

# Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club

*This document has been produced to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club. It notes some points made in the Minute Books of the Club during its first 40 years.*

## **14<sup>th</sup> July 1948 – Annual General Meeting**

Minutes no longer available.

## **27<sup>th</sup> January 1949 – General & Social Committee Meeting**

Minutes no longer available.

## **30<sup>th</sup> March 1949 – Annual General Meeting**

Two courts were to be laid on the Lant Recreation Ground. If there was no hold up in supplies, then they should be ready for the first week in May.

The balance of the Club was £23 0s 6d.

The Rules of the Club were agreed. The Chairman proposed a new rule to be considered at next year's AGM: "The Chairman of the Club may only hold office for one year and must not stand for re-election."

## **9<sup>th</sup> May 1949 – General & Social Committee**

Courts will be completed on Wednesday or Thursday [11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>] this week.

Opening Ceremony fixed for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Arrangements left to Secretary and Treasurer to sort, spending up to the sum of £5. Secretary had high hopes that the following would play exhibition games: Howard Walton (Davis Cup), W. J. Moss (English International), A J Cooper (Warwickshire County Champion), Eric Branscombe and J J Fitzpatrick (Warwick County Players). Invitations to be sent to all that had indicated a desire to become a member and the Women's Institute and British Legion to be informed.

A trial period of two months during which the Club would supply the balls for play. Used balls from the Edgbaston Tournament to be purchased for the purpose.

The courts to be made available for school children for one hour on one morning per week at a charge of 4/- (four shillings), as long as the children were supervised.

## **20<sup>th</sup> July 1949 – General & Social Committee**

Minutes no longer available.

## **9<sup>th</sup> March 1950 – General & Social Committee**

Accepted the proposed increase in rent from the Lant Trust for the courts. New rent was £55 per annum. [Previous rent was £40 per annum.]

## **27<sup>th</sup> March 1950 – Annual General Meeting**

Blessed with a remarkable season of good weather and the courts had been fully occupied.

New Rule was agreed: "The retiring Chairman should not stand for re-election."

If accepted by the Grounds Committee, the Chairman and Secretary should represent the Club.

## **18<sup>th</sup> May 1950 – General & Social Committee**

It was agreed to leave the subject of League Tennis for the present season. However, a friendly game against Earlsdon Tennis Club would be arranged.

The necessary articles are to be bought for providing teas and refreshments.

The supply of tennis balls, the ball levy and the application of Rule 10 [Senior members to take precedence over Junior members at certain stated times] was to be monitored.

## **17<sup>th</sup> July 1950 – General & Social Committee**

Application for membership from outside the parish was considered and four new members were admitted.

It was agreed to run an American Tournament at the first convenient date.

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### **9<sup>th</sup> August 1950 – General & Social Committee**

The Secretary was instructed to write to members with outstanding payments, whilst Miss Greenway was granted a rebate because she was leaving the district.

### **29<sup>th</sup> March 1951 – Annual General Meeting**

The Treasurer emphasised the high expense caused by the supplying of tennis balls and urged members to retrieve at once any balls knocked out of court during play.

It was agreed to write to the Grounds Committee and ask for two representatives on the Grounds Committee.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1951 – General & Social Committee**

A list of people who still owed subscriptions was read out. Letters will be addressed to all such members asking for the various payments.

### **7<sup>th</sup> February 1952 – General & Social Committee**

Those members that did not make use of the courts during 1951 would be allowed to pay the non-membership playing fee. A further letter would be sent to those that had not responded to the previous reminder, which amounted to £20 delayed or lost income.

The lady members of the Committee undertook to hold a Jumble Sale for the benefit of Club funds.

### **24<sup>th</sup> March 1952 – Annual General Meeting**

Mr Ritch chaired the meeting due to the non-arrival of Mr Hicks.

Both the Secretary and Treasurer spoke of the difficulties and delay caused by certain members not paying their subscriptions by the due date.

Amendments agreed to Rule 5, changing May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>; and Rule 6, inserting "in writing" before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

It was agreed to invite W J Moss, official coach of the WLTA during a Saturday in June and the Club tournament should be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **21<sup>st</sup> April 1952 – General & Social Committee**

It was agreed to hire the Balsall Institute on the afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup> June in the event of the weather being unsuitable for the coaching session out of doors.

### **11<sup>th</sup> June 1952 – General & Social Committee**

Arrangements were discussed regarding taking W J Moss to lunch before his coaching session and the tournament to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

A dance should be arranged by the Social Secretary for on or about 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **16<sup>th</sup> September 1952 – General & Social Committee**

Minutes no longer available.

### **25<sup>th</sup> January 1953 – General & Social Committee**

The Jumble Sale is to be postponed.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> March 1953 – Annual General Meeting**

There was a small balance of £7 on the season's work, with a slightly reduced membership.

Miss A Whitehouse proposed that Mr Williams be made an honorary member of the Club, but Mr Williams said that he would prefer to pay his subscriptions until such time that the Club was on a sound financial basis.

### **30<sup>th</sup> March 1953 – General & Social Committee**

It was decided that the rules should be displayed on the courts and that the rule books were dispensed with. Instead, a receipt would be given for the yearly subscription.

A circular from the Birmingham Gazette concerning their tournament should be displayed on the notice-board.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Money raising initiatives included a sweep on the Derby; monthly whist drives commencing in September; a raffle and dances.

W Moss was to be invited to return for a coaching session again, with a charge of 2/- to cover his fee.

It was proposed to hold a monthly tournament with the person with the best average at the end of the season receiving a prize.

### **27<sup>th</sup> April 1953 – General & Social Committee**

It was decided to depict the history of tennis by having several members dressed in different costumes for the Coronation pageant.

Two more locks had to be purchased to replace the ones that had broken or disappeared. How to best preserve the nets was also discussed, but nothing concrete could be decided upon.

The RAF base [at Honiley] had asked if the men at the camp could use the courts. It was agreed that they could join at a special rate.

### **28<sup>th</sup> September 1953 – General & Social Committee**

There was £40 still due in outstanding subscriptions. A circular was to be sent to all members who had not paid.

### **12<sup>th</sup> October 1953 – General & Social Committee**

The next whist drive was to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the Village Institute. Tickets would be 2/-. Mr Nott was to be asked to be MC, whilst Miss Hardy and Miss Whitehouse volunteered to design posters to advertise the event. Some of those present volunteered to give raffle prizes.

### **10<sup>th</sup> November 1953 – General & Social Committee**

Ticket sellers to inform the Social Secretary how many to cater for at the whist drive.

### **26<sup>th</sup> March 1954 – Annual General Meeting**

The visit of W. J. Moss last year had not been very well supported because of the very poor weather.

There had been two successful American Tournaments held along with a whist drive.

The Treasurer's report showed an improvement on last year's report.

As Mr Collis was about to do his National Service, it was agreed that he should be an honorary member during that service.

Mr Schnabel produced some drawings of the proposed shelter. The Committee were asked to look at the feasibility of erecting it in the very near future.

### **10<sup>th</sup> July 1954 – General & Social Committee**

The Social Secretary was asked to arrange to play matches against neighbouring clubs.

It was noted that the new covered nylon ball was proving its worth.

Several members were not likely to make use of the courts during the season, it was agreed that they could apply to the Committee for a reduced fee.

### **4<sup>th</sup> November 1954 – General & Social Committee**

Minutes no longer available.

### **29<sup>th</sup> March 1955 – Annual General Meeting**

It had been a very disappointing season for weather conditions. Membership had not improved very much, but several new Junior members had joined, which was a good sign.

The balance at the bank was £57 8s 3d.

Enquiries should be made about the erection of a small pavilion near to the courts.

It was agreed to get keys for the courts and any member could purchase one for their use.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> May 1955 – General & Social Committee**

Dates were confirmed for playing friendly matches, the teams were selected and arrangements made for the provision of refreshments.

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## **12<sup>th</sup> April 1956 – Annual General Meeting**

A selection committee was formed to arrange friendly matches and nominate team captains.

Mr Ritch and Mr Williams were to investigate the cost of a pavilion.

## **18<sup>th</sup> April 1957 – Annual General Meeting**

Efforts to be made to provide a small hut dressing room.

## **13<sup>th</sup> June 1957 – General & Social Committee**

Mrs Jagger gave views on her visit to the Chairman regarding his letter of resignation. It was decided to leave matters on the table for the time being.

It was agreed to paint lines and surface courts with grey green grit, which was now to hand.

## **11<sup>th</sup> December 1957 – General & Social Committee**

Actions to be taken with regard to late subscriptions were agreed.

## **19<sup>th</sup> June 1958 – Annual General Meeting**

The Treasurer reported that the balance in hand was £46 0s 6d.

A Pavilion Fund Committee was formed, comprising Mrs Jagger, Mr J Pyle, Mr A Ritch and Mr E T Williams. [This was for the Lant Grounds.]

The Secretary was asked to look at the supply of Calor gas cylinders in return for the use made of the cricket club's equipment.

## **10<sup>th</sup> April 1959 – General & Social Committee**

Discussions took place about the financial position of the Club.

## **10<sup>th</sup> April 1959 – Annual General Meeting**

There had been a very serious decline in funds and membership. Mr E T Williams' letter of resignation as Secretary and Membership was accepted with regret.

Mr D Gee replaced Mr J Pyle on the Pavilion Fund Committee.

The Rules were amended so that new members did not have to pay a membership fee. A discount of five shillings would also be given for subscriptions paid before end of May.

The Club would supply balls for May, June and July then the position would be reviewed.

Notices would be placed in the Post Office and at the Tennis Courts seeking new members.

## **23<sup>rd</sup> April 1959 – General Committee**

Methods were discussed for recruiting new members, including delivering leaflets to certain streets.

It was decided to have a President and Vice Presidents. Thirty five persons were identified to be invited to be Vice Presidents. [Ten accepted]

An open invitation tournament was to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> June and a Junior tournament on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

It was accepted that the Club would assist in the Field Day and enter a tableau. A sub-committee of Mr Rich, Mr Harman, Mrs Schnabel, Brenda Hardy, Christine Garlick, Jane Garlick and Catherine Empson was formed.

A Ladies Committee was formed to organise some Sunday Teas.

A Junior representatives committee was also formed.

The offer of a small summer house by Mr & Mrs Schnabel was gratefully accepted.

Holiday membership was fixed at 10/-, with visitors fees at 1/- for weekdays and 2/- at weekends.

## **9<sup>th</sup> June 1959 – General Committee**

It was agreed that the waiters at the White Horse Hotel could pay 30/- on the understanding that they only played mornings and did not use the Senior Balls.

Decided to get the net tape repaired and buy a new net if it was less than £2. [The accounts state that the net repair was £1 19s 3d and the new net was £7 2s 6d.]

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The hut to be provided with doors as long as they cost no more than £5 or so. [The accounts identify the purchase of hardboard and gift token for 9/-.]

### **27<sup>th</sup> January 1960 – General Committee**

The Club was about £90 in credit. A suggestion by the Secretary that the Club could buy a chalet with the funds was rejected. The Secretary expressed his keen disappointment at this decision.

The proposed Pavilion Plan for the Lant grounds was shown. A sub-committee was formed to give suggestions to the Lant Grounds Committee. It was suggested that cedar would be an excellent timber to use.

The unsatisfactory state of the courts was to be brought to the notice of the Field Grounds Committee.

### **30<sup>th</sup> March 1960 – Annual General Meeting**

The balance sheet was at £94 compared with approximately £21 in 1959.

The Secretary's report (written out in the Minute Book) contrasted the membership at the last AGM with this year's. There was an improved Club spirit, shown by the backing for the events – tableau in the carnival procession, dance and rummage sale.

The Club had requested a reduction in Rent to the Lant Trust from £55 to £25, but agreed to pay £45.

The Secretary (Eric Booen) strongly argued for the purchase of a chalet to replace the temporary hut that had been supplied by Mr & Mrs Schnabel. He stated that he would not seek re-election if his suggestion was not adopted. After much discussion, it was agreed to purchase a new chalet hut for no more than £80.

### **29<sup>th</sup> March 1961 – Annual General Meeting**

The pavilion had been bought and erected at a cost of approximately £90. [The Accounts refer to Pavilion at £15 0s 0d and Repairs to pavilion of £74 10s 7d]. Mention was made of the benefit – both in looks and in use the new tennis pavilion would give to the Club. [Planning permission was granted by Meriden Rural District Council on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1960 and by Warwickshire County Council on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1960 for a period of 5 years, unless extended. Mr Schnabel submitted the application.]

Mr Lewin was made an honorary Vice President. [A friend of Joan Booen, he had donated the black and white pavilion.]

The balance at the bank was £69 16s 5d compared with £94 11s 8d at the commencement of the year.

The courts needed re-surfacing, but the £500 estimated by En Tout-Cas seemed rather too much.

A Square Dance had been arranged by the Junior Section. It was agreed to go ahead with it, but in future, the Committee needed to give its consent for such activities to take place.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> April 1962 – Annual General Meeting**

A discrepancy between the balance in the previous year's minutes and the Accounts was explained.

The Club had been criticised for not keeping the boundaries free of grass. It was suggested that a man be employed at £10, if possible, per season to do lines and keep the courts free of weeds.

The Lant Pavilion had been erected and furnished with chairs, tables, kitchen equipment and electric heaters from £185 held in the Pavilion Fund.

A key to the large pavilion was to be kept in the small pavilion with the Secretary holding a spare.

It was agreed to allow Miss B. Hardy to become a Senior member.

It was suggested to dedicate Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons to Seniors and Wednesday evenings to Juniors, with the rest of the time for both Seniors and Juniors.

It was decided to affiliate to the Warwickshire LTA.

### **19<sup>th</sup> March 1963 – Annual General Meeting**

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Despite the poor weather, which prevailed for most of the summer, the Club had a very successful season from the playing point of view.

The standard of tennis was at its highest level so far. Mixed matches were played against The Grove (Coventry), Warwick NALGO and Rowington and the men against Hearsall, Coventry Education Department and Kenilworth. The men won four, lost two and drew three matches.

Whilst there had been a nett increase of 4 Senior members there had been a reduction of 11 Junior members.

The social events had been poorly attended by the members, despite some first class organisation. The Club owed a great deal to Brenda Hardy and John Green for all the work that they had put in.

It was agreed to hold a dance to raise funds, although it was acknowledged that most members would not want to attend, but they were expected to help with the arrangements.

The Lant Trust had agreed to the re-surfacing of the courts.

A Sports Association had been formed to run the large pavilion. The Tennis Club were criticised for not attending the weekly Bingo Sessions.

A new category of membership for non-playing members was created at 10/6 per annum.

A presentation was made to Alex and Phyl Ritch of a table cigarette lighter on behalf of the members for their services to the Club because they were retiring to the south coast.

### **9<sup>th</sup> April 1963 – General Committee**

The courts were being resurfaced. The Secretary was authorised to request the contractors to fit thermoplastic lines at the expense of the committee. A payment was to be offered to the Lant Grounds Committee towards the re-surfacing. An American tournament was to be held to mark the re-opening of the courts with the President and Vice Presidents invited to attend.

The feasibility of obtaining a table tennis was to be explored.

A proposal made at the AGM that members playing matches should pay a match fee was dropped.

The Rule regarding Vice Presidents' subscriptions was to be clarified to be at their own discretion.

Additional rules for under 16 year olds were to be issued, covering access to the tennis pavilion key from three local key holders. The outside toilet key was held in the tennis pavilion. Children were not permitted in the large pavilion unless accompanied by an over 16 year old. Parents were to accept responsibility for their children's behaviour when signing the application form. Juniors to take precedence between 4:00 and 6:30pm in addition to Wednesday evenings.

### **21<sup>st</sup> May 1963 – General Committee**

The courts had been completed with no additional cost for the thermoplastic lines. However, there were issues that needed rectifying, including a ridge by the service line and a bump on the outside line of number 1 court and a crack near the net post.

The Lant Grounds Committee's proposal that the Tennis Club make two £50 payments this year and next year towards the resurfaced court was accepted. The Lant Grounds Committee would fund the other £100 of the cost.

A large notice was to be posted calling attention to the rules regarding wearing tennis shoes and the penalties for breaching.

A new net and drag brush had been ordered and delivered.

Two twenty minute tennis coaching films were to be shown in the large pavilion, with two showings of each film.

28 new members had joined so far, therefore it was agreed not to advertise more widely than the notices already displayed in several Post Offices.

The Secretary was asked to investigate the cost of a wooden practice wall.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

John Green asked that small children that were brought to the Club should be kept under control by their parents and where practical, not allowed on the courts.

A working party was to be arranged to paint the outside of the tennis pavilion.

### **16<sup>th</sup> July 1963 – General Committee**

Some repairs had taken place on the resurfaced courts, but the crack by the net post was to be left until the autumn. In the meantime, the net band was removed to prevent further strain on the post.

The windows to the tennis pavilion were to be screwed down to prevent people getting in.

A subscription reduction of 10/- was to be offered to new members who joined late in the season, as long as they were new to the district.

A request on behalf of Junior members to use the large pavilion for informal social occasions was considered and rejected. A notice was to be posted confirming the restrictions in place.

Due to the increase in membership, the Secretary was asked to make tentative enquiries about an additional tennis court being laid down.

### **4<sup>th</sup> October 1963 – General Committee**

Durolas Ltd, the contractor, was to repair the large crack by the net post at the end of October.

The windows in the tennis pavilion had been screwed down but a pane of glass was missing.

John Summers and Tony Gedney from Grove Tennis Club, Coventry had coached the Juniors on Wednesday evenings from the end of July. The sessions had proved very successful. In appreciation, they were sent a 10/6 book token each and a complimentary ticket for the forthcoming Dance.

The Trustees inspection had again raised the issue of weeds growing along the netting [fence]. They suggested that the Tennis Club plant flowers along the approach road, but this was not accepted.

About 20 cars had entered the treasure hunt organised by John Green and Brenda Hardy and about 100 people attended the following barbecue organised by Mr and Mrs Schnabel.

Durolas Ltd had estimated £1,000 for building one court and £1,400 for two courts. The Trustees had suggested that the Tennis Club enquire about grants. The LTA was to be contacted for advice.

### **12<sup>th</sup> November 1963 – General Committee**

The weeding had still not been done. The men at one of the Sunday morning tennis sessions should carry out the weeding and then apply Weedex at a subsequent date.

83 tickets were sold for the Dance, when we had committed to 90. However, a profit of £11 6s 0d had been made. Difficulty had been experienced in obtaining someone to run the bar. This would need special consideration at any similar events in the future.

A formal approach to the Trustees regarding a new court was to be made.

A further request for a table tennis table in the large pavilion was to be made to the Sports Association.

### **28<sup>th</sup> January 1964 – General Committee**

Weeding, replacement of pane of glass and tennis court repair had all not been actioned.

The Sports Association Committee had rejected the idea of a table tennis in the large pavilion and suggested that the Heart of England School was contacted about it instead.

In the event of a limitation on the number of members the following season, those who had still not paid, despite completing an application form, would not receive priority.

The Lant Trustees had given permission for land to be made available for the construction of one or two courts adjacent to the existing courts, subject to being consulted on all material aspects, but they would not make any financial contribution. A fund was to be created for the new courts and a proposal was to be made at the AGM to raise subscriptions along with further fundraising.

### **21<sup>st</sup> February 1964 – Annual General Meeting**

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

A series of matches had been held against other clubs. Three were won; seven were lost; one drawn and one abandoned. Three Junior matches had also been held.

The Club's balance was now £161 2s 10d.

A special deposit account was to be opened for a fund for new courts. The Secretary was to assess funding and loans from the Department of Education and Science and the LTA respectively.

The Rules were revised with the following: AGM to be held in February; the 5/- reduction in subscriptions for prompt payment was to be scrapped; minimum age for membership to be reduced from 13 to 11; Wednesday afternoons to be reserved for ladies only, although Juniors can play during holidays if a court is vacant; and membership to be restricted to 70 Seniors and 35 Juniors.

If there was a waiting list, members that had not paid by 31<sup>st</sup> May would be suspended.

Amendments were made to court priorities including Juniors playing on Saturday mornings and Seniors moving from Saturday evenings to Saturday afternoons.

### **13<sup>th</sup> March 1964 – General Committee**

Two sub-committees were formed. One was to deal with the organisations in relation to the proposed new courts and the other to hold special events to raise money for the courts.

An American Tournament was to be held on the last Saturday of each month with an entrance fee of 2/6. The winners would each receive 5/- and the runners-up 2/6. Over 16s only to be invited to play.

Keys needed to be recovered from ex-Club members.

### **7<sup>th</sup> July 1964 – General Committee**

The pane of glass had finally been replaced and the weeding done. Some preparatory work had been done with respect to painting the pavilion.

A professional coach had attended on a Sunday to coach Juniors and this had been a success.

A letter from the Department of Education via the Warwickshire Playing Fields Association had been forwarded to the Lant Trustees to see if they could find an acceptable way of qualifying for a grant.

The Deposit account for the new courts stood at £153 1s 5d. It was agreed to transfer £150 of the Club's balance of £192 3s 5d to this account.

### **16<sup>th</sup> October 1964 – General Committee**

The Lant Trustees had rejected the two proposals from the Department of Education that would have allowed a 50% grant towards the cost of the additional courts. However, the Lant Trustees might feel justified in making a substantial payment towards the cost of a court. The Secretary was asked to obtain estimates for an additional court and submit these to the Lant Trustees.

On a majority vote, it was decided not to seek to enter a team in the Coventry and District League.

Gift tokens of 15/- each were to be sent to John Summers and Tony Gedney in appreciation of their coaching of Junior members on Wednesday evenings.

### **21<sup>st</sup> December 1964 – General Committee**

Three estimates had been sent to the Lant Trustees. On 10<sup>th</sup> December the Lant Trustees had agreed in principle to fund half the cost of one court and had accepted the estimate from Durolas Contractors Ltd, subject to two matters that needed clearing up. The Committee decided to recommend the standard Premix porous non-attention type of finish over the cheaper gypsum finish, partly because all three courts would be the same surface. The Committee also agreed with the Lant Trustees request to put money aside each year for court resurfacing, although this may be achieved by varying the amount paid to the Lant Grounds Committee each year.

Because a third court would be available, it was agreed to submit a provisional application to join the Coventry and District League, subject to approval at the AGM.

### **10<sup>th</sup> March 1965 – General Committee**

Some minor repairs were needed to the pavilion.



## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

### **17<sup>th</sup> March 1965 – Annual General Meeting**

The Secretary acknowledged that the Committees put a lot of time and effort into the running of the Club and he hoped that other members would help with the weeding and the maintenance of the pavilion. It was agreed to paint the pavilion with a working party rather than employ a contractor. Members also agreed to help with brushing courts and weeding the surrounds as required.

An additional court had been constructed and should be ready for use in early April. We still needed to raise £100 to meet the Club's share of the cost. There was £351 1s 8d in the deposit account.

Some amendments to the Rules were agreed, including: Chairmen may serve for more than one year; the member must be present when introducing a visitor to the Club; a visitor can attend 6 times rather than 4 times; balls to be provided all year round; tennis attire to be worn from 1<sup>st</sup> April instead of 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September.

The limit on the number of members to be increased to 90 Seniors and 40 Juniors.

A proposal to introduce a family member category was rejected because of the need to raise funds.

### **18<sup>th</sup> March 1966 – Annual General Meeting**

It was noted that most tennis clubs are declining in membership. As a result of an increase in Junior members, we had seen a slight overall increase.

After causing some concern in May, when the very hot weather made it soft, the new court had proved a great asset to the Club.

There had been a disappointing response to the Dinner Dance and Car Rally. It was agreed that further such events would not be arranged unless the Committee were satisfied that the membership would support them.

It was suggested that, rather than pay £75 each year to the Lant Grounds Committee to be set aside for resurfacing the courts, the Tennis Club retain the funds in their account for the purpose.

For the second year running, Mr McCoy requested to stand down as Secretary, but again, offers of assistance persuaded him to continue. Mrs Armstrong was appointed Assistant Secretary.

The limit on the number of Senior members to remain at 90 with the Juniors increasing to 50.

### **16<sup>th</sup> March 1967 – Annual General Meeting**

An order had been placed with Durolas Ltd to improve the condition of Courts 1 and 2, mainly with a top dressing. This was to be funded from the maintenance contribution supplied to the Lant Grounds Committee.

After further complaints from the Sports Association, it was reiterated to them that Tennis Club members did not wish to participate in or assist with the Bingo evenings. It was agreed to pay the Sports Association £10 each year in lieu of such attendance and assistance. It was suggested that the Hockey Club should also contribute in this manner.

Clarification was to be sought from the Sports Association as to whether member's children could play on the Field whilst their parents were participating in a sports activity.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> June 1967 – General Committee**

Mr Griffin had been arranged to carry out Junior coaching on 21<sup>st</sup> July. In addition, Mr Dickens, Mrs Booen and Mrs McCoy had helped organise some coaching on Wednesdays.

The Secretary asked for the cooperation of the Committee Members in enforcing the Rules. In particular, examples of breaches by Junior members had included: not playing in whites; not adhering strictly to the times; not using the correct balls or retrieving them. The Secretary's request was noted but there were differences of opinion as to the responsibilities of a Committee Member.

The Tennis Pavilion was frequently untidy. The Social Committee was asked to ensure that volunteers kept it tidy.

A Trustees inspection was about to be held, they were to be informed that the weeds would be promptly addressed by a working party.

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Durolas had top dressed the courts, re-marked the lines and painted the metal fence posts.

It was proposed that a joint signatory deposit account be set up with the Grounds Committee for the purpose of maintaining the courts.

It was agreed that Junior members could be promoted to Senior membership by a sub-committee. This would give them access to Senior times and balls at a special subscription rate of 35/-. Four present Junior members were recommended for such promotion.

Mr and Mrs Armstrong were due to leave the district in August. Mrs G Davies would temporarily take on their roles as Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.

Mr Dickens proposed that at a future Committee Meeting consideration should be given to entering a men's and ladies team into the Coventry and District League.

### **6th December 1967 – General Committee**

After an approach from the Coventry and District League, it was agreed to enter one men's team and one ladies' team into the League. Men to play home matches on Mondays and ladies on Fridays.

### **8th March 1968 – Annual General Meeting**

The Committee were not satisfied with the drainage properties of Courts 1 and 2 since the work that was undertaken by Durolas Ltd. A sub-committee had been appointed to progress.

Miss J Whitehouse, who was on the Social Committee, was also made an Honorary Vice President.

### **17th July 1968 – General Committee**

A £75 payment was to be made to the joint account. There was a potential for income tax to be paid on the deposit account.

The Lant Grounds Committee had asked that no members of the public (adults or children) were allowed on to the Fields except as a spectator of organised matches. Some Junior members were breaching this along with several other Rules. Notices were to be posted stating that the tennis court enclosure was for the use of Tennis Club members only.

A reduced subscription was agreed for reduced play by a member following an accident.

Again, the dissatisfaction of the drainage properties of the courts was to be progressed with Durolas via the Lant Trustees.

### **2nd October 1968 – General Committee**

An American Tournament had been arranged for the Juniors with an entry of 28. Success of Juniors in open tournaments was reported along with the actions taken by the Chairman and Secretary regarding some Juniors breaching the Rules.

A former member had passed her key on to her son (a Junior member). A decision about whether to change the locks and issue new keys was deferred.

The men's team had won the championship for Division V. Four inscribed shields would be presented to the team by the league. The Club would buy an additional two shields for the team. Two men's teams and one ladies team would be entered next year.

Letters were to be sent to the Cricket Club and Football Club about not damaging the netting [fence] that surrounded the courts with their balls.

It was agreed to hold a Buffet Dance at St Peters Hall rather than a Dinner Dance this year.

### **21st February 1969 – General Committee**

The Buffet Dance had been a great success with all tickets sold. Requests had been made to repeat the event.

Philip [redacted], (a promoted Junior) was to be issued with a final warning about his behaviour at the courts.

Attempts were still being made to persuade Durolas to provide mopping up equipment, so far without success. It was agreed that a final attempt be made to obtain some redress.

# Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club

## **21<sup>st</sup> March 1969 – Annual General Meeting**

It was reported that a constitution for the Sports Association had been agreed.

The limit on Junior members was increased to 60.

Two of the courts [1 and 2] continue to give trouble through waterlogging.

## **7<sup>th</sup> July 1969 – General Committee**

The new noticeboards had still not been made. The Chairman would pursue.

The matter of redress from Durolas was dropped. En Tout-Cas had made some costed proposals on a way forward. It was agreed to ask the Lant Trust to consider having Courts 1 and 2 resurfaced with grey-green bitumous. The Club hoped that they could raise half of the expected £1,200 cost.

It was envisaged that it should be recommended to raise the subscriptions at the next AGM, in order to provide more realistic contributions for future maintenance and resurfacing work.

The Tennis Pavilion was in a very neglected state. Several actions were agreed to remedy.

Mr McCoy had continued to act as Honorary Secretary in the absence of any successor.

The courts needed to be monitored over the school holidays when there were concerns over the conduct of certain Junior members.

## **27<sup>th</sup> February 1970 – General Committee**

The Lant Trustees and Grounds Committee had agreed to the proposed resurfacing. En Tout-Cas had started the works and expected to conclude before the start of the season. Further minor works were being carried out including installing 14 posts for the netting and repair of Court 3's surface.

Mr McCoy reminded the meeting that he had resigned at the previous AGM and under no circumstances was he prepared to continue acting as Honorary Secretary.

The annual donation to the Lant Grounds Committee (in lieu of rent) was to be increased by 50%, as it was for all the four clubs. This was from £45 to £67 10s 0d.

Whilst some of the agreed actions had taken place, the Tennis Pavilion was still in a bad state of repair and decoration. It was also in a dirty and untidy state. Money would need to be spent to remedy this along with working parties.

## **20<sup>th</sup> March 1970 – Annual General Meeting**

The ladies team had won Division III, with the loss of one match; the men's first team had won Division IV, winning all their 14 matches; whilst the men's second team played in Division V. Peter McCoy had played at Junior Wimbledon.

As in previous years, Junior coaching had continued on Wednesday evenings, supported by Mrs Booen, Mrs Tillin and Mr Dickens, with Mr R Griffin from Warwickshire LTA coaching on two Sundays.

The Secretary reported that, whilst he had no regrets about the policy of encouraging youngsters to join, the Club had to face the fact that many of them were presenting problems. Greater supervision of them is now required, perhaps with a Committee Member acting as a Junior Liaison Officer.

It was agreed to reduce the Intermediate age band from 18-20 to 17-20.

The Rules were amended to remove the specific references to "ladies" on Wednesday afternoons and "men" on Sunday mornings. Both to be replaced with "Senior members".

It was suggested that the trophies held by the Club could be displayed in a local shop.

## **13<sup>th</sup> April 1970 – General Committee**

Courts re-surfacing had been completed including gritting Court 3. Rolling was deemed unnecessary. It was emphasised that during hot weather, play must cease because the courts would soften. It was decided to officially open the courts at the May American tournament and ask Mr Hardy to officiate.

Given that it was expected to replace the tennis pavilion in two years time, Mr Crowe agreed to repair the hole in the wall himself. A sub-committee was formed to carry out repairs and decoration.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Mr Green proposed a Junior Committee, but the idea was shelved for the time being.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> June 1970 – General Committee**

Mr McCoy was asked to arrange a meeting with En Tout Cas to discuss the unevenness of the newly surfaced courts. Mrs Booen offered to travel past the courts at 4pm on hot days to ensure that no one was playing if the courts were unfit.

There were 67 paid up members and 55 Juniors (the agreed maximum). It was agreed that Senior membership should be limited to 85.

The Sports Association had requested that the same Tennis Club representatives should be on the Grounds and Sports Association Committees. This was agreed to.

### **16<sup>th</sup> July 1970 – General Committee**

A notice was to be pinned up to remind Juniors that lost balls will have to be replaced.

The current balance was £99, therefore Mr Dickens was to purchase a new net for Court 3. (New nets for Courts 1 and 2 had been purchased in the previous four months.)

A profit of £26 had been made at the Apple Pie and Cider evening. The Barn Dance was to be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, with a Fashion Show in October and possibly a Fancy Dress Dance at Christmas.

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting was to be called in October/November to get together members, whilst still interested in tennis, prior to recommending that this become the new date for AGMs.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> October 1970 – General Committee**

Amended Rules were submitted by the sub-committee and approved. 20 copies to be made.

### **4<sup>th</sup> November 1970 – Extra-ordinary General Meeting**

£132 16s 0d had been raised from the social events during the year.

With an amendment made to Rule 4, the new Rules were unanimously agreed.

It was agreed to form a second ladies team.

It was agreed that Senior balls would be stored in a locked locker in the Tennis Pavilion with each Senior member purchasing a key to open it.

### **11<sup>th</sup> January 1971 – General Committee**

The painting of the pavilion had not taken place.

A letter had been received from En Tout Cas about a complaint over the poor wear that the lines had given. Advice to be sought from Warwickshire LTA as to whether plastic lines were permissible.

### **10<sup>th</sup> March 1971 – General Committee**

Miss Gee stated that the courts were rapidly breaking up. A meeting with En Tout Cas was to be arranged to discuss the issue.

New keys were available for all the new padlocks. Old keys to be returned in order to get a new one.

### **31<sup>st</sup> March 1971 – Annual General Meeting**

A box was to be held in the Seniors' ball locker for visitor's fees.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May 1971 – General Committee**

It was agreed to employ a groundsman to brush the courts once a week.

Because Club evenings were now well supported it was decided to introduce a system of "signing in" on those evenings to ensure plenty of mixed games. An unfinished men's match had been re-scheduled for a Club evening. This should not be permitted in the future.

A proposal by the Cricket Club to share teas when both Clubs had matches on the same day was declined. The Tennis Club would set up a table for their teas in one of the changing rooms, because the end time of tennis matches varied significantly.

It was suggested that a competition ladder be created, but there was no support for the idea.

### **14<sup>th</sup> September 1971 – General Committee**

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Mr James and helpers had painted the lines on Court 3.

### **4<sup>th</sup> November 1971 – Annual General Meeting**

Men's 1<sup>st</sup> team finished third in Division III, Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> team won Division V and Ladies finished fourth in Division I.

Despite mammoth effort by the Social Committee, members seemed uninterested in social activities during the year. The Social Secretaries resigned and no one was available to take their place. It was therefore left to the General Committee to form a sub-committee for future social events.

The joint Secretaries (Mrs Mason and Mrs Stainer) wished to resign, but no one wanted to take their place. They agreed to carry on with the assistance of Mrs Jo Smith during March and April.

Mr Dickens resigned from Team Selection Committee, Men's Captain and General Committee due to other commitments.

### **18<sup>th</sup> January 1972 – General Committee**

The Cricket Club was to be approached to see if the two men that helped with the cricket grounds would be prepared to help with the tennis courts and to ascertain the cost.

Mr Taylor was to be approached to coach Juniors again and to see if he could bring some additional help as a result of the numbers participating.

It was agreed to get the tennis pavilion re-painted professionally.

### **25<sup>th</sup> April 1972 – General Committee**

An Under 16 Junior team had been formed comprising one boy's pair and one girl's pair.

Mr Taylor was unable to carry out the Junior coaching. Mr Colin Lee was to be approached instead.

The American Tournaments were to be moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month to avoid a clash with the Cricket Club over teas.

### **6<sup>th</sup> September 1972 – General Committee**

The Junior coaching was very successful with at least 22 usually attending each evening.

Although the Junior teams didn't win a match, they had enjoyed the experience.

### **13<sup>th</sup> October 1972 – Annual General Meeting**

The weather had generally been poor throughout the year. This affected the American Tournaments and the Junior coaching.

The Grounds Rent had gone up to £100 per annum and was likely to go higher because the Grounds Committee were struggling to make ends meet.

Concern was raised as to what would happen if members refused to pay the LTA levy of 25p.

It was suggested that the Club pull out of the League so that the league players would come to club evenings. It was pointed out that the more likely outcome was that these players would leave the Club.

### **20<sup>th</sup> February 1973 – General Committee**

The lines had been completed on Courts 1 and 2. Mr Schnabel was to obtain quotes to resurface Court 3.

It was agreed to hold a ladder competition during the year.

There were eight broken windows in the Tennis Pavilion, caused by vandalism.

### **9<sup>th</sup> May 1973 – General Committee**

En Tout Cas had quoted £655 to resurface Court 3. An informal approach to the Lant Trust had suggested that the sports clubs should now be self-supporting. If the Club was to be self-supporting, the £100 Grounds Rent was considered to be excessive, even though the Grounds Committee was £87.43 in debt. The Sports Association was also in debt and a £15 donation was agreed.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

The coach was to be asked to pay his subscription in view of the fact that he had been doing private coaching, which was quite out of order.

### **17<sup>th</sup> May 1973 – General Committee**

An extra meeting was held to review the proposed new constitution for the Sports Association, which would be necessary to meet the Licensing Justices' requirements for the provision of a bar. Two potential revisions were identified for reporting at the Sports Association's AGM.

Mr and Mrs Paul replaced Mr and Mrs Mason on the General Committee.

There was no first aid kit in the Tennis Pavilion. It was agreed to purchase a basic kit.

### **17<sup>th</sup> July 1973 – General Committee**

Mr Crowe reported that he had been verbally attacked by four ladies over keys. Letter to be sent to members about how to obtain the keys.

### **26<sup>th</sup> September 1973 – General Committee**

The re-surfacing of Court 3 was in progress. It was agreed that 10% of the invoice should be held back until the job had proved satisfactory. The offer of a sum towards the work by the Lant Trust would be accepted, with thanks. [£250 was received.]

In view of the high number of planned resignations of members of the Committee, Mr Schnabel (Chairman) would write to all members encouraging them to attend the forthcoming AGM.

### **16<sup>th</sup> October 1973 – Annual General Meeting**

In addition to the matches played by the three league teams, sixteen friendly matches were arranged with 11 won, 4 drawn and 1 lost.

The resurfacing of Court 3 had been completed and could be played on from about 17<sup>th</sup> November. However, it was subsequently decided not to play on Court 3 at all during the winter.

The fencing had been open during the installation of the sewer. However, it was rapidly deteriorating due to football being played against it. Its replacement would be costly.

The Ladies Selection Committee all resigned. After a lengthy discussion and an attempt by some to delay the decision, it was decided to withdraw the ladies' team from the league by nine votes to six. Miss Gee was the Tennis Club's representative on the newly formed Bar Committee. The bar would open until 10:30 every evening.

### **5<sup>th</sup> February 1974 – General Committee**

A letter of thanks was to be sent to Mr Leach, the auditor, along with a bottle of whisky.

Team captains were requested to ensure that used match balls were directed for general Club use.

It was agreed to further object to the proposed per capita levy by the Grounds Committee.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> April 1974 – General Committee**

Advertisements were to be placed in the local newsagents and the Kenilworth local paper seeking new members.

### **7<sup>th</sup> May 1974 – General Committee**

The Men's Team Captain was to bring pressure to bear on the teams to pay their subscriptions.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> October 1974 – General Committee**

The formal request of a levy of £3 per head for 1974/75 had been received from the Grounds Committee. Mr Green proposed the following: the principle of a per capita levy was agreed; the amount should be based on the specific expenses incurred; current rather than past membership should form the "per capita"; and the payment should be in two parts – at the start of the season and at the end of the financial year. This proposal was agreed to by the Committee.

### **21<sup>st</sup> October 1974 – General Committee**

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

The Tennis Club's proposal regarding when the numbers for per capita were determined was going to adversely affect the Hockey Club. Therefore, it was agreed that the number of members would be the previous year's. The Tennis Club paid £228, but there may need to be a supplement to achieve the total contribution required from the clubs of £600.

A letter had been received from [Miss] J Whitehouse regarding life membership. Mr Wynne to investigate previous minutes with respect to Mr L Williams and Mr A Rich.

Mr Wynne suggested that a member take responsibility for co-ordinating minor maintenance needs and their doing. He offered to undertake this.

It was expected that a new net would be needed every three years for each court.

### **31<sup>st</sup> October 1974 – Annual General Meeting**

The unsatisfactory lines on Court 3 had been repainted by En Tout Cas at no additional charge.

The Men's first team had been relegated from Division II (North) and the second team had been relegated from Division IV (South).

The 'discount' for prompt payment of subscriptions was to be dropped and replaced by members being asked to resign if they had not paid by 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Subscriptions for families would be reduced by 50p per Senior member and 25p per Junior member.

A licence for a Sports Association bar had been granted and a semi-official opening was to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Certain work was still to be carried out by the health authorities.

Due to the cost of supply and the condition of the balls, a new procedure was agreed for their administration. This comprised: a deposit paid for 4 balls; once worn, they would be replaced with no restriction on the number of exchanges; the deposit would be returned at the end of the season, with pro-rata for less than 4 balls. Most Committee members would hold a supply of balls.

Concern was expressed at the behaviour and clothing of some Junior members. The lack of a member taking special interest in Juniors was recognised. The co-option of a Junior member on to the Committee was agreed.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> April 1975 – General Committee**

Mr Wynne was unsure whether Miss Whitehouse was now a life member of the Club. It was thought likely that she was.

Membership cards for the Sports Association were to be distributed with the Tennis Club receipts.

A record was to be kept of ball deposits. The Juniors should use old match balls where possible.

Mr C. Lee was willing to help with Junior coaching, but there were no volunteers from the Committee. Help to be sought from the first team players.

### **7<sup>th</sup> August 1975 – General Committee**

Four Junior coaching sessions had been held during May and June. No others were planned.

There was no rota for the bar, but it had been opened as required. The first team had not made use of the bar. It was agreed that they should be urged to do so next season.

Junior members would be encouraged to attend the AGM.

£3,000 was available from Courage Brewery to improve the pavilion facilities. The proposed alterations would include a separate Tennis Club area opening directly on to the courts.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> September 1975 – General Committee**

Next year's membership form is to ask whether coaching is wanted.

It was repeated that it was desirable to have a Junior member on the Committee next season. [It had not occurred this season.]

It was agreed that the ball distribution scheme was working quite well. Twice as many balls had been used than the previous year, but there were less losses and the balls were in better condition.

A proposal to abolish the Family membership was defeated, with the family reductions retained.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

A notice was to be posted next season stating that people were expected to mix on Club nights.  
The net on Court 3 was to be removed during the winter.

### **29<sup>th</sup> October 1975 – Annual General Meeting**

Miss Whitehouse reported by letter that court security was inadequate.

Four gross (576) of balls had been purchased during the year of which 84 were in stock. It was felt that the green Slazenger balls were good and that the Dunlop pressure less ones were not.

There were no social events held during the previous year. It was probable that future social events would be Sports Association rather than Tennis Club ones.

Once the additions to the pavilion were built it was likely that the tennis pavilion would not be used. This should aid court security.

A list of friendly matches would be posted on the noticeboard in future and those that were interested in playing could sign up to them.

### **30<sup>th</sup> January 1976 – General Committee**

The Sports Association's plans for the modifications to the pavilion had been agreed at an estimated cost of £5,000. However, Courage Brewery was now attempting to withdraw their offer of £3,000 funding. £2,000 was to be raised from interest free loans from Club members, then repaid from fund raising activities. Mr Green recommended that a Car Raffle with 5,600 25p tickets be considered. If required, the Tennis Club was prepared to loan £500 for one year from its balance of circa £675.

### **25<sup>th</sup> February 1976 – General Committee**

Mr Portas reported that the £3,000 from Courage Brewery would now be available within 14 days of planning permission.

### **10<sup>th</sup> May 1976 – Extraordinary General Meeting**

It was agreed that each member of the Tennis Club shall automatically become a member of the Sports Association and shall be entitled to the benefits and be bound by the rules thereof.

The joint Honorary Secretaries, Messrs Wykes and Aspinall, had now left the area.

### **29<sup>th</sup> June 1976 – General Committee**

Funds raised at the Sports Association's Gala Day would be used to furnish the pavilion extension. The Chairman was very disappointed with the lack of help from members of the Tennis Club and the sight of members playing tennis when they were clearing up did not go down well with other clubs.

Miss Judith Clarke and Mrs Sandra Edwards had been co-opted as joint secretaries.

Mr Schnabel suggested that a rota board was tried out on Club evenings to avoid confusion. It was agreed to also add Friday as a Club evening.

### **27<sup>th</sup> July 1976 – General Committee**

The new yellow balls had proved popular and more should be ordered.

Everybody agreed that the new rota board was working well for Club evenings.

Concern was expressed at the legal aspects of the Juniors using the bar facilities.

### **21<sup>st</sup> September 1976 – General Committee**

After considerable effort by the members, the re-painted lines had not lasted a month. It was unclear whether it was the wrong type of paint or it had not been mixed properly.

It was agreed to spend £5 on light refreshments for those attending the AGM.

There was discussion over playing occasional friendly matches during the winter.

### **29<sup>th</sup> October 1976 – Annual General Meeting**

It was agreed that ball deposits that were unclaimed after 12 months would belong to the Club.

A Junior member had yet to be appointed to the Committee, but efforts to do so would continue.

It was agreed to double the Visitors fees to 30p per visit.



## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

The Men's second team was dropped after promotion last year. It was agreed to reinstate next year.

### **25<sup>th</sup> January 1977 – General Committee**

Court 1 had deteriorated since the bad weather and the surface had broken away. There were insufficient funds to surface two courts, but it was agreed to resurface Court 1. Mr Green emphasised that we should have loose dressing and not smooth tarmac.

Mrs Pam Brown had offered to run a social function on 4<sup>th</sup> February at the clubhouse. All members were to be notified and there would be no entrance fee.

Master Stephen Langley would be representing the Juniors on the Committee.

### **7<sup>th</sup> March 1977 – General Committee**

Walsgrave Contractors were engaged to resurface Court 1. At £534.32 their quote was the lowest. This excluded the cost of gritting and putting the lines on court.

A letter of thanks was to be sent to Mrs Brown. The function on 4<sup>th</sup> February was a great success and the food was excellent.

Mr Colin Lee would be willing to do some coaching at the Club when he returned from abroad. It was decided that Mr Wynne should have an "off the record" talk with Mr Lee about making a contribution to the Club for using the courts for professional purposes.

Mr Portas pointed out that there was a shortage of people for the bar rota.

### **18<sup>th</sup> April 1977 – General Committee**

The resurfacing had been completed. There appeared to be quite a ridge where the two courts joined together. The cost of gritting had been found to be quite expensive.

Mr Colin Lee was going to do some Junior coaching for about 4 weeks. The charge was 20p per lesson. Mrs Langley would assist the Juniors, but they were shortly due to leave the area.

Mr Wynne had received £20 compensation for when the sewer was laid through the field.

Holes were in the fence netting because they had rusted through.

### **17<sup>th</sup> May 1977 – General Committee**

The Cheese and Wine event had been a great success with forty people attending.

Two Wimbledon tickets would be made available for the Sports Association raffle on Gala Day. Mr Wynne had only been able to obtain Court 1 tickets this year due to the late application.

The Junior Rules were deemed to be obsolete and in need of review. It was agreed that Juniors should be allowed to play at any time unless Seniors were waiting to play.

Mrs Tooth from Kenilworth had requested use of the courts for 11-18 year old visitors from France during July and August. A charge of £10 per month was suggested.

### **16<sup>th</sup> June 1977 – General Committee**

Mrs Langley reported that the Junior tournament had proved very successful with 18 attendees. Another tournament was planned for 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Colin Lea had donated £4 to the Club for the use of the courts to carry out his coaching activities.

There were twelve volunteers to help on Gala Day. Most would be doing bar duties.

### **14<sup>th</sup> July 1977 – General Committee**

A letter of thanks was to be sent to Eileen and Steven Langley for their services as committee members in helping the Juniors. They were now leaving the district.

The gates had been rearranged to give direct access to the courts from the car park. Paving slabs were to be purchased to path from the pavilion to the courts.

The total cash requirement for the Grounds Committee was £1,254. This was to be split: Tennis £429, Football £220, Lant Trust £209, Cricket £201, Hockey £145 and Sports Association £50.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Mr Green suggested holding a Tennis Club family day, including a tournament, children's games, picnic tea and a barbecue in the evening. It was agreed that Mr Green should organise the event.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> August 1977 – General Committee**

The Gala Day had raised £1,000 of which the Sports Association would receive half. However this would be the last such event with the clubs being encouraged to hold their own smaller events and the Sports Association taking the bar profits.

Access to the courts through the new bolted gated was being abused by non-members. It was agreed to keep it open but lock the gate during the closed season (October-April).

### **23<sup>rd</sup> September 1977 – General Committee**

A working party should be set up to lay the slabs, preferably before the winter.

Miss Gee reported that she had a box of particularly bad white balls that got very dirty. Mr Wynne said that these were LTA balls and other boxes were OK. Pressure less balls were an option for next season.

The court resurfaced this year (Court 1) was not good. There were quite a lot of bumps and it held the water with puddles forming after only a little rain.

### **29<sup>th</sup> September 1977 – Annual General Meeting**

The ladies team had come top of their league. They will need more ladies to play next year.

Mr Schnabel said that the social side of the Club had improved thanks to the hard work of Mr Green.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> November 1977 – General Committee**

It was agreed to swap the Junior's Wednesday evening with Ladies Friday match night for the next season as a trial.

Several Tennis Club members were assisting with various chores at the Sports Association's Bonfire Night for which £250 sponsorship had been received.

It was agreed to limit the Senior members to 120 next year, partly because there were always a lot of people at Club nights.

One of the net posts on Court 2 was being held up by wood inside. This was to be replaced by steel.

### **8<sup>th</sup> February 1978 – General Committee**

The security measures for the bar were not imminent due to the high cost of installing compared to the cost of stock held. There would therefore be a specific group of key holders for the pavilion.

The final £50 of Walsgrave Contractor's payment was to be withheld until the works were satisfactorily completed.

If existing members had not renewed by 1<sup>st</sup> May they would be treated the same as new members. All new applications needed to be accompanied by the subscription, which would be refunded if over-subscribed.

The slab laying has not yet taken place. It will be reconsidered when the weather improves.

### **19<sup>th</sup> April 1978 – General Committee**

A suggestion was made that ordinary garden nylon netting and stretch wires could be used between Courts 1 and 3. The gate could be permanently fastened with a flap in the netting to get access to Court 3 from Court 1.

Long skewers would be obtained to peg down the netting (fencing) at the back of Court 2

### **22<sup>nd</sup> May 1978 – General Committee**

The start of season cheese and wine evening was very successful. Many thanks were given to John and Brenda Green for organising the event.

There will be a rota for tennis members to serve behind the bar on Tennis Club nights.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

There was a good turnout for the last court maintenance day when most things were dealt with. The gravel on Court 3 has been swept off but some needs sweeping back on because there is no slippage.

The brewery will not pay for outside furniture because the £3,000 loan is not being paid back as quickly as expected. There needs to be greater use of the bar.

Mr Williams was to explore whether planning permission would be forthcoming for floodlighting. It would cost about £300 for six to eight light units (excluding labour) and would cost about 15p per court to run. By charging 50p per court per hour our costs would soon be recovered.

Chris Foulkes, an LTA approved coach, would carry out Junior coaching at £3 per person for a 6 week course of 2 hours per week, or half that for 1 hour per week. 12 participants were needed to break even with a maximum of 18 participants. He would do some separate Senior coaching beforehand.

Mr Wynne proposed that the Tennis Club take out Public Liability insurance of £250k.

### **27<sup>th</sup> June 1978 – General Committee**

Mr Schnabel had not heard anything from Walsgrave Contractors. It had now been 12 months.

The Public Liability insurance had been taken out at a cost of £26 plus 5p per head.

There were now 119 Senior members. The 120 cap would stand unless a couple applied together.

The pool table had generated £50 profit for each member club. Miss Gee proposed that future pool table profits should be retained by the Sports Association for the bettering of facilities for all clubs.

### **25<sup>th</sup> July 1978 – General Committee**

It was agreed that every Sunday would be used to finish painting the tennis pavilion until complete.

The Club tournament held [from 2pm until 7pm on 15<sup>th</sup> July] was a great success.

After discussion about a complaint regarding the behaviour of some Juniors, it was agreed that there needed to be a list of Rules specifically for Juniors, and to make clear that a breach of the Rules could lead to suspension. The Rules would include: predominantly white clothing, maximum of four to a court, only doubles if others were waiting.

Chris Foulkes agreed to take on the position of Club Coach for the following season. His focus would be on coaching Juniors, but he would also undertake Senior coaching. He would hold a coaching Open Day on 19<sup>th</sup> August with sessions for both Juniors and Seniors, followed by a six week course.

### **5<sup>th</sup> September 1978 – General Committee**

A letter had been sent to parents of all Junior members concerning their behaviour and the Rules.

A match against the officials of the WLTA was agreed to and to make it a social occasion afterwards.

Mr Green was to see if we could offer Mr Williams (President) an alternative role because he was no longer an active member of the Club and many members did not know who he was.

### **9<sup>th</sup> October 1978 – Annual General Meeting**

The Sports Association had been loaned £500 by the Club from its profits of £717 for the year.

The coach, Chris Foulkes, expects to turn professional next year, but the Club has secured his coaching services for at least 12 weeks next season.

It was hoped to hold a men's and ladies' singles championship next year mainly to increase court usage and bring a good competitive spirit to the Club.

The retiring President Mr E T Williams and Miss R Gee were made Honorary Vice Presidents.

Rule 4 was amended to bring forward the closing date for subscriptions to 30<sup>th</sup> April from 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Rule 2 was amended to allow under 11 year olds to join, at the discretion of the Committee, but they must play under the supervision of a Senior. It was agreed that their subscription would be £1.

### **30<sup>th</sup> October 1978 – General Committee**

The match against the WLTA proved successful and was well supported by the Committee.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Pavilion painting would have to be completed next year.

### **7<sup>th</sup> December 1978 – General Committee**

The Tennis Club would donate £20 to the Sports Association to replace items stolen in the robbery. The Grounds Committee had agreed that the Sports Association could increase the bar's security.

Quotations for resurfacing the court nearest the car park had been received from Doe, Fernden and Grassphalte. Meetings were to be arranged with their representatives and references sought.

It was agreed to contribute £10 to buy Mr M Williams a wedding present.

Meetings would be scheduled with Slazenger and Adidas to see how they could supply items of clothing and equipment to members, to the benefit of the Club.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> January 1979 – General Committee**

It was agreed to buy a one year subscription to Tennis Today and hang the copies in the pavilion.

The application forms should be amended to replace "whites" with "predominantly white".

### **5<sup>th</sup> March 1979 – General Committee**

£2,800 had now to be paid back to Courage Brewery over the next seven years.

Doe were to be asked for the best starting date for re-surfacing, sufficient subscriptions should be received in order to fund it.

Slazenger and Adidas had been contacted but they weren't keen. Smaller suppliers to be contacted.

David Green was the first of five under 11 year olds to apply for membership.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> April 1979 – General Committee**

Ken Rose has put a bar of steel in the net post.

The court to be resurfaced would be out of action for one month after Easter.

The under 11's should be capped at twelve.

28 Juniors had applied for coaching along with 7 Seniors so far. Up to 36 over a three hour period was agreed for the first session and to see how Chris Foulkes coped.

288 balls had been swapped at Davies. £145 paid for the new balls less £36 for the used balls.

### **17<sup>th</sup> May 1979 – General Committee**

It could not be justified having a court out of action for two months, so the re-surfacing was delayed until September. Doe had verbally stated that there would be no more than a 2% increase.

The limit of 120 Seniors had been reached with several additional applications received. It was agreed to raise the limit to 130 for the current season. The limit of under 11s was increased to 20 and other Juniors to 65.

The coaching sessions have been very successful so far. Chris Foulkes will see if he can schedule a third course through the summer holidays.

John Green proposed that the Club should start considering having a fourth and possibly fifth court, due to the increasing population of Balsall Common. Potentially in 1981. Permission would be sought from the Sports Association and Grounds Committee. Sources for grants would be explored.

A notice was to be put up in the pavilion to the effect that "members and visitors not wearing accepted tennis attire and predominantly white will be asked to leave the courts."

Adidas had agreed to supply items at a discount of 40 - 60% for a minimum order of £75.

### **17<sup>th</sup> May 1979 – General Committee**

Doe had given an indicative quote of £5,000 to build one court and £8,000 for two.

The planned coaching was over-subscribed. There was disagreement about how best to progress.

Ken Rose proposed a Men's and Ladies singles championship. He would donate a cup to be played for each year. John Green said he would see if E. Schnabel would donate a cup for the men. The rounds needed to be played at obscure times and not on Club nights.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

### **26<sup>th</sup> June 1979 – General Committee**

E. Schnabel agreed to donate a cup, but for a mixed doubles tournament. The Vice Presidents were to be approached for a donation for a Men's cup. A 50p entry fee would be used for replicas and a small runners up medal. It was yet to be decided whether the mixed doubles would be drawn or people would pick their own partners.

It was agreed that on Club Nights, if eight or more people are waiting to play, a maximum of seven games should be played and no guests should play in this situation.

### **26<sup>th</sup> July 1979 – General Committee**

Two further coaching courses had been scheduled to meet the demand. On conclusion of the league season, the coach would be allocated a court every Monday evening for private coaching.

It was agreed that entries for the mixed doubles championship would be limited. The Committee would seed the players before making a draw for partners.

Ian Gibbs was asked to chair a sub-committee to raise funds for the proposed new court(s).

Ken Selby agreed to set up a men's doubles ladder to spur competition and guide future pairings.

### **6<sup>th</sup> September 1979 – General Committee**

Doe had increased the cost of resurfacing from £1,515 +VAT to £1,850 +VAT. An alternate quotation was to be sought.

### **4<sup>th</sup> October 1979 – Annual General Meeting**

There were at least 30 Seniors on the waiting list for next year.

Court resurfacing had been delayed due to inclement weather, it was now planned for November.

In their first year, the ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team had finished last. 12 ladies had played for the team.

Two grey/green courts would cost approximately £10,000 and Chevron courts £20,000. We needed to pay circa £4,000 if we had a Sports Council grant for 50% of the cost and a low interest loan from the LTA for 25% of the cost. We would therefore need to raise £1,500, possibly with member loans.

A new Social Committee comprising ten members was formed with Pam Brown as Social Secretary.

An entrance fee of £5 would be introduced for new Senior members.

David Heins complained that the men's first team comprised of older men and he considered that we needed more competitive members in the team. The response was that the behaviour of the younger members needed to be taken into account because they were representing the Club.

### **18<sup>th</sup> October 1979 – General Committee**

After much discussion, it was decided that a match fee should not be introduced.

Rather than 7 games being played on busy Club Nights it was decided that 8 games would be better.

It was agreed to keep a first aid box in the visitors' fees locker.

Sunday afternoons would become Club afternoons.

### **28<sup>th</sup> January 1980 – General Committee**

It was agreed that Junior members would be issued with membership cards next season.

Four keys would be cut so that the team captains could have access to the visitors' fees locker ready for when the first aid box arrives.

Sunday afternoon Club sessions have not been a success. It would be re-initiated in the summer.

Doe seemed to have made a good job of the re-surfacing. A few people needed to get together on Sundays to roll the court. The white lines and net would be done in a few weeks time.

The Club had purchased six Head rackets for £146 and had already sold two to members.

Those on the waiting list were to be invited to the Club's social functions. Those who didn't gain a place in the Club in the new season would be invited to play as guests of the Club on some Saturdays and Sundays.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

### **7<sup>th</sup> March 1980 – General Committee**

It had been found that exact replicas of the cups were too expensive, lower cost alternatives would be purchased instead.

Three gross (432) of balls would be needed for matches. It was decided to buy two gross of Slazenger '80 balls and 1 gross of Slazenger '79 balls, if they were found to be alright after trying some.

The resurfaced court would be made available for play from the following weekend.

The selection of teams by the Team Captains was proposed, but after a lot of discussion, it was agreed to continue with a selection committee comprising Ken Selby, Ken Rose, Dot Blandford and Deborah Rose.

A working party was to be arranged to put up the surround netting at the end near the entrance to the car park.

It was agreed that, although still under 11, Martin Brown, Richard Portas and David Green should be promoted to Juniors because of their standard of play.

At the next AGM, the date for paying subscriptions should be brought forward to 31<sup>st</sup> March; otherwise, those on the waiting list would miss part of the season when spaces become available.

### **31<sup>st</sup> March 1980 – General Committee**

The Slazenger '79 balls had been found to be satisfactory, so two gross had been ordered.

The 'Tennis & Tipple' morning went very well and it was hoped to make this an annual event.

No preferential treatment would be given to those on the waiting list, regardless of whether they were previous members or good players.

It was agreed to buy Graham Selby a wedding present, up to the value of £10.

The planned social events included a Family Afternoon and Strawberry Tea on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

### **24<sup>th</sup> April 1980 – General Committee**

It was agreed to send out application forms to the next 20 Seniors and 20 Juniors on the waiting list.

The surround netting had been erected by a working party. They had done a good job.

### **20<sup>th</sup> May 1980 – General Committee**

Another working party needed to be arranged to finish painting the pavilion and filling in the holes on Court 3.

The Sports Council needed the grant application to come from the Trustees or the Grounds Committee and not the Tennis Club. They would also need to have guarantor bonds.

The pair of tickets for Wimbledon Ladies Final Day would be raffled at 25p per ticket and they could be bought by anybody. The remaining 15 pairs of tickets would be drawn for with 25p paid by both Junior and Senior members for a single entry into the draw.

### **12<sup>th</sup> June 1980 – General Committee**

It was agreed that Senior members would be offered bonds at £25, with £30 repaid after 5 years.

The member's subscription would be frozen for a year per bond, up to a maximum of 5 years.

Barry Standley's suggestion that the Club should have a badge was agreed to. A notice was to be posted on the notice board requesting that proposed designs were sent to Barry.

### **17<sup>th</sup> October 1980 – General Committee**

Minutes no longer available.

### **7<sup>th</sup> November 1980 – Annual General Meeting**

Nine men had represented the men's first team and twelve had represented the second team. Six ladies had represented the ladies' first team and twelve had represented the second team.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

A secret ballot was held to reduce the five nominations to the four General Committee places. It would be necessary to amend Rule Number 1 at the next AGM regarding the General Committee.

Planning permission had been given for two new courts, but not the floodlighting. The Club were definitely going to receive a grant of £5,000 from the Sports Council. We were also expecting a £3,000 loan from the Warwickshire LTA, paid back over 5 years with 5% interest per annum.

A new category of a non- playing Social Member was agreed at £2 per annum.

Barry Standley displayed his proposed sketches for a Club badge and welcomed other suggestions.

### **16<sup>th</sup> February 1981 – Extraordinary General Meeting**

It was agreed to proceed with the new courts. The courts should be laid in April ready for play in May. It would be good to get Ann Jones along to open the courts.

The planners were to be contacted to clarify the requirements for trees for landscaping.

Rule 2 regarding membership was revised to define Intermediates between the age of 16 and 18 and those under the age of 11 to have limited membership.

### **30<sup>th</sup> March 1981 – General Committee**

The LTA required guarantors for the loan. It was suggested that there were at least seven guarantors.

Anglian and Midland were due to start work on the courts in the last week of April. It was agreed to have two gates, at a cost of £30 each.

John Green had met with the Council Planners. There needed to be a clump of three or four trees between the courts and Meeting House Lane, either Silver Birch, Hornbeam or Flowering Cherry. A beech hedge along the boundary of the house on Elm Grove, to replace the owner's existing hedge was also a requirement.

Three hundred Club badges were to be ordered.

### **30<sup>th</sup> April 1981 – General Committee**

It was agreed to limit the Junior membership to 100 at this stage of the season.

A second gate would cost £190, so it was agreed to just have the one gate.

It was suggested that a conduit was laid for future floodlights at a cost of £50, but this idea was rejected.

The 'grand opening' date would be delayed until County players and Ann Jones were available. There would be a special offer for new members joining on that day of £7.50.

It was agreed that Barry Standley and Ken Dickens could represent the Club in the Warwickshire Veterans Tournament.

### **25<sup>th</sup> June 1981 – General Committee**

The limit on Juniors was raised to 120 and U11's to 25.

The new courts should be finished a week tomorrow and will be ready for play the following week. Mr and Mrs Jones have accepted the offer to open the courts in principle and the County team have been confirmed. Pam Brown suggested that Ann Jones plants a tree. This was thought to be an excellent idea and Vicki Whyte would arrange a commemorative plaque.

### **14<sup>th</sup> September 1981 – General Committee**

The planting of trees near the new courts and the boundary hedge had been left to the Trustees to implement.

The Gala Opening Day was an excellent day. Several letters of thanks had been received.

A notice was to be put up in the male changing rooms asking visiting cricketers not to practice their bowling against the netting around the new courts.

### **29<sup>th</sup> October 1981 – Annual General Meeting**

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The new courts had been funded by a £5,000 Sports Council grant, £3,000 WLTA loan, £2,025 member loans and £1,132 from Club funds. The Chairman thanked Ken Rose and Ian Gibbs for seeing the new courts project through to the end.

A revised rule regarding the composition of the General Committee was agreed to.

Courts would be made available for external competitions on a minimum of three days' notice at a cost of £1 as long as it doesn't interfere with Club activities.

Herbert Crow felt that the new courts were undulating quite badly.

Chris Wynne, in his capacity as Chairman of the Grounds Committee, requested help to spruce up the grounds, otherwise the Trustees may withdraw their financial support.

### **19<sup>th</sup> November 1981 – General Committee**

John Webb had completed the second phase of paving a path from the new courts to the black and white hut.

The Chairman reported with regret and anger that the "Ann Jones tree" had been completely uprooted by unknown vandals, chopped up and scattered over the new courts. The plaque had yet to be erected. A decision about concreting in the plaque was deferred.

Many of the keys did not fit the new courts, so the lock would be changed for one of the locks from one of the other courts. Both main gates would also be locked from now on. It was also felt that the hedge along Meeting House Lane was being cut back too far and should be allowed to grow higher.

A simple social tournament with mince pies and "liquid" had been arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> December.

The Grounds Committee were very concerned at the state of the land adjacent to the new courts.

### **14<sup>th</sup> January 1982 – General Committee**

"The meeting was held in freezing weather conditions and it took some admirable skill on the part of the Chairman to coax some life out of the frozen gas valves. The Treasurer tried to look elegant in goatskin boots."

Chris Foulkes had submitted a proposal for his coaching services during the following year, on payment of a retainer of £500. This worked out at £3 per member, which was unlikely to be accepted by the membership. The Committee proposed a retainer of £250. Chris said that he would assess and respond in 3 days.

Andrew Taylor agreed to arrange an "integration" session on Wednesday evenings, with up to a dozen Juniors invited on the basis of their ability to play with Seniors.

### **11<sup>th</sup> February 1982 – General Committee**

Ian Gibbs (Treasurer) had established that the Club was not liable to pay tax on the bank interest.

Chris Foulkes agreed to a retainer of £250 and had developed a proposal of courses accordingly.

It was agreed that the £274 raised by the Social Committee should be spent on three benches and low level shrubs between Courts 4 and 5. Also look at replacing the Anne Jones Cotoneaster tree.

### **25<sup>th</sup> March 1982 – General Committee**

Chris Taylor was experiencing difficulties in sourcing concrete ended seats.

Barry Standley raised the matter of floodlighting. John Green pointed out that, whilst the Lant Trust had agreed, there had been considerable objection from the residents of Elm Grove. However, a sub-committee would be formed to reassess the facts and how to potentially proceed.

### **29<sup>th</sup> April 1982 – General Committee**

Forty two Juniors had applied for lessons. This seemed too many, but it was left to Chris Foulkes to sort out.

It was agreed to order two four feet teak seats for the front of the pavilion at £68 each.

Concern was expressed at the number of Juniors and their behaviour. John Green pointed out that this was a perennial problem. It was agreed to limit Juniors to 120 and under 11s to 20. A letter was



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to be sent to parents highlighting issues such as standard of dress, accessing the courts by dubious means and leaving coke cans etc. around.

Pam Brown had volunteered the services of the Tennis Club to redecorate the ladies showers at the last Lant Committee meeting.

The LTA's court advisory service had responded about levels on courts. There was no official level, because it could become meaningless on a grass court but they recommended a maximum deviation of +/- 10mm on a 3 metre straight edge.

It was agreed that rounds of the Club Tournament could be played on Club Nights as long as no objections were raised if the courts were very busy and it was done sensibly.

The Secretary said that he would tidy up the Club Night rota board.

### **25<sup>th</sup> May 1982 – General Committee**

It was decided to move forward with resurfacing Court 3. Anglian Midland's quote of £3,266 included piercing the surface at twelve inch intervals and filling with quarter inch chippings. The Committee felt that the old surface should be broken up and removed instead.

### **24<sup>th</sup> June 1982 – General Committee**

Court 3 had been re-surfaced earlier than expected due to the contractor turning up unexpectedly. A bill for £3,500 had been received and paid.

A working party had been arranged, but only the Chairman and Secretary had turned up. A further one was scheduled and a notice was to be put up closing the courts for 2 hours.

Barry Standley had ordered two concrete benches at £104 each.

The Chairman had agreed to a league match being played on a Club Night as a result of exceptional weather. After a vote, it was agreed that in future, no league matches could be played on a Club Night, whatever the circumstances.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> September 1982 – General Committee**

The Chairman had written to the Cricket Club about the tennis fencing being used as practice nets. Whilst this had now stopped, the number of cricket balls landing in the courts had increased. This was a concern.

### **21<sup>st</sup> October 1982 – Annual General Meeting**

The Chairman was disappointed at the responses to calls for assistance in tidying up the courts and the grounds. If there was no better response in the future it would be necessary to pay a contractor to carry out the work.

A special word of thanks was given to Pam Brown and Anne Clayden for their efforts in organising the Friday Junior Club Nights. A small presentation was later made to them in recognition of this.

There had been 160 entrants to the Club Championships. It was agreed that up to four Junior members, nominated by the Club Coach, could participate in future Club Championships.

It was agreed to enter a third men's team into the league.

The Sports Association had created a Forward Project Committee. David Penn requested that they consider the construction of a bowling green on the land behind the new courts.

### **25<sup>th</sup> November 1982 – General Committee**

It was suggested that a "No ball games allowed" should be put up on the outside of the fence to the new courts in order to resolve the issue of balls coming on to courts.

The Chairman expressed his concern that the Committee had not got its act together when presenting the suggested subscriptions at the AGM. Better preparation was required in the future.

At the AGM it had been agreed that there would be a reduced subscription rate for the over 65s. It was decided to set the subscription at £15 for all members aged 65 or over. [Seniors were £22.50]

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The question of a knock-up wall for practice sessions was raised. Whilst considered a good idea, it raised several issues.

In future, friendly matches should be limited to two courts to save impacting members at weekends.

### **27<sup>th</sup> January 1983 – General Committee**

Chris Foulkes presented proposals for coaching in the coming season. It was agreed to keep to the same format as the previous year, which had been considered a success.

It was agreed to dedicate the courts on Friday evenings to Juniors, with one court reserved for the coach.

### **18<sup>th</sup> April 1983 – General Committee**

The Grounds Committee needed to fund a new mower and required 20% of the cost from the Tennis Club, which was agreed to. However, the Tennis Club were only prepared to go on the mowing rota to cut the grass on the Meeting House Lane side of the tree line [the boundary trees].

Ken Rose volunteered his wife to repair Court 3's net, whilst Ian Gibbs agreed to purchase a new "top quality" net for Court 2.

### **19<sup>th</sup> May 1983 – General Committee**

The state of the car park had been raised with the Grounds Committee, but the response had been a suggestion that the Tennis Club ought to get some shovels.

The Grounds Committee had granted permission for the Tennis Club to write to the Lant Trustees to seek to hold a P.R. meeting with the residents of Elm Grove regarding a proposal for floodlighting.

There were now 131 Junior and U11 members with 19 on a waiting list. It seemed unlikely that most of those on the waiting list would get to join this season. There were 161 Seniors, including 5 OAPs.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> June 1983 – General Committee**

Wedding presents had been bought for Viv Rose and Robin Williams [not marrying each other.] "The lady members of the committee then proceeded to discuss the virtues of M&S until reminded of the present duties by the Chairman."

Two boys teams and a girls team had been entered into a Warwickshire under 16 league.

The lack of attendance at Club Nights was raised as an issue, with various reasons cited.

It had been agreed to go ahead with a floodlighting meeting.

It was agreed that the pavilion should become the centre of the action rather than the hut.

### **21<sup>st</sup> July 1983 – General Committee**

It was agreed that Duncan Hankinson be asked to take permanent responsibility for weed killing.

Mrs Brown was "incensed" by the obstructive approach of the Grounds Committee. The resignation letter from the Grounds Committee of the cricket representative was read out and it was agreed that it encapsulated the problems of that Committee.

### **25<sup>th</sup> August 1983 – General Committee**

Whilst Ian Gibbs was strongly in favour of a barbecue for Finals Day, it was agreed to have a ploughman's lunch instead because it was unlikely that there would be much support on a Sunday.

There had been several instances of Tournament matches taking place on Club Nights despite the Committee stating that this was not permitted. Court times would be assessed at the next meeting.

### **27<sup>th</sup> September 1983 – General Committee**

Finals Day had been well attended and the experiment of putting the Junior Finals on at the same time had proved an excellent idea.

### **20<sup>th</sup> October 1983 – Annual General Meeting**

The year had seen a sad loss with the untimely death of 1<sup>st</sup> team player Eddie Long [on court].

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Three Junior pairs had entered the Warwickshire LTA under 16 competitions. All three pairs had topped their respective leagues and had won through to the finals.

After a contentious debate, a vote was taken to allow one Tournament match each week on a Club Night. It was 17 votes for and 17 against. The Chairman referred the final decision to the Committee.

Some concern was raised about pursuing floodlighting in that the average day time user of the courts would have to pay but not benefit. It was agreed to continue by 32 votes to 4.

### **21<sup>st</sup> November 1983 – General Committee**

The Sports Association were in the process of taking over most of the work previously handled by the Grounds Committee.

Andrew Taylor had handed over his responsibilities as Coaching Secretary to Pam Nurse.

It was agreed to try out a winter Club afternoon from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

### **9<sup>th</sup> January 1984 – General Committee**

Seventeen small Eddie Long trophies were to be played for at a Junior tournament to be held over a weekend, whilst two shields were to be played for annually as a doubles contest between league pairs only, with each pair playing every other pair.

The Club had once again been fined £1 for non-attendance at the Coventry AGM and they were threatening to increase it to £5 if we failed to attend next year.

It was still generally felt that a knock-up wall was a good idea, but that there were practical issues, such as where would we put it. It may be possible to combine it with another club's storage shed.

“The Chairman reported on the half price night organised by the Sports Association and from what he could remember he thought that it had been a good evening!”

Whilst the Club were happy with Chris Foulkes' coaching of the Juniors it was felt that he was not offering sufficient variety to attract the better players for coaching. Chris wished to continue coaching at the Club and agreed to make a proposal to address the concerns.

### **16<sup>th</sup> February 1984 – General Committee**

It was agreed with Chris Foulkes that he continue coaching Juniors, adult beginners and daytime ladies and visitors, but that an alternative coach was found for advanced Juniors and League Team players.

The court times were revised and it was agreed that Court 3 would be available for tournament rounds if absolutely essential, but only for doubles and not on Tuesdays.

### **12<sup>th</sup> April 1984 – General Committee**

It was agreed to pay Chris Foulkes £300 as a retainer as Club coach. David Roberts had not responded regarding the additional coaching so it was agreed to approach Richard Marklow at ACE.

Previous members who were re-joining the Club would still need to pay a joining fee, but this would be on a sliding scale of £2 per year of absence up to a maximum of five years. Members who were absent due to pregnancy or illness would become Social Members then revert without penalty.

It was agreed to purchase the cheaper Dan Maskell practice wall at £151.

The President, Eric Schnabel, was also a trustee of the Berkswell Museum. He wanted to hold a centenary celebration of Maud Watson winning the first Wimbledon Ladies Singles Championship and to promote the Museum. He already had the co-operation of the Jagger family [at the Rectory now the Well House]. He was looking for support from the Tennis Club, which was agreed to.

It was agreed to purchase two more seats, one for Court 3 and the other to face Court 2.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> May 1984 – General Committee**

Concerns were expressed regarding Chris Foulkes' health and the impact on his coaching. Only two Senior members wanted coaching. A Junior member also wanted to bring her coach to the Club.

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After some discussion this was agreed to, but the coach needed to pay the visitors fee and finish by 6pm.

It was agreed that those Juniors who were in the team squad could play on Club Nights, provided that didn't mean that a Senior member had to sit out.

There was a lot of enthusiasm in arranging the Maud Watson Affair day with many actions having been completed. Wimbledon had been very helpful and the BBC may be involved. It was agreed that £300 could be spent on the day. The only concern was: what if it rained?

The Grounds Committee had agreed to the trees by the courts being pruned by Duncan Hankinson.

### **18<sup>th</sup> May 1984 – General Committee**

Plans for the Maud Watson Affair were progressing well and more costumes from Pretenders in Birmingham could be arranged with appropriate notice.

### **31<sup>st</sup> May 1984 – General Committee**

The meeting was joined by Mrs Jagger and Colin Pratt, the head of Berkswell School. The BBC were unlikely to attend, but Ian Gibbs would video the entire event. Barry Standley would make up two photograph albums, one for the Club and one for the museum. Claudine Jagger would donate two Wimbledon tickets to be raffled for the Museum. The cost of a string quartet could not be justified.

The new practice net was continuing to prove a challenge to erect.

Richard Marklow would carry out coaching whilst Chris Foulkes was ill, but his request for more flexible hours for private coaching was turned down.

### **10<sup>th</sup> July 1984 – General Committee**

Minutes no longer available.

### **26<sup>th</sup> July 1984 – General Committee**

Minutes no longer available.

### **6<sup>th</sup> September 1984 – General Committee**

The Club Nights are now well attended and are proving very successful. The policy of providing new balls for Club Nights should be continued.

Richard Marklow is to be asked if he will be Club coach for the forthcoming season.

Paul Freeman's quote of £150 for two benches was accepted. He had also been asked to make a noticeboard for external use.

The Eddie Long Junior tournament had proved very successful.

A circular was to be sent to every house in Balsall Common with a view to extending the use of the clubhouse and grounds. There would be space for each club to promote themselves.

### **1<sup>st</sup> October 1984 – General Committee**

Peter Withe "of some local football team (and England)" would be attending the grand opening of the clubhouse bar on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Tickets would be by invitation only and it would be a half price night.

Finals Day had been a success, but some thought that the umpiring and line calling had been "atrocious". Line judges and ball boys were to be considered for the following year.

It appeared that no one had as yet been able to use the "Chairman's trampoline" [practice net].

### **18<sup>th</sup> October 1984 – Annual General Meeting**

The Saturday winter Club afternoons had not been a success, due to adverse weather.

The Maud Watson Affair had proved to be a most memorable day.

The Presentation Buffet Dance had been poorly supported this year with only half the tickets sold.

The floodlighting sub-committee had done a lot of research but had come up with a very confusing and complex set of findings. They would continue to assess.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

### **26<sup>th</sup> November 1984 – General Committee**

As Men's Captain, "Mick Lloyd did not wish to comment at this stage on his secret strategy to win everything next year." Maureen Milnes was also reluctant to reveal anything.

With Chris Foulkes' health and Richard Marklow's limited availability, there was a need for a new coach next year. All Committee members to consider an alternative.

### **24<sup>th</sup> January 1985 – General Committee**

With four new Senior members joining after the open evening, there were now 179 Senior members. It was agreed to initiate a waiting list.

A quotation for the re-surfacing of Courts 1 and 2 had been received at £14,124 plus VAT. Although the VAT may not be payable if they could be classed as new courts. This was in excess of expectations. The Club currently only had £8,000 in the bank and no grant would be forthcoming.

It was proposed that the coaching be split between Richard Marklow and Scott Keys.

Barry Standley volunteered to help the Chairman sort out his "trampoline".

### **14<sup>th</sup> March 1985 – General Committee**

Scott Keys had accepted the proposed terms for coaching in tandem with Richard Marklow.

It was agreed to donate a photograph album of the Maud Watson Affair to Mr & Mrs Jagger, a further album to the Berkswell Museum, some photographs to Mr Heath-Pratt, some photographs to the Wimbledon Museum and three photographs to the Club.

The LTA had recommended three companies who could be approached for resurfacing the courts.

Pam Brown asked about the ladies showers and the carpets.

### **25<sup>th</sup> April 1985 – General Committee**

It was agreed that all team members would be on the bar rota.

Barry Standley considered that not all the parts of the Chairman's trampoline were there.

Four new balls would be made available to Senior members for £4 with a £1 trade in allowance.

### **21<sup>st</sup> June 1985 – General Committee**

Not too many people had turned up for the working party. The Secretary was instructed to place an advert in the local newsagents for a grounds maintenance man for two to three hours per week.

We now had £13,500 in the bank, so the possibility of resurfacing the courts looked good.

There were now two Seniors and five Juniors on the waiting list. It was agreed to keep them waiting.

The ladies were benefitting from Scott Keys' coaching with both teams lying first in their divisions.

The Secretary was to put up a notice stating that the Club expects members to wear recognised tennis attire and that this did not include black trainers and cut down jeans.

Barry Standley reported that they had failed with the "trampoline" and that it was a waste of time.

### **29<sup>th</sup> August 1985 – General Committee**

The advert for a grounds maintenance man had produced a single response but they did not turn up for interview. Duncan Hankinson was to be approached to see if he would be interested.

There were now 15 Juniors on the waiting list. It was agreed to let them all join for the season at £6.

It was agreed to accept a sponsorship offer from Canada Life Insurance Company to spend £85 providing trophies for the Junior tournaments.

There was a heated discussion about what to do on Finals Day with finalists from both the mixed doubles and men's singles now unable to attend. It was agreed not to move the date. There would be three line judges and an umpire for each match.

There was a concern that, whilst Scott Keys was popular as a coach, he was proving unreliable.

### **10<sup>th</sup> October 1985 – General Committee**

Temporary Senior membership was agreed for those on the waiting list until the end of the season.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Finals Day had gone well and Mr & Mrs Jagger had been pleased to have been invited. It would be useful to have an umpire's chair in future. We should also consider running the matches sequentially, rather than in pairs.

It was agreed to hold the presentation evening next year on the evening of Finals Day.

### **17<sup>th</sup> October 1985 – Annual General Meeting**

The membership records had been computerised.

The men's 1<sup>st</sup> team had been promoted from division 3 (S), the 2<sup>nd</sup> team had finished in the middle of division 3 (N) and the third team had won division 5. The ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team had won division 2 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> team had won division 3. There had also been 20 friendly matches, mostly mixed doubles.

Pam Brown and Anne Clayden had successfully run the Friday Night Junior Club again, with an average of 30 Juniors attending each week from 6:15 until 9:00pm.

The members' loans for the construction of Courts 4 and 5 were due to be repaid. A small social function was planned for the event.

### **9<sup>th</sup> January 1986 – General Committee**

After an assessment by Running Rackets, three of the nets had been replaced.

Arthur Powell, "a V.O.A.P. from Berkswell", had agreed to do required grounds maintenance at £1.50 per hour. He was going to do 2 to 3 hours per week in winter and 4 to 5 hours in the summer.

With thanks to Anne Lloyd, the Social Committee had raised over £300 during the year.

The Warwickshire LTA had recently held their AGM at the Club. At the meeting it had been noted that "we were the most progressive club in the area."

A sub-committee was formed to decide on the resurfacing of Courts 1 and 2 and possibly floodlights.

At least two parents were having their children coached on the courts by an external coach without permission. This needed to stop until permission had been gained.

By tradition it was the Treasurer's function to obtain a supply of tennis balls for the season.

### **11<sup>th</sup> February 1986 – General Committee**

The limit on Senior members was raised to 200 and Juniors kept at 120 for the new season.

Maureen Milnes thought that playing for the Club in league tennis was a privilege, so was going to insist that team members did at least one 'Club Night Rota Board Duty'. It was agreed that the men should do the same.

Astro-turf was the preferred option for re-surfacing Courts 1 and 2, but we couldn't afford it. It was therefore agreed to resurface on the "Playdeck" principle with the object of upgrading in the future. Subject to satisfactory references, Grimshaw-Kinnear would be asked to do the work. The sub-committee were asked to pay particular attention to the court drainage.

### **15<sup>th</sup> March 1986 – General Committee**

On behalf of the sub-committee, Barry Standley went through Grimshaw-Kinnear's tender. A drain had been found and the resurfacing would cost £7,800. In addition, a new fence would be installed, taken back to the line of the hedge in order to enclose the hut. This would cost £3,820 plus VAT.

They would also repair the Chairman's trampoline. This was agreed to. The colour of the courts was left to the sub-committee to conclude, but dark green with a light green surround was suggested.

### **17<sup>th</sup> April 1986 – General Committee**

A meeting had been held with Mr Roy Shepperd of Anglian Midland, who had resurfaced the other courts. He had made a very forceful presentation criticising the method of resurfacing to be employed and the contractor that had been chosen. A subsequent meeting had been held with Mr Grimshaw at which he satisfactorily answered all the questions that were put to him. It was therefore decided to proceed as planned.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

There were four coaches who had shown an interest in coaching at the Club. It was decided to appoint Richard Marklow for the Junior coaching and Graeme Adams for the Senior coaching.

It was agreed to enter Juniors into the Warwickshire Junior League again. After her commendable efforts the previous year, Pam Brown did not have the time to organise it, but would find a replacement.

Balls would remain at £4 less a £1 trade in. Robin Williams said he had no way of disposing of old balls. It was agreed to sell the better ones to the Juniors for £1 and give the "rubbish" ones away.

It was agreed that Mick Lloyd would have a non-playing vice-captain, because of additional work commitments constraining his time. It was proposed that this should be Ken Rose.

### **8<sup>th</sup> May 1986 – General Committee**

Grimshaw Kinnear had withdrawn from the resurfacing of the courts, before finally agreeing to proceed. This had impacted the completion date, which would affect one match. There was still a lack of clarity over VAT. If it had to be charged, then we would have 3 months to pay it.

Mrs. T [redacted] was not a member but had been playing on the courts with her daughter who was a Junior. Juniors were not entitled to bring guests to the Club. The Secretary would write to Mrs. T.

Alex Nurse had joined as a Junior in 1981, one day before he was eligible. He now wished to become an intermediate member, again one day before he was eligible. It was considered that the decision taken in 1981 had been wrong, but that Alex should not be made to have another year as a Junior.

Maureen Milnes felt that the new match balls were too soft. Slazenger compared with Dunlop.

There were issues cascading match balls for Club Nights. It was agreed to look into a ball cupboard.

The Heart of England tennis team's matches had impacted some Senior members getting onto court. It was agreed that their remaining matches should be played between 4pm and 6pm.

### **12<sup>th</sup> June 1986 – General Committee**

Mid-meeting, Pam Brown took a phone call from the Chairman. "He would be unable to attend because he had flu. However, there was some reluctance on the part of the Committee to believe this, with some nasty suspicious members suggesting that he may have over-indulged on his trip to London!"

There had been a complaint about the way that Grimshaws had dumped earth in front of Courts 4 and 5. Bert Dilley did not accept this, stating that it had been a mess before. It was agreed to contribute to any necessary ploughing.

### **17<sup>th</sup> July 1986 – General Committee**

The previous minutes were read and approved.

Mrs T. had joined the Club.

The Visitors Book had not been seen for some considerable time and was assumed lost.

Grimshaws had experienced delays in replacing the netting [fencing]. There also needed to be a review over the porosity of Court 1.

The activities of the part-time groundsman "had been singularly difficult to observe lately". John Green agreed to find out what was happening.

It was agreed that Graeme Adams should be approached to become the Club coach.

It was decided to hold a barbeque at lunchtime on Finals Day, then present the trophies on court as the events were completed.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> September 1986 – General Committee**

John Green had failed to locate any suitable boxes for the storage of Club Night balls or an external noticeboard. It was decided to get one purpose built.

The second payment to Grimshaws had not been invoiced. It was understood that they were waiting to see how the courts reacted to frost.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

The Club membership was full, with 26 on the waiting list. It was agreed to offer them temporary winter membership in a similar manner to last year.

The ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team had won division one, whilst the men's 1<sup>st</sup> team had been relegated to division three.

Mr Trevor Hughes and his troubadours had been arranged as entertainment for the Presentation Dinner.

Ann Clayden agreed to obtain a book in which a permanent record of all tournament winners could be kept.

### **9<sup>th</sup> October 1986 – General Committee**

The Tennis Club's proposed electronic locking system [for courts and clubhouse] had received general approval from the Sports Association.

A ladder was being organised to maintain interest during the winter and to develop younger players.

The Club tournament had gone well. Ken Rose was not in favour of a proposal to change it to a two week tournament and was prepared to continue organising it if it remained in the same format.

There was still a drainage problem on Court 1 in particular. We were holding on to £6,000 at present.

Graeme Adams had confirmed his willingness to become the Club's coach.

There had been 13 applications for winter membership.

### **17<sup>th</sup> October 1986 – Annual General Meeting**

Peter Grimshaw had considered that the Chairman's trampoline was not worth repairing.

The Club Loan Pay Back Night had been a success, with no monies now outstanding.

There had been a re-run of the successful Maud Watson afternoon for the benefit of Central T.V.

Pam Brown and Ann Clayden were standing down after many years of service. They would be hard to replace. Volunteers were requested to run the Friday evening Junior sessions.

Floodlighting would be the next major project. Barry Standley considered that it would pay for itself within two to three years.

Mr J. Talbot had resigned as the Club's auditor and would be replaced by Mr R. Cheshire.

It was agreed to retain the current format of the Club's Tournament.

"The friendly match against the Cricket Club had (as usual) been won by the cricketers."

It was agreed to change the start of the Club membership year from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> March in order to better fit in with the League.

Courts 4 and 5 were to be reserved for team coaching on Sundays between 9:30 and 11:30.

### **26<sup>th</sup> November 1986 – General Committee**

Two rubbish bins were to be purchased at £63.70 [plus VAT] each in order to tidy the Club grounds. The Sports Association would be asked to purchase a third one.

We had consulted a solicitor and a civil engineer. It was reluctantly agreed to pay Grimshaw's invoice and rely on their promise to rectify things if they went wrong.

Some tickets for the Presentation Dinner had been taken but not then used. This had cost the Club money. In future, tickets must be paid for, whether used or not.

### **1<sup>st</sup> January 1987 – General Committee**

The Sports Association had agreed to purchase two of the rubbish bins.

It was agreed that Ron Davies carry out paving to the right of the hut and around Court 3 at a cost not to exceed £1,600.

It was desirable to have some screening around Courts 4 and 5, either trees or an artificial screen.

The newsletter/application forms needed to be sent out by 14<sup>th</sup> February.



## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

### **12<sup>th</sup> February 1987 – General Committee**

Maureen Milnes urged the Treasurer to buy Slazenger or Penn balls this year.

The team coaching was going well. The cost was £10 per hour. After discussion this was agreed to.

Frank Rounthwaite and Maureen Milnes had agreed to organise Junior Friday Nights, arranging a rota of two league players each week.

The Grounds Committee had refused permission to plant trees as screening behind Courts 4 and 5.

### **1<sup>st</sup> April 1987 – General Committee**

The previous meeting minute regarding organising Junior Friday Nights was challenged. A meeting was to be held with parents of Juniors to find someone who would organise the Junior League.

Four gross of Wilson balls had been purchased for match use at £161 per gross and an appropriate quantity of ProKennex balls for Club use at £132 per gross. Members would be charged £3 for 4 balls, with used balls given to Juniors. It was stressed that team captains ensure that used match balls were made available for Club Nights.

A sub-committee had been formed to plan on installing floodlighting for the winter of 1988.

Barry Standley had obtained the services of a civil engineer (Alastair Clarke) to assess the viability of running drainage from Court 1 under the car park.

Barring accidents, we had won the Indoor League at the ACE.

Enthusiasm for Graeme Adam's coaching was considerable.

The Sports Association now comprised of three committees: bar, house and field.

The Sports Association had shelved plans to build a new entrance to the pavilion, with the money to be used for a new pavilion. John Green thought that we should vigorously oppose this, because the Tennis Club needed a new entrance now and a new pavilion would be 10 years off.

### **7<sup>th</sup> May 1987 – General Committee**

The balls that had been ordered were held up at the docks.

The Junior League was now being run by Pamela Nurse with Junior Friday Nights being run via Peter Nurse who was looking for additional members to volunteer.

Arrangements were in hand to install the new electronic locking system by the beginning of June.

Alastair Clarke had carried out a survey and concluded that we needed a two hundred metre drain. He would assess the costs. Because the Tennis Club had undoubtedly exacerbated the problem, through the resurfacing of Courts 1 and 2, we were morally obliged to contribute to the cost.

The Club's allocation of Wimbledon tickets had reduced to 14 from 22 the previous year due to a general cut back by Wimbledon. However, it had been difficult to dispose of some tickets last year.

Maureen Milnes thought that sorting the showers and toilets in the ladies' changing rooms should take priority over expenditure on any new entrance. Her concern about the changing rooms would be raised with the Sports Association, but so would the Tennis Club's need for a new entrance.

The wine and cheese evening had gone very well, making a profit of £113.

### **18<sup>th</sup> June 1987 – General Committee**

The ladies' showers had been done.

To do the drainage across the car park properly would cost £1,400. The Tennis Club were prepared to pay a third of the sum.

Anglia [and Midland] had recommended water blasting the algae and moss off Court 3 with a high pressure hose for £230. John Green said that he could do it himself but needed to buy extra hose.

### **20<sup>th</sup> August 1987 – General Committee**

It was considered that Courts 4 and 5 were the most suitable for the floodlighting project.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

It would appear that balls left in the clubhouse for Club Nights get pinched. We need a system. It was suggested that Joy Whitehouse was put in charge of balls.

### **24<sup>th</sup> September 1987 – General Committee**

John Green had not found the time to spray Court 3, so Andrew Taylor and Bert Dilley volunteered.

The cost for floodlighting was going to be around £12,000. There was a choice between white lights that were cheap to install but expensive to maintain or yellow lights where the reverse was true.

Our current Senior membership rate was £32, whilst Warwick Boat Club's was £86.

Finals Day had been somewhat disrupted by the weather, but the switch to the Racquet Centre had saved the day.

John Green announced that after 10 years, he was standing down as Chairman. He wished to present the Club with a trophy, which would be called the 90+ Cup. It would be awarded to the Tournament winning men's doubles pair whose combined age was greater than 90.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> October 1987 – Annual General Meeting**

Subscription income was slightly down this year compared to last (£5,427 in 1986, £5,297 in 1987).

It was agreed to introduce a fourth men's team next year, despite the impact on court time.

Maureen Milnes also proposed that the ladies enter a third team into the league.

The Annual Dinner had been a particularly successful event and was now an established formula.

John Green said that the highlights of his ten year term as Chairman were: the construction of courts 4 and 5, the incredibly successful Maud Watson Affair and the ladies 1<sup>st</sup> team winning the Coventry and District League championship. He also cited that our treatment of Juniors was now an exemplar to other clubs.

It was agreed to revise rule number one of the Club to increase the General Committee to twelve members, including a Junior Co-ordinator.

### **26<sup>th</sup> November 1987 – General Committee**

The attempt to clean Court 3 with a high pressure hose had failed, because the paint started to come off and the surface to lift. The professional advice was to treat it with a fungicide.

The practice wall mentioned at the AGM had been discussed in the past. The current priority was floodlighting. After reviewing lights at Coleshill and Arden Tennis Clubs, it was agreed to go ahead with sodium lights and that collapsible posts were essential for ease of maintenance.

At the last Sports Association meeting there had been a strong lobby to build a bowling green behind Courts 4 and 5, where we had intended to expand our capacity of two further courts.

The Coventry League had agreed to us running an extra men's and ladies team.

The League were being sponsored by Tretorn; however, we weren't obliged to use their balls.

### **12<sup>th</sup> January 1988 – General Committee**

The new clubhouse doors had been fitted, although there were some issues with them.

An order form was to be added to this year's annual letter to gauge interest from members in a Club sweater.

Pam Brown had fallen quite badly on court the previous weekend due to the dirty court surface. It was decided to spray with Jeyes fluid and Frank, Barry, Libba and Maureen volunteered.

Robin and Frank had put together a six year plan with the objective of funding floodlighting and adding two more courts. It was decided that two more courts were preferable to upgrading two existing courts to an astroturf surface. Permission was to be sought from the Sports Association.

It was decided to allocate four courts to Juniors on a Saturday morning until noon.

Tennis and Tipple had gone well and members bringing their own food had proved successful.

Two lockable chests for Club Night balls were to be purchased, one for Seniors and one for Juniors.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> February 1988 – General Committee**

Jeyes fluid was not suitable on tarmac surfaces, so awaiting advice from court layers on what to use.

After consulting with the planners, Barry considered that we would not get planning permission for the 10m posts necessary for the sodium lighting. He had identified a new system using 6m posts. The company was prepared to give a 20% discount for the Club to be the first site in the Midlands. The only current site was in Newcastle. It was agreed to fund four players to go and see it.

The Lant Grounds Committee were very keen on having a Bowling Club and perhaps we should seriously consider having the Bowling Club as part of the Tennis Club.

The little clubhouse was in serious danger of falling apart.

### **29<sup>th</sup> February 1988 – General Committee**

Bert reported on the trip to see the new floodlights at Petersfield. The lighting was superb. Like playing in daylight with no overspill or glare.

Vicki asked about a practice wall for Juniors. It was still low on the list of priorities for funding.

The courts had been sprayed with Armillatox. Anglia and Midland were going to quote for cleaning and spraying Courts 3, 4 and 5.

Quotes for the drainage were between £1,500 - £1,600. However, the Sports Association had lost £1,000 in bar takings.

The netting [fencing] to Court 3 was in need of repair.

### **30<sup>th</sup> March 1988 – General Committee**

Mr Dave Gibbs, the carpenter, had quoted £100-200 to repair the small pavilion. It was agreed to proceed with this.

Devoe Systems had responded most satisfactorily to all the questions raised about the floodlighting.

The PR meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March had been poorly attended. There had only been one positive "no". Perhaps we should encourage local residents to become social members.

The Lant Trust had given permission for the drainage to go ahead. There were also issues with the drainage of the football and hockey pitches, which the Sports Association may address in the future.

John Green has employed a gardener for the tennis grounds for three hours per week at £2.50/hr.

### **28<sup>th</sup> April 1988 – General Committee**

The gardener had been working for seven weeks. Everyone agreed that he was doing a good job.

The planning application for floodlighting had been submitted.

A wedding present had been purchased on behalf of the Club for Simon Standley and Katie Gray.

Twenty six ladies had been registered with the League for the forthcoming season, but there had been a lack of interest from the younger girls.

There was sufficient interest shown in a Club sweater and t-shirt, so it was agreed to go ahead with this. It was decided that Barry should propose designs for an alternate Club badge.

There was a heated debate about whether the doubles events should be drawn in the same way as the mixed doubles. The final say would be left to whoever ran the tournament.

### **19<sup>th</sup> May 1988 – General Committee**

Balls were costing the Club £1.19 each therefore we were making a loss at £3 for four. It was agreed to increase the cost to £4 a tin. [Retail price was £6.99.]

In the absence of volunteers, Peter Nurse agreed to run the Club Tournament. Because it was late getting started, he would keep to the previous years format.

The men were struggling to make the showers work. "Brian Brown as Chairman of the Sports Association was dragged from the bar to advise on the situation. Brian proceeded to demonstrate to John how to work the controls to obtain hot water."

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Vicki requested six balls on a string to keep Juniors amused whilst waiting to go on court. There had been forty children at the last Junior Club Night. This was agreed to.

Barry showed some designs for a new Club badge and a choice was made. It was decided to purchase white sweaters for playing in and coloured ones for “posing” in.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> June 1988 – General Committee**

Maureen had replaced the net band and had reported the net repairs to Running Racquets.

A quote of £1,600 had been received from Shirley Fencing to do three sides of Court 3, but it was decided that this was too high and to wait for a quote from Dave Hunt. Meanwhile, temporary repairs would be effected by Peter, Barry and Bert.

The lists of Tournament matches were not being updated. Peter warned that the completion dates should be strictly adhered to.

There was a lack of attendance at Club Nights. “Maureen pursued her very old hobby horse re league players having a duty to attend at least once a month.”

The “balls on strings” were a great success. Peter Jamieson had offered to donate cups for the boys U13s and girls U13s competitions.

The better Juniors were to be encouraged in to the men’s 4<sup>th</sup> team and hence be eligible to play on Club Nights.

Floodlight planning permission had been granted for one year, which apparently was standard practice. It was agreed to proceed with the floodlights on this basis. A grant application to the Sports Council had missed the last deadline and would be considered in September. We could finance the floodlights without the grant so we would ask the contractor to start after 4<sup>th</sup> September and quote to replace Court 3 netting [fencing].

It was the Lant Trust’s expectation that the Tennis Club would form a Bowling Club. This was a misunderstanding.

The ditch along the Kenilworth Road had been cleared and the drainage was to go ahead.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> August 1988 – General Committee**

Barry reported on a discussion with a representative of the Sports Council. It was a lottery whether an application would be accepted. The last three floodlight applications weren’t. A grant would typically be 25% - 33%. Starting work before grant consideration would be an automatic rejection. He agreed to send a letter allowing us to commence without prejudice to our application. Our estimated funds available at 31<sup>st</sup> August were £9,622. It was decided to proceed with the floodlighting and to seek emergency funding from other sources if necessary.

### **30<sup>th</sup> August 1988 – General Committee**

We had been informed that we had no chance of a Sports Council Grant, but an application for a County loan had been approved. We would see if we could increase this loan. The LTA would need to see increased subscription income to justify a loan. A six year plan showing the effect of both 6% and 10% increase in subscriptions was circulated.

### **4<sup>th</sup> October 1988 – General Committee**

There had been an unsatisfactory start to the floodlighting installation apparently due to a backlog of orders, but most equipment was now on site.

Anglia and Midland had advised that Courts 1, 2 and 3 needed cleaning and suggested next spring. They quoted £900 per court.

For the time being we would consider combining the proposed Bowling Club with the Tennis Club until things were resolved one way or the other.

The Sports Association’s new levy system would result in a £1 increase from each Tennis Club member.

## **Minutes of the first 40 years of Berkswell and Balsall Common Tennis Club**

Celia Goodman had agreed to run the Junior Club Night next season, but it was felt that she should be given assistance with this.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> October 1988 – Annual General Meeting**

There had been no progress in sourcing Club sweaters, there wasn't a lot of demand for them.

There would be considerable problems with siting and agreeing on a practice wall. Other projects were therefore being given a higher priority.

Total membership was 363 compared with 343 in 1987. There were 12 Juniors on the waiting list.

It was puzzling, given the size of our membership, why Club Nights were so poorly attended.

It was agreed to raise all subscriptions by approximately 10% in order to raise funds for future projects and capital expenditure.

It was noted that this was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club. Joy Whitehouse had described how the original members had tea on what was now the car park. Herbert Crow said that he had many of the original documents and photographs of the Club and he would be happy to present them to the Club to make a showcase.