safe. Sunday mornings are the quiet way in: good light by seven, nobody racing you for it. Bring a jacket for after.