

CAPEL TENNIS CLUB



A brief history of
Capel Tennis Club

Contents

Pre-history of Capel Tennis Club	2
The beginning of Capel Tennis Club	2
Dark days of the war	3
The lean years	4
Hard courts at last!	4
The 1960s	5
The 1970s	6
The 1980s	6
The 1990s	7
The latest pavilion	7
A time of consolidation	8
Into the 21 st century	9
75 th anniversary	10
Early Noughties	11
Flood lights replacement	13
Covid pandemic	13
TNT	15
Club Centenary	16
Officers of Capel Tennis Club	18
Club Champions	22
Club Veterans Champions	25
About this document	25

Pre-history of Capel Tennis Club

In the late 19th and early 20th century, enthusiasm for sporting activities accelerated as leisure time increased. Lawn Tennis, unlike Real Tennis, is a comparatively new game. A form of it was first played in 1868, but it is Major W.C. Wingfield's version 'Sphairistike' (or 'Sticky' by those who disliked it), played in 1869 and soon known as Lawn Tennis, which is accepted as the origin of the modern game. It was a simplified form of Real Tennis, using a net but no walls.

The first Code of Rules was published by the M.C.C. in 1875. The All-England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club came into being in 1877 (formerly All England Croquet Club) when the first Lawn Tennis Championships were held.

The 'love' in scoring comes from the French 'l'oeuf' meaning egg, which looks like a nought. (Interestingly in cricket 'duck' derived from 'duck's egg'.)

The first mentions of a Club in the Dorking area are:

- Dorking Lawn Tennis & Bowling Club 1900/1 - amalgamated with Dorking & District 1938
- Pixham Croquet & Lawn Tennis Club 1907 - transferred to Dorking 1913
- Dorking & District Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club – 1912

In Capel, local benefactors provided the original resources for tennis. The Reverend A.J. Howell, vicar, was a great enthusiast and invited young people to play on his own grass court and taught them the game. He was succeeded by the Rev. C.F. Carver, another keen player.

Other courts used were opposite Capel House Farm and Mr. C.W.P. Hodsoll allowed tennis to be played on his court at Pleystowe. Bowls, as well as tennis, were played on Mr. Wells' property at Elm Lodge but bowls was not well supported and discontinued.

The August 1922 Capel Parish magazine reported:

A CAPEL TENNIS CLUB

How many people would like one open to all? Will those who would communicate with the Vicar as soon as possible.

The beginning of Capel Tennis Club

The following year in July 1923, the Capel Magazine reported on a meeting, held in the Wesleyan Hall, to consider the advisability of forming "A TENNIS AND BOWLS CLUB". The Vicar took the chair, supported by Mr. Wells. There were about 40 present. Mr. Wells offered his ground, and the Vicar his tennis court on certain days of the week for the summer. The subscription would be a minimum of 2s.6d (12.5p in Decimal Currency). The times were Monday evenings, Wednesdays at 2.30pm, and Saturdays at 2.30pm. The club would be open to all residents of Capel, and all members would have the same standing. Fifty people joined the club. In August, a General Meeting was held to pass rules and constitution and decide on the club ground, admission only by membership card.

It was obviously unsatisfactory to be reliant on the goodwill of local benefactors for the use of their courts and the club needed its own facilities. On 23rd April, 1929, a public meeting was held in the Church Room (now the Memorial Hall). The vicar, Rev. Carver, put before the meeting an offer by Mr. Russell Scott of Wayside to use two grass courts for £5 p.a. if a club could be formed. These courts were in a field opposite the old hospital (now Charlotte Broadwood flats). The Young People's School had also approached Mr. Scott with a view to using his courts but it was agreed that a Capel Lawn Tennis Club should be formed, unconnected with any particular body.

Members had to cross the Glebe Field, for which right of way the vicar was paid 2s. a year. A subscription of 10s.6d. (52.5p in today's currency) was agreed (7s.6d. for under 17 years) and a notice about the club was affixed to a convenient tree. A groundsman was appointed, and a small shed obtained, from which the ladies served afternoon teas on Wednesdays and Saturdays (both were early closing days). This wooden shed - Pavilion Mark 1 - was about 10 feet square with a flap which could be fixed open on one side.

The aim was to get the courts ready for play from early May to mid-September, but often wet weather made this impossible. A decision was taken to mark out the courts from North to South.

A member who joined the club in 1934 and was to be a leading player in the history of the club was Ron Webb.

In 1935, Mr. C.W.P. Hodsoll was invited to be the club's first president, as a token of appreciation for his unstinting support. He was to be president for 22 years and is remembered by the Mixed Doubles Hodsoll Bowl tournament, played annually in the autumn.

The idea of playing tennis on Sundays was first considered in 1936. Sunday morning church followed by Sunday roast lunch was normal at that time so tennis after a big meal was not thought feasible. Great concern was noted in 1937 about the need for more 'Club Spirit' as people were not volunteering for essential maintenance work on the grass courts or giving time to encourage weaker players.

Dark days of the war

Tennis and court maintenance could naturally not be a priority during war austerities. For example, balls were extremely difficult to obtain, petrol was rationed, and many garden lawns were dug up for allotments. However, the efforts of Messrs. Teasdale, Treasurer, and Palmer, Secretary, from 1939 to 1945 were singled out for praise in keeping the club alive, when they had their own considerable problems. Mr. Teasdale ran a shop in what is now Chestnut House in The Street.

In 1939 there were 34 members. The Ladies' and Gentleman's Singles Championships started in 1941. In 1942 it became necessary to call an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) to discuss whether conscientious objectors should be allowed to play. A decision was taken that they be restricted to two days a week and the secretary was asked to write to the people concerned.

By 1945, the courts were completely overgrown, and the future of the club was in real danger. Efforts were made to get at least one court going but to no avail and 1945 saw no play at all. The following year a meeting was held on the courts at the end of May to see what could be done but pouring rain caused

adjournment of this meeting. However, one court was prepared and on 11th July a reduced subscription of 5s. was agreed for the short 1946 season. Monday evenings were set aside for maintenance.

The lean years

Due to the difficulty of maintaining the grass courts, the next few years of tennis proved a struggle. The pavilion roof was also leaking badly. In 1947, a Ground Committee was set up exempt from subscriptions. A proposal to fine members who did not do their share of work was *not* passed. It was decided to buy barbed wire to keep the cows out and also a motor mower. Subject to the vicar's approval over the right of way (since he might object to the playing of tennis on Sundays), Sunday afternoon tennis was introduced. A rota of ladies providing teas was organised and this tradition was to continue for many years.

Despite these heroic efforts, cows broke on to the courts causing enormous damage. The motor mower, bought for £5, proved a dead loss. The drainage from the courts was also inadequate.

It seems that the cows were the final straw and, at the 1948 AGM (Annual General Meeting), Ron Webb, Chairman, put forward the idea of hard courts. Five months later, in September, a special meeting was held in the British Legion Club Room to discuss the construction of two hard courts on the Recreation Ground, with two further courts in the future. Agreement was reached with the Parish Council on a site at the bottom end of the Recreation Ground. Ron Webb undertook the task of treasurer for the Hard Courts Scheme.

Hard courts at last!

Fundraising efforts began in earnest: raffles, dances, a car rally, jumble sale and a collecting box at the Clubhouse for 2d. a session played. By 1956, the Hard Court Fund stood at £963.14s.7d., with help from gifts and a loan from the Surrey Playing Fields Association. An estimate from Gazes for £941.11s.9d. was accepted.

The courts were opened on 23rd February 1957, by Sir John Child Bt., Vice-Chairman of the Playing Fields Association. It was pouring with rain, but many members and friends squelched their way to watch the opening ceremony. Special thanks were given to the Webb family for their perseverance during the lean years. A celebratory dance was held in the Memorial Hall in the evening.

Four days later at the A.G.M., an increased subscription of two guineas (£2.2s or £2.10 in today's currency) was agreed, with juniors still at school paying one guinea. The old pavilion was man-handled over to the recreation ground and positioned by the entrance to courts 1 and 2, complete with an Elsan (a portable lavatory) in one corner. At this time the membership grew to 65 people.

Mr. Hodson, who had been President since 1936, resigned in 1958. He had been a faithful and generous supporter of the club over this long period.

The 1960s

In 1961, Ron Webb handed over the final repayment on the hard courts at a dinner held at the King's Arms, Ockley. Repayment took half the expected time. The feeling was expressed that, although the club was now out of debt financially, it would always owe a debt to those who helped make it happen. The AGM followed the annual dinner and began another tradition that continued for some time. Also that year, the club joined the Dorking and Leatherhead League, entering two teams.

The next goal would be a new pavilion and after that a third court. The club joined the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association), at a cost of 1s. per member. Fundraising continued with events as before. Alan Mills (British tennis player and later Wimbledon tournament referee) and his wife opened the Autumn Fair in 1962. Also, that year, new club rules were passed at a special meeting.

1963 was an eventful year. The courts were resurfaced, after seven years, and proposals were agreed to purchase a pavilion costing up to £300. This pavilion was erected with a big effort on the part of members, in particular Peter Moffatt and B. Jackson. Keys were issued to all senior members. The pavilion was wooden and consisted of one large room and veranda. The Elsan continued to be used in the old shed. It was hardly surprising that the club ran up an overdraft after all these improvements! For 9 years beginning in 1964, the club had a hardworking chairman, Peter Jones, who then served as president for 8 years.

Strenuous efforts were made to redress the situation and the overdraft was paid off the following year, mainly due to the valiant efforts of the ladies in running Autumn and Spring Fairs. A balance of £3.5s. l.d. was achieved.

Thoughts turned to a path, changing rooms, kitchen, and more courts. A path of sorts was completed in 1965 for £52.2s. At an EGM that year, a choice had to be made between changing rooms or more courts. Due to the difficulty in obtaining grants, only Court 3 went ahead in 1966/7, costing £970. Court 3 was allocated for use as the court to be hired by the public when there were no club fixtures. Agreement was reached with the local farmer for a sewer connection to be laid from the club.

In 1967 Mr. Hodsoll died, and the Hodsoll Bowl Mixed Doubles Annual Tournament was instituted in his memory. This annual tournament continues to this day, organised in recent years by David Montgomery (club treasurer at the time of writing).

The annual dinner and AGM was held at various locations: the Holly & Laurel in Holmwood, Gatton Manor Country Club in Ockley, and the White Hart in Beare Green. In 1966 it was held at the Kings Head in Capel. For some years, Dorking and Capel Tennis Clubs combined for a dinner dance at the Hut in Westcott, the Surrey Hills Hotel in Beare Green, and the King's Head in Capel.

In 1969, the kitchen and changing rooms were added to the clubhouse. This seemed luxurious. However, burst pipes were a regular hazard in winter if the water had not been drained in time. The Pavilion Mark I was demoted to being a tool shed. Walking down to the club was a frustrating muddy challenge – members resorted to plastic bags over their shoes if they had forgotten boots.

The 1970s

By 1971 the courts needed resurfacing again (8 years since the last time). The club was very grateful to the Weymouths in Mortimer Road for allowing an electric cable to be partly laid through their garden to bring electricity to the clubhouse. A patio was laid beside the pavilion for barbeques and dancing and bridge evenings took place in the winter months. Court 3 was resurfaced in 1974 (8 years since building).

Fund-raising continued and new ideas were tried out: jumble sales, a bring & buy coffee morning, even a yoga morning. The Autumn Fair became defunct, and the committee complained that people did not bother to read the notice board or letters or to support working parties - nothing new! To help funds a payment of 20p (using new currency now) was introduced for away matches, and 10p for Home, to defray the cost of balls used.

In 1976, the rules were updated again. A path was laid along to Court 3. The pavilion roof was now beginning to leak frequently, and many attempts were made to repair it at considerable expense.

The 1980s

In 1980, the first and very successful "Good as New" clothes sale was held. People were feeling very hard up at this time and exchanging clothes at reasonable prices was popular, particularly ball gowns worn at dinner dances. The Club gave up membership of the LTA as being too expensive. There was bad flooding on Courts 1 and 2. Was it bad drainage of the courts or the allotments tap overflowing? Finally, it was traced to the water main, and 27 leaks were repaired by East Surrey Water Company who took responsibility and finally fixed the problem in 1983. The pavilion roof still needed constant attention. However, despite the gloom of the recession, floodlighting was discussed for the first time and open days were tried out at the beginning of the season to encourage new members. As a less expensive venue, the dinner dance was held at the Chinese Restaurant in Cranleigh for a couple of years at £5 per head.

A long-standing tradition was changed in 1982 when Sunday tennis changed to be played in the morning from 10 o'clock. For some years teas had been poorly supported. The Barbie Bowl, presented by Barbie Heal, was introduced in 1983 for a Wednesday ladies doubles tournament (at this time Wednesdays were ladies only). The tournament was timed to finish in time for mums to collect children from school, with a simple lunch. Barbie was always pleased she had presented this bowl to the club as she was subsequently burgled, and all her other silver was stolen. Court 3 was resurfaced again after 9 years of play. In 1984 Progressive Dinners were started, with a different venue in a member's house for each course and proved very popular.

With the 80s in full swing and a more upbeat economy, the club rejoined the LTA in 1986 and courts 1 and 2 were resurfaced at a cost of £9,900. Dinner dances were held at Magpies and Reigate Manor.

In 1988 there was talk of a fourth court and a new clubhouse so the need for determined fund-raising began once more. The club now had an enthusiastic and hard-working treasurer, Doug Wade, who encouraged members with financial planning for future development. Two very successful Race Nights and a 50/50 Sale were held. An EGM was held in December to agree plans to go ahead with the fourth court which was built the following year. Once again, the club rules were updated. A Men's Doubles

Tournament was introduced in 1990 and Court 3 was resurfaced (7 years). In 1991, the club acquired a dynamic chairman in Clive Coward and planned developments received fresh impetus.

The 1990s

In 1992, floodlights were added to courts 1 and 2. Courts 1, 2 and 3 were painted green for the first time. Also Sunday brunches were introduced. The club began to put money by in earnest for a new pavilion as repairs to the current one were never-ending. The Spring Fair in 1994 was superseded by a Trivia Quiz and Casino Evening. There was a big debate as to whether to hold the club tournament finals on the Saturday after Wimbledon in July as had been done for years, or in September to give more time for matches to be played.

Courts 1 and 2 were now in dire need of resurfacing and rewiring, having last been done in 1986, although repainted in 1992. The pavilion roof continued to give problems, and with the introduction of Winter League matches, it was embarrassing to have no water during the winter months due to pipes freezing up. Also, the mud walking down to the clubhouse from the car park was still a challenge with members having to wear gumboots or resort to plastic bags over their tennis shoes. Unprepared visitors were shocked at the state of the path.

The latest pavilion

At the 1995 AGM, the chairman, Clive Coward, commented in his report that investigations should begin about where we could raise more funds for a new pavilion. A detailed financial forecast was presented. Progress was swift due to Clive's meticulous planning. At the 1996 AGM, initial plans were available for members to see, and agreement was obtained to go ahead with an application to the Sports Council Lottery Board.



Clive Coward receiving the cheque towards the new pavilion

As shown in the above photograph, the Sports Council Lottery Board contributed £49,490. £10,000 was loaned from the LTA and the remaining balance was from club savings to cover the total cost of £85,000. The new pavilion was to be one-third larger than the second pavilion built in the 1960s, but similar in layout as members had found the design very satisfactory.

Courts 1 and 2 were cleaned, and court 3 was repainted to make them last until the new pavilion was complete. The water mains pipe was re-routed as it ran directly where the new pavilion would be, and once again the club was without water and proper sanitation for several weeks, including finals day. Work started straight after club finals day. A new electricity cable was laid alongside the allotments to a connection at the corner of 19 Mortimer Road and a tarmac path was laid. The magnificent and larger pavilion, built in blockwork covered with pine cladding, complete with showers and toilet facilities for the disabled, was officially opened by Alan Mills, O.B.E., on 15th December 1996. A buffet luncheon was held to which many former, distinguished members of the club were invited, and many congratulatory speeches were made.



A magnificent cake in the shape of a tennis court, complete with clubhouse, was ceremonially cut by the President, John Price and a junior member of the club, Gemma Bartlett, to demonstrate the club's debt to past members and its determination to continue to provide excellent tennis at Capel Tennis Club in the future.

A time of consolidation

On retiring as Chairman in 1997, Clive Coward presented the Club with a Wimbledon No. 1 Court Bench. The attractive design of the third Pavilion was officially recognised when it was awarded the Best Development Award for 1996-7 by the Dorking & District Preservation Society. The second pavilion is now proudly re-erected in the field of Woolpack Cottages, beside Ewekenes Lane, as our architect, Paul Kingfisher, gave his services for free and was rewarded with the old pavilion as a games room for his family. Progress dictated that a cleaner and a handyman should be employed instead of members working on a rota system.

Taking advantage of the new warm winter facilities and floodlights, a Mixed Club Winter Championship and Plate was introduced with finals taking place in March. Also, a Jaques table-tennis table was purchased.

In 1993, Terry Harding started a Junior Coaching session on Saturday afternoons which proved to be very popular. Terry also introduced holiday coaching weeks and fun days. In 1996, an Improver Session was also introduced to cater for new adult players and those not yet of a standard to join all club sessions. This provided an hour of free coaching on Saturdays and access to certain club sessions. This solved the problem of new and weaker players not fitting in to normal club sessions.

Courts 1 and 2 were resurfaced in 1997 and provided with new nets.

With all these improved facilities, senior membership exceeded 100 for the first time in 1998. A ladies' doubles day tournament was added. Times had changed and more women worked, making it more difficult to arrange the Barbie Bowl, the Wednesday Ladies' event. It was agreed to alternate between Wednesdays (to cater for those not free at weekends) and Sundays (for those who worked during the week). On Sundays it had to start from 1 p.m. so as not to clash with Sunday morning tennis, and tea was provided. Now it is always played on a Sunday.

A Christmas party, a supper with fun and games in the barn of John Holder, a Capel resident and club member, along with a website, took the club into the next century.

Into the 21st century

The new millennium began for the club on 2nd of January 2000 with a Millennium Tennis Challenge, which included appropriate decorations and hot punch and enthusiasm all round for lots of tennis. All the tournaments of the previous century continued, as did participation in the Dorking & Leatherhead League and the Surrey Winter League. Looking to the future, it was decided the club is not big enough to consider indoor facilities. On a mundane note, a replacement shed was bought for storage.

The LTA is keen to promote tennis and the club has taken part in a 'Play Tennis' Open Day early in the season to encourage new members. Capel Tennis Club encourages young players, and promising teenagers are invited to join in club sessions. A session for the stronger intermediate and junior players was introduced on Friday evenings before the regular adult session, although this has been replaced with a coaching session which welcomes all club members.

With increased numbers at club sessions, a pegboard was introduced to organise who was playing on which court and to maintain a queue of those waiting to play.

The drainage work carried out in 1998 was not successful and was redone in 2001. The fast-growing cypress hedge between the courts was replaced by windbreak screens secured to the fencing behind the court. These could be removed in winter, allowing the sun to shine on Courts 1 and 2 which helped melt the frost on cold mornings. After many years of looking for members with large cars to struggle on Finals Day with a bulky umpire's chair, kindly lent by Friends' Provident in Dorking, the company agreed to sell the club a chair, so that annual task is no longer necessary.

The Pam Jones Mixed Ladies' Invitation tournament was introduced in 2000 in Pam's memory and a silver salver donated by her family as a trophy. In 2004, Mary Price, a longstanding and loyal member for over 40 years from 1959 - 2004, presented the Price Bowl for a mixed friendly Wednesday tournament to be played in August after the busy match and tournament season.

Social events change with the years - international supper evenings: Indian, Italian, American, Spanish, and Old Time Tennis evening (all with tennis), Trivia Quizzes on Food & Music and a Christmas Quiz. Brunches and Progressive Suppers were popular, as were BBQs and BYO picnics. A unique occasion in 2002 was a BBQ and watching Wimbledon Finals on a specially brought in Big Screen in the Holder's Barn.

75th anniversary

On 25th April, 2004, the club celebrated the 75th Anniversary of its founding in 1929. This was a magnificent occasion with a buffet lunch served in a marquee. Many ex-officials and loyal supporters of the club were invited. Below is the memorable photograph of the occasion – a full size version can be seen in the clubhouse. The opportunity was taken to reflect on what a superb club we have, in beautiful surroundings, with an enormous amount of goodwill and generosity from its members.



Capel Tennis Club 75th Anniversary

Because of the long Finals Day program, matches usually played by the same contestants, mixed finals have occasionally been moved to a later date, creating a new well-supported event.

Early Noughties

The club championships finals day is always very well supported. Founding member Ron Webb died in 2005, and his family donated the Ron Webb Memorial Trophy and Improved Player Trophy for the Junior Tournament. The Barbie Bowl has continued into the 2000s, being played on Sunday afternoons followed by tea.



Barbie Healey presenting Mandy Tanswell and Sue Goodenough with Barbie Bowl trophy in 2002

From the rare man asking to join the Wednesday Ladies, this has now changed to a popular mixed session with so many fit, retired members. The idea of an artificial surface was not pursued as the maintenance was considered too onerous.

In 2006 the Winter Warmer event celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of the new Clubhouse with hot punch and hot curry. Courts 1 and 2 were also resurfaced. The Wednesday Bridge Group was started as a wet weather insurance, also providing a welcome venue for those members who no longer play tennis.

In 2007, Saturday mornings were opened to Improvers and invited Juniors, but due to limited numbers this session is no longer held. Mini-tennis was introduced in 2009, with red, yellow and green standards, but this also has not survived to the present day.

Methods of communication between tennis club members have evolved over time. In the early days of Capel Tennis Club, members would either directly interact with one another or use the telephone to arrange tennis club matters. This has been made easier with developments in technology. Mobile phones, email, the club website (www.capeltennis.org.uk) and WhatsApp groups are often used to interact with other members and find out about club events.

Loyal and devoted Club supporter, Bruce Miles, died on 1st November 2008, and, with his generous legacy of £15,000, a handsome clock was installed on the clubhouse and a training wall was built on a small court between court 3 and court 4.

A trial of banding to separate out stronger players in club sessions was not successful and caused much friction as members were segregated, so in 2011, Super Sundays were introduced to encourage team members to meet and play with grassroots members.



Terry Harding coaching juniors

A great loss to the club was the retirement of Terry Harding, club coach, in November 2012 as he had built up the Juniors and encouraged new Improver members so successfully. However, he was energetically succeeded by Stuart Sinclair who has been playing with the club since he joined as a junior and subsequently won the Men's Singles title several times.



Tom Hall's coaching session in 2023

At the end of 2022, Tom Hall took over the role of club coach. Coaching sessions are now held on Monday and Friday evenings, are free to club members and frequently oversubscribed.

Flood lights replacement

The flood lights installed in 1992 were showing their age by 2017. Some of the flood lights had become temperamental and it was decided that it was time to replace them completely.



The new lights are more efficient, and warm up faster. A useful new feature is that they are on a timer which automatically turns off at 10pm. No more accidentally leaving the lights on all night!

Covid pandemic

2020

An outbreak of the Covid-19 coronavirus was first identified in Wuhan in China in December of 2019. On the 23rd of March 2020, following a Cobra meeting, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the first lockdown telling people they must stay at home.

On the 24th of March, club chairman Neil White sent an email to all club members which included these words: “We have therefore taken the tough decision to close the club facilities until further notice”. The nets on the courts were taken down to reinforce this message. The courts and clubhouse were closed until further notice.

Members of Capel Tennis Club, like most people living in the UK, spent subsequent weeks sheltering at home in their social bubble of people. People were allowed to go out for a limited time each day to get some exercise as long as they stayed close to home. Many Capel residents used this opportunity to exercise by walking around the recently constructed path circumnavigating the Capel recreation ground. For those walking around “the rec”, this provided the forlorn site of the tennis club with completely empty courts. However, walkers round the rec did occasionally benefit from the additional social interaction of encountering other village residents also getting their exercise.

Government restrictions were tightened and relaxed over subsequent months as the Covid pandemic eased and worsened. Capel Tennis Club managed its restrictions in line with government actions.

The 2020 club championship did not take place due to the pandemic. This was the first gap since championships had started in 1958.



2021

The 2021 Capel Tennis Club AGM was held on the 25th of February. The meeting was held using Zoom video conferencing. Club members called in from their homes using their computers, mobile phones and tablets.



This technology had only been generally available for a few years and was a huge help during these times. Seeing other club members at the AGM was a boost to morale, even if they were only visible using an internet connection.

On the 23rd of July the clubhouse was reopened with all tennis facilities available for members. There was a significant increase in usage of club facilities and participation in club events. Having been cooped up and restricted for so long, everyone was eager to get out and have fun.

The club championship for 2021 was held on the 24th of July. This was a welcome return to the annual club competition and being able to enjoy the company of others. Members enjoyed a great day of tennis followed by a supper held outside the clubhouse.

The Capel Tennis Club Quiz Night has become one of the main annual social activities for club members. It is held in the Capel Village Hall with normally about 100 attendees struggling with questions posed by quizmaster Alistair Burgess. A meal is normally served halfway through proceedings with a bar also available. The quiz night was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Consequently, it was great news that it would be held again in 2021. The quiz took place in November with those attending being delighted that life was getting back to normal.

TNT

Capel Tennis Club has several weekly club sessions open to all members, with some sessions more popular than others. By early 2021 attendance at the Tuesday night club session was in need of improvement. Occasionally there would not be enough players turning up to get a game of doubles going.

Sharon Campbell, a club committee member, took on the task of livening up the Tuesday club session. She discovered a mini-tournament tennis format which was being used at Royal Ascot tennis club. This was introduced to Capel Tennis Club with the name “TNT”, standing for Tuesday Night Tennis.



Sharon welcoming a couple of players to the first TNT session at Capel Tennis Club

TNT is run as a series of 20-minute doubles tennis sessions. Players are shuffled around at the end of each session. This provides a lot of variety in terms of who someone plays with and who they play against.

TNT has proven to be very popular. The club uses a WhatsApp group specifically for folks interested in TNT. A message is sent out on a Sunday evening inviting club members to sign up for the upcoming TNT. Occasionally TNT has been so popular that members slow at signing up have to wait for the following week, but fortunately this is rare.

At the end of each session, the number of games won by each person is recorded. These are totaled up after the final session of the evening resulting in winners for the men and for the women.

A men's and women's TNT league is also maintained. This aggregates results from TNT sessions for the season with the best average weekly score being at the top of the league.

In one of the first TNT sessions, club member Dave Smith had a very good evening. For that year, he only played one TNT, but his score was so good that he stayed at the top of the league for the rest of the season (as he had the best average score). This was not seen as the best system, so despite Dave's protestations, in future years the TNT league score was adjusted to also reward players for attending each session.

Club Centenary

The date for the club's centenary was chosen to be 2023, the 100th anniversary of the first tennis club in Capel. To spruce up the club, the clubhouse was repainted inside and outside. New carpets were laid, and a couple of sofas were brought in. Also new signs were put up on the courts and outside the clubhouse.

Several centenary-focused events were held including a "Wimbledon Day" tournament. Members were encouraged to dress in white clothing and wooden rackets were provided for playing.

A dinner dance was planned at the Stanhill Court hotel in Horley to celebrate the centenary. Details can't be given here as it hasn't yet taken place at the time of writing!



New sign outside the clubhouse front doors



Wimbledon Day

Officers of Capel Tennis Club

Year	President	Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Men's Captain	Ladies Captain
1929	None	None	Miss H King	R Harris	A Palmer	None
1930	None	None	Mrs Burrage	R Harris	A Palmer	None
1931	None	A Carter	Mrs Burrage	R Harris	C Mitchell	None
1932	None	A Palmer	Mrs Burrage	R Harris	A Palmer	None
1933	None	A Palmer	Mrs Burrage	R Harris	A Palmer	None
1934	None	A Palmer	Miss Lewry	Miss Carter	A Tullett	None
1935	None	A Palmer	Miss Lewry	Miss Sheeres	R Harris	None
1936	C Hodsall	R Harris	R Dane	D Cooper	R Harris	None
1937	C Hodsall	R Harris	R Dane	R Dane	A Tullett	None
1938	C Hodsall	A Tullett	A Palmer	R Webb	A Tullett	None
1939	C Hodsall	None	A Palmer	P Teasdale	A Tullett	None
1940	C Hodsall	None	A Palmer	P Teasdale	A Tullett	None
1941	C Hodsall	None	A Palmer	P Teasdale	H Day	None
1942	C Hodsall	None	A Palmer	P Teasdale	H Day	None
1943	C Hodsall	None	A Palmer	P Teasdale	H Day	None
1944	None	None	None	None	None	None
1945	C Hodsall	None	A Palmer	P Teasdale	A Tullett	None
1946	C Hodsall	R Webb	D Cooper	P Teasdale	R Webb	None
1947	C Hodsall	R Webb	D Cooper	P Teasdale	D Cooper	None
1948	C Hodsall	R Webb	D Cooper	P Teasdale	D Cooper	None
1949	C Hodsall	R Webb	J Parks	H Charman	P Ruff	None
1950	C Hodsall	D Cooper	J Parks	H Charman	P Ruff	None
1951	C Hodsall	None	P Batnfield	H Charman	P Ruff	None
1952	C Hodsall	None	P Batnfield	R Webb	P Ruff	None
1953	C Hodsall	A Vanasche	P Batnfield	D Webb	R Parsons	None
1954	C Hodsall	C Hodsall	J Ede	D Webb	R Webb	None

Year	President	Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Men's Captain	Ladies Captain
1955	C Hodsall	C Hodsall	J Ede	D Webb	R Webb	None
1956	C Hodsall	C Hodsall	B&B Miles	D Webb	R Webb	None
1957	C Hodsall	C Hodsall	B&B Miles	D Webb	R Webb	None
1958	C Hodsall	R Webb	B&B Miles	D Webb	J Covell	None
1959	T Browne	None	B&B Miles	D Webb	L Parish	None
1960	T Browne	None	B&B Miles	D Webb	L Parish	None
1961	T Browne	None	B Miles & M Heath	D Webb	L Parish	K Parish
1962	T Browne	None	M Heath	D Webb	J Cook	K Parish
1963	T Browne	J Cook	M Heath	Miss Stone-Street	B Miles	K Parish
1964	G Baker	P Jones	M Price	Miss Stone-Street	B Miles	K Parish
1965	G Baker	P Jones	M Price	Miss Stone-Street	J Cook	M Moffatt
1966	G Baker	P Jones	M Price	K Parish	J Cook	M Moffatt
1967	G Baker	P Jones	M Price	K Parish	J Wilde	M Moffatt
1968	G Baker	P Jones	M Price	K Parish	J Wilde	M Moffatt
1969	G Baker	P Jones	M Price	K Parish	B Miles	M Moffatt
1970	G Baker	P Jones	M Price	K Parish	B Miles	M Moffatt
1971	G Baker	P Jones	M Price	K Parish	B Miles	M Moffatt
1972	J Price	P Jones	M Price	K Parish	B Miles	M Moffatt
1973	P Jones	S Soulsby	R Webb	A Howard	C Potter	M Price
1974	P Jones	S Soulsby	R Webb	A Howard	C Potter	M Price
1975	P Jones	S Soulsby	R Webb	A Howard	C Potter	M Price & M Annand
1976	P Jones	A Annand	R Webb	A Howard	C Potter	M Price & M Annand
1977	P Jones	A Annand	R Webb	A Howard	C Potter	M Price & M Annand
1978	P Jones	B Miles	K Eldridge	A Howard	C Potter	E Jones

Year	President	Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Men's Captain	Ladies Captain
1979	P Jones	B Miles	K Eldridge	C Potter	C Potter	E Jones
1980	P Jones	M Price	E Jones	C Potter	P Date	J Metz & K Parish
1981	M Heath	M Price	B Thompson	M Tanswell	P Date	K Parish
1982	M Heath	M Price	J Wallace	M Tanswell	C Potter	K Parish
1983	M Heath	M Price	J Wallace	M Tanswell	S Mitchell	K Parish
1984	M Heath	None	J Wallace	M Tanswell	D Montgomery	C Cobb
1985	M Heath	None	J Wallace	P Mason	D Montgomery	C Cobb
1986	J Price	None	L Bartlett	P Mason	D Montgomery	M Price
1987	J Price	None	L Bartlett	P Mason	D Montgomery	M Price
1988	J Price	None	P Wade	D Wade	D Montgomery	M Price
1989	J Price	None	P Wade	D Wade	D Montgomery	M Price
1990	J Price	None	P Wade	D Wade	D Montgomery	M Price
1991	J Price	C Coward	S Goodenough	D Wade	S Gardiner	M Price
1992	J Price	C Coward	S Goodenough	D Wade	S Gardiner	M Tanswell
1993	J Price	C Coward	S Goodenough	D Wade	S Gardiner	M Tanswell
1994	J Price	C Coward	S Goodenough	D Wade	S Gardiner	S Groome
1995	J Price	C Coward	S Goodenough	D Montgomery	S Kerr	S Groome
1996	J Price	C Coward	S Goodenough	D Montgomery	S Kerr	S Groome
1997	J Price	D Wade	S Goodenough	D Montgomery	S Kerr	C Cobb
1998	J Price	D Wade	S Groome	D Montgomery	R Groome	C Cobb
1999	J Price	D Wade	K Schmidt	D Montgomery	C Cooksey	C Cobb
2000	A Bryan	D Wade	K Schmidt	D Montgomery	C Cooksey	C Cobb
2001	A Bryan	M Tanswell	N Waring	D Montgomery	P Fairbrother	G Taylor
2002	A Bryan	M Tanswell	N Waring	C Cobb	P Fairbrother	G Taylor
2003	A Bryan	M Tanswell	G Roland	C Cobb	P Fairbrother	J Pittam
2004	A Bryan	D Hall	G Roland	C Cobb	M Baty	J Pittam
2005	A Bryan	D Hall	G Roland	C Cobb	M Baty	J Pittam

Year	President	Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Men's Captain	Ladies Captain
2006	A Bryan	D Hall	J Graesser	C Cobb	M Baty	J Pittam
2007	A Bryan	D Hall	J Graesser	D Bishop	M Baty	J Pittam
2008	A Bryan	D Bishop	J Graesser	M Baty	A Burgess	J Pittam
2009	A Bryan	D Bishop	J Graesser A McFarlane	M Baty	A Burgess	J Pittam
2010	A Bryan	D Bishop	A McFarlane	M Baty	A Burgess	J Kerr
2011	J Graesser	D Bishop	C Taylor S Everett	M Baty	A Burgess	J Kerr
2012	J Graesser	D Bishop	S Everett	M Baty	A Burgess	J Kerr
2013	J Graesser	D Bishop	S Everett	M Baty	A Burgess	J Kerr
2014	D Hall	O Cain	S Everett	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2015	D Hall	O Cain	R Smith	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2016	C Coward	D Hall	R Smith	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2017	C Coward	D Hall	R Smith	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2018	C Coward	D Hall	R Smith	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2019	C Coward	D Hall	R Smith	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2020	C Coward	N White	L Day	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2021	C Coward	N White	L Day	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2022	C Coward	N White	L Day	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr
2023	C Coward	N White	S Chiverton	D Montgomery	A Burgess	J Kerr

Club Champions

Year	Ladies' Singles	Men's Singles	Ladies' Doubles	Men's Doubles	Mixed Doubles
1958	J.Covell	L. Parish	Not played	Not played	J. Cook & A.Cottle
1959	J. Robeson	L. Parish	K. Parish & P. Berryman	L. Parish & R. Cottle	J. Cook & A. Cottle
1960	K. Parish	L. Parish	M. Price & M. Heath	L. Parish & R. Cottle	L. Parish & K. Parish
1961	K. Parish	L. Parish	K. Parish & H. Wheeler	D. Daley & T. Stonestreet	L. Parish & K. Parish
1962	K. Parish	J. Cook	K. Parish & H. Davies	L. Parish & A. Cook	L. Parish & K. Parish
1963	K. Parish	T. Stonestreet	P. Colqhoun & V. Evans	C. Gregory & I. Morshead	L. Parish & K. Parish
1964	K. Parish	B. Aitchison	M. Price & M. Heath	L. Parish & F. Hodgkinson	L. Parish & K. Parish
1965	S. Chadwick	J. Cook	K. Parish & H. Davies	B. Aitchison & P. Moffatt	L. Parish & K. Parish
1966	K. Parish	L. Parish	J. Wilde & H. Chapman	Not played	L. Parish & K. Parish
1967	K. Parish	D. Wilde	J. Wilde & H. Chapman	L. Parish & J. Cook	L. Parish & K. Parish
1968	K. Parish	B. Laycock	J. Wilde & H. Chapman	P. Jones & D. Wilde	B. Laycock & M. Price
1969	K. Parish	D. Harvey	J. Wilde & H. Chapman	J. Price & D. Harvey	B. Laycock & M. Price
1970	K. Parish	D. Harvey	J. Wilde & H. Chapman	J. Price & D. Harvey	L. Parish & K. Parish
1971	M. Price	A. Howard	S. Cross & M. Price	A. Howard & C. Potter	A. Howard & M. Price
1972	M. Price	A. Howard	J. Wilde & H. Chapman	P. Moffatt & J. Hoare	A. Howard & M. Price
1973	M. Price	D. Harvey	M. Price & S. Cross	A. Howard & C. Potter	A. Howard & M. Price
1974	L. Scrivener	D. Harvey	M. Price & S. Cross	A. Howard & C. Potter	L. Parish & K. Parish
1975	L. Scrivener	D. Harvey	J. Garrett & M. Annand	D. Harvey & P. Jones	C. Potter & M. Price
1976	M. Annand	J. Poole	J. Garrett & M. Annand	M. Morris & C. Price	J. Poole & H. Chapman
1977	L. Scrivener	J. Poole	K. Parish & M. Price	A. Annand & C. Potter	C. Potter & M. Price
1978	C. Jones	M. Hewish	J. Garrett & M. Annand	A. Howard & C. Potter	A. Howard & E. Taylor
1979	E. Taylor	M. Hewish	J. Metz & E. Taylor	A. Howard & C. Potter	A. Howard & E. Taylor
1980	M. Annand	M. Hewish	J. Garrett & M. Annand	M. Annand & P. Date	M. Hewish & B. Thompson
1981	E. Taylor	C. Potter	M. Annand & E. Taylor	P. Slater & D. Tope	S. Batchelor & D. Batchelor

Year	Ladies' Singles	Men's Singles	Ladies' Doubles	Men's Doubles	Mixed Doubles
1982	C. Cobb	S. Mitchell	K. Parish & M. Price	P. Slater & D. Tope	C. Potter & K. Parish
1983	C. Cobb	A. Bryan	K. Parish & M. Price	S. Mitchell & T. Mitchell	B. Francis & M. Price
1984	J. Wallace	A. Bryan	K. Parish & M. Price	B. Francis & J. Laker	B. Francis & M. Price
1985	C. Cobb	S. Mitchell	G. Cooper & G. Lancaster	A. Bryan & M. Butler	S. Mitchell & G. Lancaster
1986	J. Judd	A. Bryan	G. Cooper & G. Lancaster	A. Bryan & M. Butler	S. Mitchell & G. Lancaster
1987	C. Cobb	S. Mitchell	G. Cooper & G. Lancaster	A. Bryan & M. Butler	S. Mitchell & G. Lancaster
1988	P. Wade	A. Bryan	G. Lancaster & L. Bartlett	A. Bryan & M. Butler	J. Norman & M. Price
1989	L. Bartlett	A. Bryan	M. Price & M. Tanswell	A. Bryan & M. Butler	J. Norman & M. Price
1990	F. Coward	S. Mitchell	F. Coward & B. Thompson	A. Bryan & M. Butler	J. Norman & M. Price
1991	F. Coward	S. Mitchell	J. Katz & M. Tanswell	J. Norman & D. Smith	J. Norman & M. Price
1992	L. Bartlett	S. Mitchell	C. Cobb & M. Price	J. Norman & D. Smith	D. Smith & M. Tanswell
1993	M. Tanswell	S. Mitchell	C. Cobb & M. Price	B. Francis & J. Laker	S. Kerr & S. Groome
1994	A. Travis	S. Mitchell	M. Tanswell & A. Travis	S. Mitchell & D. Smith	S. Mitchell & F. Coward
1995	A. Hamer	S. Mitchell	A. Hamer & K. Thompson	S. Mitchell & D. Smith	S. Mitchell & F. Coward
1996	A. Hamer	S. Mitchell	A. Hamer & S. Groome	S. Mitchell & S. Kerr	S. Mitchell & F. Coward
1997	A. Hamer	S. Mitchell	W. Burgess & R. Fell	S. Mitchell & S. Kerr	S. Mitchell & M. Tanswell
1998	A. Hamer	S. Mitchell	W. Burgess & R. Fell	S. Mitchell & S. Kerr	R. Groome & A. Hamer
1999	A. Hamer	S. Mitchell	W. Burgess & R. Smith	S. Mitchell & S. Kerr	D. Smith & R. Smith
2000	A. Hamer	D. Smith	A. Hamer & P. Payne	S. Mitchell & S. Kerr	D. Smith & R. Smith
2001	P. Mohamed	S. Kerr	T. Hart & N. Waring	A. Burgess & D. Smith	J. Laker & L. Campbell-Harding
2002	P. Mohamed	S. Kerr	W. Burgess & R. Smith	S. Charlesworth & J. Laker	D. Smith & R. Smith
2003	S. Karsan	S. Kerr	J. Kerr & D. Sutton	S. Kerr & G. Coward	D. Smith & R. Smith
2004	S. Karsan	D. Smith	N. Waring & K. Littler	D. Smith & A. Burgess	D. Smith & R. Smith
2005	S. Karsan	S. Kerr	T. Hart & S. Brown	D. Smith & A. Burgess	D. Smith & R. Smith

Year	Ladies' Singles	Men's Singles	Ladies' Doubles	Men's Doubles	Mixed Doubles
2006	K. Littler	D. Smith	R. Smith & J. Kerr	D. Smith & A. Burgess	D. Smith & R. Smith
2007	J. Kerr	S. Kerr	J. Pittam & S. Robinson	D. Smith & A. Burgess	D. Smith & R. Smith
2008	S. Robinson	D. Smith	R. Smith & J. Kerr	D. Smith & A. Burgess	D. Smith & R. Smith
2009	S. Robinson	S. Kerr	T. Hart & S. Sumner	D. Smith & A. Burgess	S. Kerr & J. Kerr
2010	S. Robinson	S. Kerr	S. Robinson & J. Pittam	D. Smith & A. Burgess	D. Smith & R. Smith
2011	S. Robinson	S. Sinclair	S. Robinson & J. Pittam	D. Smith & A. Burgess	S. Sinclair & S. Sumner
2012	S. Robinson	S. Sinclair	T. Hart & S. Sumner	D. Smith & A. Burgess	S. Sinclair & S. Sumner
2013	S. Robinson	S. Sinclair	S. Robinson & J. Pittam	A. Fairbrother & O. Cain	S. Sinclair & S. Sumner
2014	S. Robinson	O. Cain	T. Hart & S. Sumner	S. Kerr & D. Smith	S. Kerr & J. Kerr
2015	S. Sumner	O. Cain	T. Hart & S. Sumner	A. Fairbrother & O. Cain	S. Kerr & J. Kerr
2016	S. Robinson	G. Furnell	T. Hart & K. Littler	D. Smith & S. Kerr	S. Robinson & O. Cain
2017	K. Littler	S. Sinclair	J. Kerr & S. Robinson	S. Kerr & D. Smith	J. McFarlane & G. Furnell
2018	Not played	S. Sinclair	J. Kerr & S. Robinson	O. Cain & A. Fairbrother	S. Robinson & O. Cain
2019	Not played	O. Cain	J. Kerr & S. Robinson	A. Burgess & M. Russell	S. Robinson & O. Cain
2020	Not played due to Covid Pandemic				
2021	J. McFarlane	S. Sinclair	C. Bugarin-Diz & J. McFarlane	S. Kerr & D. Smith	J. McFarlane & S. Sinclair
2022	J. McFarlane	S. Sinclair	C. Bugarin-Diz & J. McFarlane	K. Elliott & S. Sinclair	S. Robinson & O. Cain
2023	Not played	Dylan Clarke	J. Kerr & S. Robinson	O. Cain & A. Fairbrother	S. Robinson & O. Cain

Club Veterans Champions

Year	Ladies' Doubles	Men's Doubles	Mixed Doubles	Men's Singles
2011		Neil Perry & Doug Wade		
2012			Gisela Farmer & Doug Wade	
2013	Gisela Farmer & Maggie Elcox	Ken Reynolds & Terry Harding	Mandy Tanswell & Terry Harding	
2014	Sandy Thornton & Gisela Farmer	Doug wade & Nigel Knights Johnston	Sandy Thornton & Nigel Knights Johnston	
2015	Not played	Doug wade & Nigel Knights Johnston	Sandy Thornton & Nigel Knights Johnston	
2016	Sandy Thornton & Gisela Farmer	Not played	Sandy Thornton & Nigel Knights Johnson	
2019	Not played		Lynette von Kaufmann & Nagib Karsan	
2020	Not played			
2021	Not played	David Montgomery & Dave Smith	Kerry Hewson & Neil White	
2022	Janella Kerr & Rosie Smith	David Montgomery & Dave Smith	Janella Kerr & David Montgomery	
2023	Janella Kerr & Rosie Smith	Alan Robinson & Neil White	Janell Kerr & Scott Kerr	Alan Robinson

About this document

- 1996: Compiled by Carol Cobb.

“Information taken from AGM Minutes. Thanks to Ron and Jo Webb, John and Mary Price, Doug and Pat Wade and Clive and Frances Coward who kindly vetted my efforts.” Originally inspired by the building of Pavilion Mark 3 (officially opened on 15th December 1996).

- 2007: Updated by Carol Cobb
- 2016: Updated by Carol Cobb
- 2023: Updated by John Acott



*Carol Cobb (right), originator of this document, pictured with Mandy Tanswell
after they won the Barbie Bowl circa 2004*