

**PRIORS PARK
TYNEMOUTH**

1921- 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

In 1978 my father, Alex Carmichael, wrote a book highlighting key events and information in the history of Collingwood Lawn Tennis Club covering the period from 1928 until 1978.

It is important that the history is maintained, and this is why I decided to bring the information up to date in 2021.

This year is the centenary of the tennis club and it is an appropriate time for the book to be produced.

I have been a member of the tennis club since, at least, 1965 and it has been an important part of my entire life. One thing that has remained constant is that we are a friendly club and encourage players of all ages.

I hope you will find it interesting and that, for many previous and current members, it will bring back some happy memories of playing tennis in Priors Park.

Apologies to anyone who feels that they should have been included or if any of the details are incorrect. It has been my attempt to give everyone an idea of how the tennis club has evolved over the decades.

The first half of the book is a reproduction of the information that my father produced. He wrote the details on a typewriter, so it has been an interesting task converting the details on to a computer. Some photos have also been added.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed stories or photos.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who have helped the club over the years. Collingwood relies on volunteers to be committee members, team captains and to help in many ways. They have given up their own time to ensure the success of the club.

A special thank you to my family for helping with the production of the book.

Sometimes the smallest events can provide the biggest and most long-lasting memories.

Neil Carmichael
June 2021

This book is dedicated to all the previous members of the Collingwood Lawn Tennis Club especially the committee members who have sustained the club through some very difficult periods.

Without all the hard work undertaken in the past, the tennis club would have disappeared like many others and we would not have the fine facilities that I am sure future generations will enjoy.

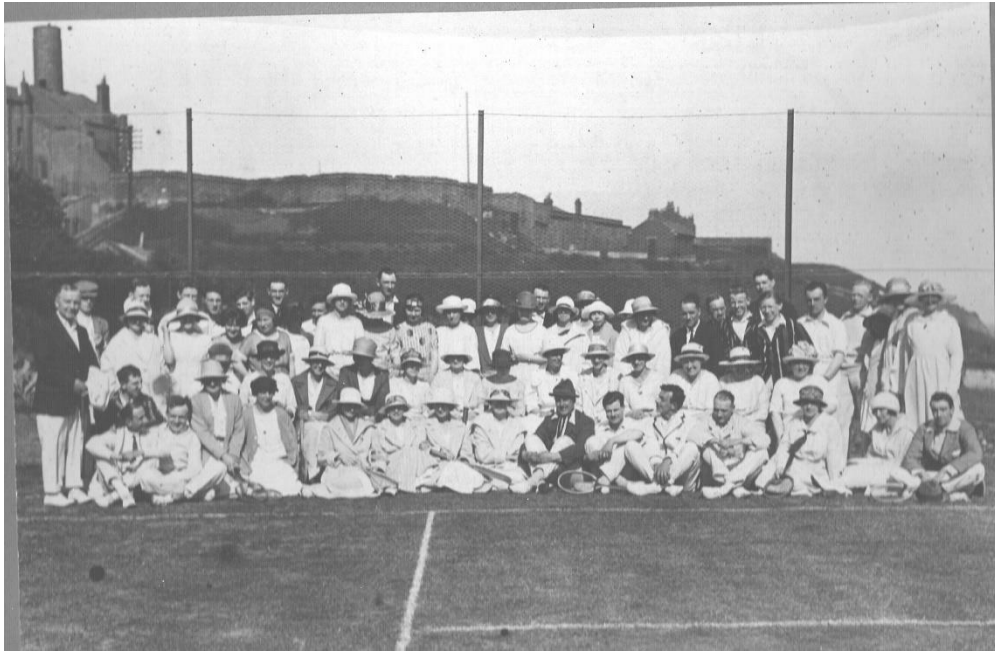
Please accept my apologies if there are any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the following pages.

A.S. Carmichael
Honorary Secretary
October, 1978

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLINGWOOD LAWN TENNIS CLUB-FROM 1921



*“Bird’s eye view of Tynemouth” (1920). Image courtesy of Jan Radwanski
www.jan-radwanski.co.uk*



Pictured above are the members circa 1925

1929 CHAIRMAN - E. L. F. Bitterman SECRETARY - A.C. Ritchie

The club was 8 years old in 1929 when the eighth Annual General Meeting was held in the Bath Hotel, Tynemouth. At this meeting the annual subscription was increased to £1.15.0d.

It was reported that the President, G. H. Miller Esq. and Mrs. Miller entertained the club to tea on 2nd July on the day an American Tournament was held.

Results- The ladies' team were promoted to Group L.C. The gents' team were 6th in Group G. 1.

1930 The financial accounts show an income of 1s-6d from the sale of club badges.

On the 16th April 1930 it was reported that the Trustees had granted permission to play tennis on Sundays on the hard courts.

Results- The ladies' team were 2nd in Group L. G. The gents' team were 4th in Group D.1.

1931 General play was a "washout" owing to the extremely wet weather experienced this year.

The committee announced the death of Mr. Chris Hughes, an original member of the club who had captained the men's team on many occasions.

Results- The ladies' team were 3rd in Group L.C. The gents' team were 2nd in Group G. 1.

1932 CHAIRMAN - F.W. Thompson SECRETARY - C. Lucas

The eleventh A.G. M. was held in the Smoke Room in the Bath Hotel, Tynemouth.

The Club Open Singles Challenge Cups were won by: —

Ladies': Miss B.S. Hughes Gents': Mr. R.C. McPhee

The remaining CIO on the hard court loan account was repaid and the club is free from debt. There was a loss on the club dance of 4s.6d.

Results- The ladies' team were 7th in Group L.C. The gents' team were 2nd in Group G. I.

1933 CHAIRMAN - L. D. Veitch SECRETARY - A.C. Ritchie

To publicise the club, it was decided to erect a board on the gate opposite the Bath Hotel giving the name of the club and the secretary's address.

Mr. Chadwick stated that he had been inviting various members of clubs which are closing to play on our courts with a view to enrolling them as members. There were 48 senior members and one junior member.

The club suffered the grievous loss in the death of Mr. J.F. Miller "Jim" as he was affectionately known, one of their hardest working members .

Results- The ladies' team were 2nd in Group L.D. The gents' Team were 1st in Group G. I.

1934 CHAIRMAN - T.S. Miller SECRETARY - A. C. Ritchie

On the 6th April the Secretary read a letter from Mr. W. Hall asking if the club were interested in the tenancy of the Rackets Court. This proposal was abandoned due to the suggested high rental cost of £73.14s.0d per annum.

Mrs. T.S. Miller and Miss A. Roxby were winners of the Tynemouth Open Tournament Ladies' doubles beating Miss B. Leonard and Mrs. Jackaman.

Results- The ladies' team promoted to Group L.G. The gents' team were 1st in Group F.1. and were promoted for the second year.

1935 The Secretary reported that he had sold 15 dozen old balls to the Tyneside Rubber Co. for 2/3d per dozen.

Mr. Miller brought forward the subject of Culyer the groundsman and his wages of 25 shillings per week and asked what his duties were. After a discussion there was still some doubt and it was decided to discuss the matter more fully next year.

Results- The ladies' team were 4th in Group L.C. The gents' team were 3rd in Group E.

1936 CHAIRMAN - L.D. Veitch SECRETARY - J.N. Jackaman

Mr. Ritchie proposed that the club should advertise for members in "The Record" and "The Advertiser".

On 27th August 1936 it was decided to defer the discussion on Culyer's duties to a later meeting.

In view of the low membership, it was thought desirable that all older members of the club should make themselves agreeable to the newer members.

To raise money it was decided to hold Whist Drives in the winter. The first was held at the Carlton Hotel, Tynemouth.

It was decided on the 19th September that Culyer's wages would be 2s/6d per week in the winter months after the 30th September.

In the Tynemouth Open Tournament K.G.A .Marsh beat C.P. Goldson in the Men's Open Singles 6—3, 6-3.

Results- The ladies' team were 4th in Group L. G .The gents' team were 3rd in Group E.

1937 CHAIRMAN - A.C. Ritchie SECRETARY - J.N. Jackaman

It was decided to write to En Tout Cas Co. for the price of binding oil for the hard courts.

A new net for the Hard Court was purchased costing a guinea.

It was decided that two committee members interview Culyer the groundsman to outline the duties he was expected to perform in the 1938 Season.

Results- The ladies' team were 7th in Group L.C. and relegated.

The gents' team were 3rd in Group E.

1938 Mr Veitch suggested using used engine oil on a part of the court to see how it worked.

Miss S. Hughes and Mr W.J. Robson were the winners of the respective singles championship cups.

Results- The ladies' team were 1st in Group L. D. and were promoted.

The gents' team were 2nd in Group E.

1939 CHAIRMAN - A. C. Ritchie SECRETARY - E.C. Leighton

Mr. Leighton reported that Mr. Kane had informed him that the "Avenue L. T. C." would like two friendly matches at the beginning of the season.

It was proposed that an alternative sport should be provided whilst waiting for courts and archery was suggested.

It was decided not to hold a President's Day this year — The next meeting was arranged for the 4th September 1939.

The 2nd World War commenced on the 3rd September 1939 and the above committee meeting was deferred until 24th October, 1939.

A test had been done on the hard court using calcium chloride and it was satisfactory. It was therefore decided to do the whole of the court.

Results- The ladies' team were 5th in Group L.C. The gents' team were 1st in Group E and promoted.

1940 CHAIRMAN - T. Robson SECRETARY - E.C. Leighton

It was decided that members of His Majesty's Forces be elected honorary members of the club for the duration of the war.

It was reported, with regret, that a former member of the club, Flying Officer Douglas Hastings had been killed on active service.

Results- There were no competitive matches in the leagues this year.

1941 It was suggested that as wire netting for the courts was in short supply, Mr. Veitch should investigate the possibility of using old fish netting.

Tennis balls were extremely difficult to obtain and on the 10th September, 1941 Miss Abel produced samples of second hand balls and it was decided to purchase them at the agreed price.

Results- There were no competitive matches in the leagues this year.

1942 CHAIRMAN - T.S. Miller SECRETARY - E.C. Leighton

It was proposed that Sunday play be allowed on the grass courts during the summer season until the end of hostilities - Sanction for this was to be requested from the Park Trustees.

The secretary reported that the hosepipe had been stolen.

Results- There were no competitive matches in the leagues this year.

1943 Mr. E. C. Leighton reported that the Ministry of Supply had forbidden the manufacture of any new balls this year, but old balls could be cleaned and reflat. The club stock was eight new balls and 24 used balls.

It was decided to advertise in the "Evening News" and "Evening Chronicle" for new and old balls.

To safeguard the tennis balls, it was decided that only 4 balls could be allocated to hard courts this season. The other balls would be used on the grass courts so that they would last longer.

Owing to the club being without a hosepipe, Mr. Angus and Mrs. Leighton offered to lend their hose pipes to the club for the season.

Results- There were no competitive matches in the leagues this year.

1944 CHAIRMAN - Mr.A.W. Ayres SECRETARY - E.C. Leighton

It was decided to send a book voucher for 10s/6d to Mr. Ayres in appreciation of his services to the club.

Mr. Ayres promised to try and get 12 dozen tennis balls from America. All members who had friends in the Royal Navy or Merchant Navy were to ask if they could procure tennis balls from America or Canada.

As Priors Park is now being used by the Military, it is necessary for all members to have a pass to enter the club. These can be obtained from Mr. R. Phillips, secretary to the trustees .

The treasurer, Mr. T. S. Miller, stated at the A.G.M. that, "he is a very lazy man and if all members will pay their subscriptions by 1st May, it will save him a lot of trouble".

It was decided to hold an American Tournament in aid of the Red Cross. Mrs Heppinstall and Mrs Darling beat Miss Robson and Miss Potts in the final. Both winners handed back their prizes to the Red Cross.

Results- There were no competitive matches in the leagues this year.

1945 On the 11th August a local press report stated that "A Victory Tennis Tournament" was held at the Collingwood . Lawn Tennis Club and that 80 entrants took part. The winners were Mrs. Darling and Mrs. Heppinstall who defeated W. Clark and Miss Leonard by seven games to five. Prizes were presented by Miss O. Ross.

A dance was arranged in December at the Grand Hotel which made a profit of £14.13s.5d.

Results- There were no competitive matches in the leagues this year.

1946 CHAIRMAN - T.S. Miller SECRETARY - E.C. Leighton

Mr. Leighton was asked to write to N. L. T. A. to ask about arrangements for league tennis this season.

It was agreed to run two ladies' teams and two gents' teams this season.

Mr. Leighton reported that he had received a letter from Dunlop Rubber Company stating that there would be an adequate supply of balls for the current season.

The club approached Mrs. Hogg of the Bath Hotel to see if we could use rooms for changing for matches.

The club membership was reported at 71 on the 25th May and membership was closed.

It was agreed that teas for teams would be provided at Baxters and that players should pay 1s/6d per head.

Mr. Leighton agreed to call at the food office to see if the club could obtain tea, sugar and milk, and a catering license was obtained for rationed foods.

Mr. Leighton suggested and it was agreed to purchase an Anderson Air Raid Shelter for the storage of tools etc.

C. Watts and J.Knox were selected to represent Northumberland but unfortunately J .Knox was injured and could not play .

Results- The ladies' team were placed in group L. B. The gents' team were placed in group C.

1947 Mr. T. S. Miller informed the A.G.M. that the garden .backing onto No. 1. court had been obtained for the purpose of erecting a pavilion. This would be a prefabricated structure and scheduled as a temporary building which should come down in five years. It was agreed to proceed.

Mr. T. S. Miller arranged a guarantee from Lloyds Bank for £300 to allow the club to proceed with the erection of the pavilion.

Mrs. L. Somm won the club ladies' singles. Mr. C. Watts won the club gents' singles.

The grass courts were reported as being in poor condition due to lack of maintenance.

Results- The ladies' team won promotion to Group L.A. The gents' team won promotion to Group B.

1948 CHAIRMAN - T.S. Miller SECRETARY - Mr. L Kane

Mr. A. Brook proposed that we write to the Trustees and state that we do not desire to take over the Priory L. T. C. Courts as they would not be fit for use until 1949. We should also enquire the terms for acquiring Mr Ellison's court.

It was decided to admit to the club a limited number of junior members at a subscription of £1. Before becoming senior members, they would be subject to the customary playing in tests.

It was decided to create a Pavilion Loan Fund in units of £5.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in the Methodist Church, Tynemouth to increase the subscriptions as the funds of the club were exhausted apart from the pavilion fund and the committee considered that this fund should not be used for court maintenance.

Subscriptions were increased to £2.10s.0d per annum.

Mr. Leighton reported that the cost of installing water in the pavilion was prohibited as local residents objected to tapping their pipes and the water engineer refused permission.

Miss D. Thomson and F. A. Millington won the respective singles in the club championships.

Miss J. Love reached the Semi —Final of the Northumberland (closed) Junior Championship:

Results-The ladies' team were relegated.

The gents' team won promotion to Group A for the first time in the club history.

1949 At the request of Tynemouth Corporation a Centenary Tournament was to be arranged at the Collingwood Lawn Tennis Club.

Calor gas lighting is to be installed in the pavilion.

As part of the centenary celebrations HMS BICESTER was visiting the area and after reading a letter from the Town Clerk it was agreed that the ship's crew could use the courts free for the duration of their stay.



1950 The club courts in the previous year had been in a very bad condition. To give them more rest it was proposed to take over the bomb damaged courts of the Priory Club.

The secretary reported a slight decrease in membership and that play on the grass courts would be delayed until mid June.

The club decided to proceed with the scheme to build three hard courts at a cost of £600 on the bomb damaged area. The finance for this project to come from loans from members. Already £300 has been promised.

Miss E. K. Williams represented Northumberland. She also won the club singles championship.

Mr C. Potts defeated Mr D. Gilberg in the gents' singles. Messrs C. Watts, D. Gilberg and F. Millington played for the county second team.

Results- Both the ladies' and gents' teams retained their position in group A.



1951 CHAIRMAN - T.S. Miller SECRETARY - D.S Unsworth

This year saw the completion of the three new hard courts. A great achievement in one year's work.

It was decided not to purchase the turf from Beverley L.T.C. who had also built hard courts.

Mr D. Gilberg was selected as captain of Northumberland, a great honour to the club. Mr C. Watts also represented the county. Mr L.E. Lawson reached the final of the Newcastle Cup in the County Tournament.

Results- Both the ladies' and gents' teams retained their positions in group A

1952 The club membership had reached the following level : 57 Seniors, 4 Non-Playing

Mr. D. G. Gilberg and Miss E. K. Williams were both selected for the county and both won their respective singles events in the club championship.

Results- Both the ladies' and gents' teams were relegated from Group A.

1953 There was a slight decline in senior membership, but the student and junior membership fell dramatically.

Mr. D. G. Gilberg defeated Mr. F. A. Millington in the gents' singles and Mrs. Somm beat Miss J. Wilson in the ladies' singles final.

Results- The ladies' teams was again relegated. The gents' team remained in Group B.

1954 The secretary reported a significant increase in membership from 87 to 108.

Mrs. M. Hunter won the Ladies' Singles Championship beating Mrs. Somm in the Final.

Mr. D. G. Gilberg defeated Mr. A. Ridley in the gents' singles.

Results - The ladies' team was again relegated to L. D.

The gents' team held their position in Group B.

1955 CHAIRMAN - C.A. Hargreaves SECRETARY - D.S. Unsworth

It was reported that the trustees had pulled down the old pavilion on the junior grass court.

The treasurer reported that despite a reduction of 17 senior members, expenses had increased by £43 and that there was an excess of expenditure over income of £15.0.7d.

The ladies' singles was won by Mrs. M. Hunter. Miss P. Neil was the runner up.

Mr. D. G. Gilberg again beat Mr. A. Ridley in the gents' singles final.

Our President, Mr. L. D. Veitch and Mrs. Veitch were present to watch the finals and generously provided teas during the afternoon.

Mr. D. G. Gilberg continues to play for the County and reached the semi-finals of the Northumberland Hard Courts Championships.

Results- Both the ladies' and gents' teams retained their positions in their respective groups.

1956 CHAIRMAN - J.C. Potts SECRETARY - J. R. Cooke

It was agreed to employ the groundsman for 9 hours weekly from April 1st at £1.12s .7.5d per week.

Permission was granted to Mr. D. S. Unsworth for Tynemouth School to rent the hard courts for two afternoons per week from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (This is the first record of our association with the King's School) The club facilities were offered to the Captain and Ships Company of HMS BARROSA during their visit to North Shields from 11th to 16th May.



HMS Barrosa

It was agreed to offer facilities of the club to the Ships Company of HMS THESEUS during their visit to the Tyne from 17th-23rd July.

The ladies' singles was won by Mrs. V. Dickson with Miss P. Boyles runner up and the gents' singles by R. Athey with M. Adams runner up. (The holders were unfortunately unable to defend their titles).

A dance was held on Finals Day at the Grand Hotel when Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Veitch presented the prizes.

Results- Both the ladies' and gents' teams retained their positions in their respective groups.

1957 The secretary applied for petrol coupons for the lawn mower. Petrol rationing had followed the Suez invasion.

Three dances were held at the Grand Hotel thanks to the efforts of Mr. Mather and his Social Committee.

Miss L. Buglass and D. Appleby, two promising juniors, attended a Coaching Course held by Northumberland L. T. A. under Mr. Sid Evans.

Mr. C. Leighton was chosen to represent Northumberland at Junior Wimbledon and reached the second round of the singles.

The success of the junior section reflects the hard work by Mr. and Mrs. Forrest, there are now almost 50 members.

Results- The ladies' team missed promotion by 0.6%. The gents' team retained their position in group B.

1958 It was agreed to improve the water supply to the hard courts and that the Water Company had installed a new main. The new standpipe to be supplied by Messrs. J. Bilclough.

The Priors Park subscriptions were increased as follows:

Senior from £1.2s.0d to £1.5s.0d. Junior from 15s.0d to 16s.6d

It was decided to abolish the system of "Playing in Tests" in the hope that this will improve the number of members.

The secretary was authorised to obtain the use of the Corporation roller for the grass courts if it is not too expensive.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs M. Hunter. The Gents' Singles Champion was D. Gilberg

Results- Both the ladies' and gents' team retained their positions in their respective leagues.

1959 CHAIRMAN – D.S. Unsworth SECRETARY- A.S. Carmichael

The Northumberland L. T. A. approved a scheme of a levy of one shilling per senior member of each club to be paid to the Lawn Tennis Association to improve national coaching and match expenses including the Davis and Wightman cups.

W. Bower and C. Leighton were congratulated on winning the South-North Doubles handicap.

As there was a probable deficit in the year it was decided that there would be no draw for the repayment of the Hard Courts loans.

D. G. Gilberg and C. Leighton represented Northumberland.

There was a major programme in Priors Park to improve the playing fields and the grass court used by park members had to be destroyed.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs. M . Hunter. The Gents' Singles Champion was D Gilberg.

Results- The ladies' 1st team retained position in Croup L. D.

The gents' 1st team retained position in Group B

1960 The lease between the Priors Park Trustees and the club had now expired and there was a proposal from Tynemouth School as follows:

-The school should use the hard courts for an hour or so each day.

-The school should use the grass courts for cricket net practice.

-That the Collingwood LTC consider moving to Billy Mill with the new squash club so that the school had the sole use of hard and grass courts.

The club replied that providing the school hired the courts, both items one and two would be acceptable.

After a long discussion, it was decided that with the long association with Priors Park (40 years) it would be to our advantage to remain.

A considerable number of meetings were to take place with the school and trustees over the next two years on this subject as the school attempted to take over the facilities of the club. Their proposal was that the members of the club use the courts during the evenings and weekends.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs M. Hunter

The Gents' Singles Champion was W. Bower

Results- The ladies' 1st team were demoted to Group L. E. The gents' 1st team were demoted to Group C.

1961 To negotiate with the school it was decided to appoint a committee of E. C. Leighton, D. G. Gilberg and A. S. Carmichael.

The club decided to approach the N. L. T. A. for assistance in our negotiations. Mr. L. D. Veitch, our President was also to be asked to help with the legal problems.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs. Hunter.

The Gents' Singles Champion was R. Armstrong.

Results- The ladies' 1st team retained position in Group L. E. The gents' 1st team retained position in Group C.

1962 CHAIRMAN – D.G. Gillberg SECRETARY - A.S. Carmichael

In March 1962 an agreement was reached with the Reverend J. M. Nicholson on the use of the Collingwood courts during weekdays of the school terms by the King's School, Tynemouth.

The trustees were to pay half the repairs and maintenance costs of the club together with 50% of the rates on the courts.

We were very fortunate to negotiate such a good agreement as over the next few years the membership fell to uneconomic levels and no doubt the club would have failed if we had had to provide the total costs of maintenance.

Another important factor was that the King's School became very interested in tennis and were to provide the nucleus of both the Collingwood 1st Team ten years later and most of the Northumberland Junior and Senior Men's County teams.

Mr. and Mrs. Veitch attended the finals and Mrs. Veitch kindly presented the prizes.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs. M. Hunter

The Gents' Singles Champion was R Armstrong

Results- The ladies' 1st team retained position in Group L. E. The gents' 1st team retained position in Group C.

1963 CHAIRMAN - R. Eadington SECRETARY - A.S Carmichael

The secretary reported that negotiations were taking place with Tynemouth Corporation to reduce our facilities from nine courts and one pavilion to four courts and one pavilion. These negotiations were successful, and the rateable value was reduced from £195 to £110.

A dance was held at the Grand Hotel on 28th June at a price of 5 shillings per ticket. A profit was made of £9.8s.Od.

The membership had fallen to:

Seniors	19
Students	15
Juniors	5

The Ladies' Singles Winner was Mrs .M. Hunter.

The Gents' Singles winner was D. Gilberg.

Results- The ladies' 1st team retained their position in Group L. E.

The gents' 1st team were relegated to Group D.

1964 The membership fell even further to:

Seniors	19
Students	8
Juniors	9

This was a very serious position in the history of the club as the number of women members was insufficient to raise one team.

The total expenditure on the club including balls was £106.5s.4d and therefore the facilities were tending to deteriorate despite the hard work undertaken by the club members.

Despite this low expenditure there was a loss on the year of £1 .1s.4d.

Loans from previous members to the Hard Court fund of £161 were still outstanding with little hope of repayment.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs .M. Hunter.

The Gents' Singles Champion was R. Armstrong.

Results- The gents' 1st Team retained their position in Group D

1965 It was decided that a determined effort must be made to attract new members especially juniors and a new class of family membership was evolved.

Cullercoats Methodist hired the junior hard court at a cost of £15 for the third year.

King's School Old Boys Cricket Club started to hire the pavilion for home matches at a cost of £6 and a long and useful association commenced. Geoff Scarth, a long-standing member of both the tennis and cricket club proposed this arrangement in March.

To attract junior members it was decided to employ Syd Evans, the County Coach, for eight weeks on Sunday afternoons for two hour sessions at a cost of 25/- per hour.

Authority was received from the Tynemouth Corporation Borough Surveyor, D. M. O 'Herlihy for the continued use of the temporary pavilion until 1970.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs M. Hunter.

The Gents' Singles Champion was W. Lomas.

Results- The gents' 1st team retained their position in Group D

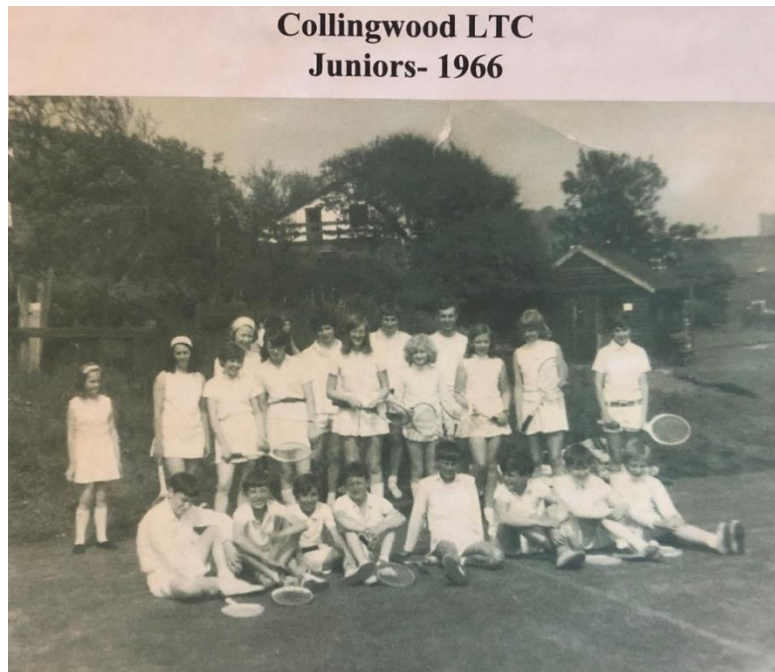
1966 The club were still buying tennis balls from the Tyneside Rubber Co. Ltd. High Bridge, Newcastle at a cost of 47/- per dozen.

For the second year expenditure exceeded income. This year's loss was £5.12s.5d.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs .M .Hunter

The Gents' Singles Champion was W. Lomas

Results- The gents' 1st team retained their position in Group D



The club juniors pictured above at the regular Sunday afternoon caching sessions with Mr S Evans, the Northumberland coach.

1967 The spirit in the club has improved considerably and the better junior members are being encouraged to play with the senior members. The family membership has helped considerably.

Some of the junior members are now playing on the senior teams and are showing great promise. Such members are:

Mr. I. S. Carmichael	Mr. W. Lomas
Mr. N.A. Carmichael	Mr. N. Moat
Mr. N. Gilberg	Mr. N. Nasser
Miss S. James	Mr. C. Purdy
Miss G. Lomas	Miss F. Purdy

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs. M. Hunter

The Gents' Singles Champion was W. Lomas

Results- The gents' 1st team were relegated to Group E

1968 The club is now on the road to recovery. Membership continues to grow:

Family	8 (including 18 juniors)
Senior	28
Students	8
Juniors	<u>32</u>
Total	84 members

The club decided that the present members should accept the responsibility of guaranteeing the Lloyds Bank against overdrafts and the previous guarantors were informed.

Our President, Mr. L.D.Veitch, in reply to our letter gave us his good wishes for the future success of the club.

The junior Sunday coaching by Mr. S. Evans is very popular and it is not uncommon for 30 juniors to attend each session.

The pavilion is insured against fire for £400 at a cost of 19s 8d per year. It is now in a bad state and we often wish it might have burned down. There was a surplus of £53 of income over expenditure.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs. M. Hunter. The Gents' Singles Champion was H. Wells. Results- The gents' 1st team were relegated to Group F



Collingwood juniors at the Northumberland County Ground- (L to R: Ian Carmichael, Charles Purdy, Susan James, Fiona Purdy, Neil Moat, Neil Carmichael)

1969 CHAIRMAN - A.S. Carmichael SECRETARY - A.S. Carmichael

The club again showed a healthy financial situation with a surplus of £32.5s.11d.

Doug Unsworth continues to be our non—playing member and is of considerable assistance to the club in its relationships with both Priors Park trustees and the King's School. He defends the courts against all intruders:

Our one grass court has only survived the football, cricket and cyclists as a result of his vigilance.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Mrs. M. Hunter

The Gents' Singles Champion was I. S. Carmichael

Results-The gents' 1st team retained their position in Group F.

1970 For the first time since the end of the 1939/45 war, the club's bank balance more than covers the outstanding debts including the loans from members for the hard courts. At last we are solvent.

We have had a period of ten years when every item of expenditure was strictly controlled and there had been little improvements to the courts or surrounds. Despite this, the hard courts

remained in a reasonable condition as a result of the hard work done by the members — We often seemed to spend time working, not playing.

A new Ladies' Singles Champion emerged this year when Miss S. James, one of our promising juniors defeated Mrs. M. Hunter after a reign of 16 years during which period she had only missed one final through injury.

Results- The Gents' Singles Champion was I. S. Carmichael

The gents' 1st Team was promoted to Group E.2.

1971 Sunday afternoon coaching for juniors continues to be popular and the standard of their play improves significantly.

We are now entering a period when our junior players are to dominate all the local tournaments.

I.S. Carmichael won the Northumberland U18 Boys' Open Singles Championship.

N.A. Carmichael is selected for National Coaching at the Crystal Palace.

The Ladies' Singles Champion was Miss F. Purdy another of our promising juniors.

The Gents' Singles Champion was I. S. Carmichael .

Results- The gents' first team retained its position in Group E 2.

1972 The old pavilion is still in use and KSOB Cricket Club redecorated the interior. The walls dividing the rooms are now in a very flexible state.

It was decided at the AGM that we should now offer to repay the loans made by previous members for the construction of the hard courts.

Many of these loans were offered as donations to the club to start a fund for a new pavilion.

Three of our junior boys were selected for the Junior County Team, a great honour to the club to provide half the team. They were I.S. Carmichael, N.A. Carmichael, and J.C.F. Purdy.

In tournaments we were successful as follows:

Cheshire Boys' U13 Singles	Winner	N.A. Carmichael
Cheshire Boys' U15 Singles	Runner Up	I. S. Carmichael
N/Land Boys' U14 Singles	Runner Up	N .Moat
N/Land Boys' U14 Doubles	Winners	N . Moat and C Purdy
Durham Boys' U14 Singles	Winners	N.A. Carmichael, Runner up J.C.F. Purdy
Durham Boys' U16 Doubles	Winners	J.C.F. Purdy and N.A. Carmichael

Results- The gents' singles champion was I.S. Carmichael. The gents' first team were relegated to group F2.

1973 In this year we had a meeting with Mr. H. Dillon, Headmaster of The King's School and it was agreed that we should investigate the possibility of obtaining a grant towards a new pavilion in Priors Park at a cost of approximately £6,000. The balance of the funds to come from loans or other sources.

Miss F. Purdy was selected to represent the Northumberland Junior County in the girls team and J.C.F Purdy and N.A. Carmichael represented the Junior County in the U18 Team.

In local junior tournaments we had the following successes: —

South North	U16 Boys' Singles	Winner	N. A. Carmichael
Durham	U14 Boys' Singles	Winner	N. A Carmichael
Durham	U16 Boys' Singles	Winner	N.A. Carmichael
Durham	U16 Boys' Singles	Runner Up	J.C.F Purdy
Durham	U18 Boys' Doubles	Winners	J.C.F Purdy and N.A. Carmichael

Neil Carmichael had the honour of being ranked No.10 in Britain in the boys under 14 age group by the LTA.

The Gents' Singles Champion was I.S. Carmichael.

Results- The gents' 1st team won Group F.2.

1974 A committee was formed to organise a carnival in Priors Park on the 29th June. The carnival was to raise funds towards the new pavilion. King's School assured us of their support. This committee was as follows:

<u>Collingwood LTC</u>	<u>KSOBCC</u>	<u>King's School</u>
R. Brown	J. Gould	H. Dillon
A.S. Carmichael	G. Scarth	R. Palmer
H. Graham		
G. Milburn		
F. Stewart		
Miss J. Stoves		

This venture was highly successful and raised a surplus of £731 which was to considerably influence the grant that we were to negotiate with the County Borough of Tyneside.

The most interesting event was the Balloon Race where gas filled balloons were released in Priors Park and there were three prizes to these going the furthest.

We were all amazed when tickets were returned from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria, West Germany, Denmark, East Germany and Poland together with a number of tickets from as far north as Berwick.

After much deliberation by the geography department at King's School the following winners were declared:

1st prize- C Jones, Whitley Bay- Hungary

2nd prize- W.S Herd, Whitley Bay- Czechoslovakia

3rd prize- G Wilson, Gosforth- Austria

Without the dedication of the masters and boys at King's School we could not have raised such a significant amount of cash.

N.A. Carmichael was selected to play for the senior Northumberland county tennis team when he was still under 16 years of age. This was a great honour.

N. Moat, J.C.F. Purdy and N.A. Carmichael all represented the Northumberland junior county team.

In junior tournaments we recorded the following good results:

South North under 16 boys' singles winner N.A. Carmichael

Northumberland Closed under 18 boys' singles winner N.A. Carmichael

Durham under 16 boys' singles winner N.A. Carmichael, runner up J.C.F. Purdy

Durham under 18 boys' singles winner N.A. Carmichael

Durham under 16 and under 18 boys' doubles winners J.C.F. Purdy and N.A. Carmichael

The club gents' singles champion was S. Prakash

Results-The gents' first team won group E2

1975 A considerable number of meetings took place to obtain a grant for the new pavilion. We now had the following funds available:

Donations and club funds (including carnival)	£1,296
Loans from members	£397
Grant required	<u>£4,500</u>
Estimated pavilion cost	£6,196

The following committee was elected to proceed with the plan: J. Cooke, J. Gould, G. Milburn, H. Graham, A.S. Carmichael. J. Cooke was to act as architect, and drawings and specifications were drawn up. Costs were rising monthly, and we had to eliminate such items as showers.

A grant of £4,500 from the County Borough of Tyneside was obtained with Sports Council and NLTA support.

Building commenced early in the year by Stephen Easten Ltd. and by July all building work we could afford to pay for was completed and the members started painting inside and outside with the help of KSOB Cricket Club.

Our junior players continued to dominate local tournaments as follows:

Northumberland under 18 closed boys' singles winner N.A. Carmichael

Durham under 21 singles winner N.A. Carmichael

Durham under 18 boys' doubles winners J.C.F. Purdy and N.A. Carmichael

Durham mixed doubles winner N.A. Carmichael

The gents' singles champion was N.A. Carmichael

Results- The gents' first team won group D

1976 The membership of the club is now very healthy as follows:

Family	16 (and 33 juniors)
Seniors	10
Students	5
Juniors	<u>28</u>
Total	<u>92</u>

This resulted in a surplus of income over expenditure of £40.05.

All the work on the pavilion was completed. The entire surrounds to the courts were replaced this year.

The juniors continued to enjoy the local tournaments and J.C.F. Purdy defeated N. A. Carmichael in the Semi-Final of the Durham under 21 singles, a great success after many years of effort. Unfortunately, he lost to a Durham Junior County Player, Moody, in the final.

The club team of J.C.F. Purdy and N A. Carmichael won the following doubles finals:

N' land U18, Durham U18 and Durham U21

N. A. Carmichael won the U18 singles final at Durham together with the U18 Closed Singles of Northumberland.

The Gents' Singles Champion was J.C.F. Purdy.

Results- The gents' 1st team failed to gain promotion as they lost to Beverley 9-9 on rubbers, 83-82 on games. Both clubs having won all their other matches.

1977 After many hectic years of hard work it was a good year to enjoy our tennis and this we all did.

Due to the increasing cost of coaching, it was decided that A. Starr and N.A. Carmichael would undertake junior coaching in place of S. Evans who had done many years of sterling service with very good results.

A disco was run by some of our junior members led by E. Dures and raised £13.80 towards furniture for the pavilion.

A Green Shield coaching course was organised for non-members by A. Starr on Saturday mornings and was well attended.

Neil Carmichael won the Northumberland U18 Closed Singles for the fourth consecutive year and represented the Senior County.

Results- The gents' 1st team won Group C and were promote for our fourth promotion in five years. Our juniors of the last few years are making an impact on a standard of play as well as winning most of their matches in the first team.

1978 The weather this Season was the worst for many years and seriously affected play. One advantage was that the courts were always well watered!

Most of our best junior players are now at university and despite arranging all league matches late we were forced to play a weakened team - in our opening match with Tynedale we lost. As Tynedale had won all their other matches by that time we missed promotion.

N.A. Carmichael represented the Senior County at Senior County Week .

Mr. Leo Kane, a previous secretary of the club has now returned to Tynemouth and has re-joined the club as a non-playing member.

Leo has arranged a reunion of both previous and present members of the Club to take place on Sunday, 15th June at 6 Front Street. The following were invited:

President Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Veitch

Mr and Mrs Clarkson
Mr and Mrs F.A. Millington
Mr and Mrs A.S. Carmichael
Mr E O'Brady- Jones
Mr J. Champney
Mr and Mrs S. Prakash

Mr and Mrs A. Gilberg
Mr and Mrs J.F. Purdy
Mr and Mrs D.G. Gilberg
Mr and Mrs Scarth
Mr and Mrs R Gilberg
Mr and Mrs F. Stewart

Mr H. Graham
Mr T. Spark
Mrs M. Hunter
Mr and Mrs D Unsworth
Mr and Mrs Jobey

Mrs D. Watson
Mrs J. Leighton
Mr C. Watson
Mr and Mrs T. Millar

THE FUTURE

Our strategy for the further development of the club falls under several headings and a few of our ideas are outlined below:

1. MEMBERSHIP

Determined efforts must be made to encourage new members particularly juniors who must be given every encouragement including coaching and play with senior members.

They should form their own committee with guidance from the senior members to arrange social events, junior tournaments, and the organisation of all other junior activities.

We have demonstrated that an active junior club in the 1960s provided the best players in the County in the 1970s and we must build on this.

2. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The club must become more than a place where we play tennis a few times a week. There is a tremendous amount to be gained from creating an atmosphere where all members feel they are part of a large family. Dances, barbecues, rallies, parties, outings, jumble sales, bridge and table tennis are a few examples of the type of activities we should develop.

3. FACILITIES - COURTS

Our first plan must be to obtain the finance to convert our one grass court into an all-weather court. This project must start immediately.

Dependent upon the speed of our success we must then convert the three hard courts to all weather courts. The costs will be high, but it can be done. The quality of play will thus be improved, maintenance will be negligible, and we will be able to have a greater utilization of the facilities.

4. FACILITIES - PAVILION

The standard of furnishings must be improved so that members can enjoy social activities in more pleasant surroundings. Again, more cash will be needed.

5. FACILITIES - OTHER SPORTS

We are sure we could make arrangements with the Priors Park Trustees and the King's School to expand the facilities in the long term to include other sports such as squash, badminton etc.

6. PUBLICITY

This is the most important function of the club which we have neglected in the past. We must tell the people of Tynemouth of our success and we will then receive even greater support than we have had in the past.

COLLINGWOOD LAWN TENNIS CLUB 1981- 2021

1981

The men's first team maintained their position in "A" division of the Northumberland and Durham league.

1982

Chris Trousdale and Roger Metcalfe from Collingwood won the South Northumberland Tennis Tournament doubles event at Gosforth. Roger went on to take the singles title beating a leading Durham player, Brent Parker, in straight sets. This was the second year in a row that Collingwood players won the two main events. Other club members had good runs in the supporting events. Miller reached the quarter finals of both the handicap and restricted league doubles partnered by Swan and Holloway respectively. Hugh Graham progressed to the semis of the handicap doubles partnered by Shuttleworth.

1985

The park trustees agreed a 30-year lease with the club.

The Northumberland County men's singles ranking list for the year was issued in early autumn. It showed four Collingwood players in the top ten. They were:

Neil Carmichael (1)

Chris Trousdale (2)

Roger Metcalfe (4)

Robin Robinson (8)

1986

The tennis club, unsuccessfully, applied for planning permission to install floodlighting on the three main all weather courts.

1988

Chris Trousdale won the LTA Volkswagen Ratings single's title at the tennis club. The tournament received entries from players from across the north-east, so this was a great achievement. He beat Neil Carmichael in the final. Gillian Smith beat her sister Tracy in the ladies' singles final

1989

Chris Trousdale continued to be the club coach running sessions on a Saturday and Sunday which were attended by many of the club's junior players. Chris lost to Durham county player Brent Parker in the VW Ratings single's final at the club.

1990

Chris Trousdale defeated Neil Carmichael in the VW ratings tournament final. Tracy Smith beat Joanne Ward in the ladies' final of the VW event. Trophies were presented by Peter Cosimini who was sales manager of sponsor Colebrook and Burgess in Whitley Bay

1992

Brian Lister, the groundsman, in Priors Park continues to support and help the tennis club. Without the help of Brian, over a long period of time, the tennis facilities and park would not be in such good condition. Brian was always prepared to help at short notice as well as playing on various club teams.

1995

Neil Carmichael retired from the Northumberland county men's tennis team. He represented Northumberland at County Week for 18 years. He was also captain and selector for the last 7 years.

The four junior Priory courts were resurfaced with artificial grass. Finance was received from the following sources:

LTA loan £12,000, National Lottery grant, £23,335 and club funds provided £12,000. The lottery grant cheque was presented to Alex Carmichael by Trevor Brooking (footballer)



Club members are pictured in the summer of 1995

Back row L to R- Jackman, Frank Stewart, Joanne Watson, Rachel Jackman, Irene Pollington, Jen Holder, John Coleman, Catherine Fish, Alan McNeil, Neil Carmichael, Don Doyle, Lesley Hopper, Myra King, Jenny Lunn, Ken Bailey, Kay Swan, George Larter,

Middle row L to R- Margaret Al Bahrani, Joan Reeve, John Dean, Hugh Graham, Alex Carmichael (Sec), Brian Wilson (Chairman), Marcia O'Callaghan, Anne Watson, Geoff O'Brady Jones, Tom Hatelly.

Front Row L to R- Hilary Minto, Linda Doyle, Nicholas Lake, Paul Swan, Ian Read, Andrew Whiffin, Kate Cross, Sylvia Reay.

1996

The opening of the new artificial grass junior courts took place in 1996.

Don McDougal also played a major role in the coaching at the club for many years.



Pictured above are, from L to R, Trish Hirst (LTA), Don McDougal (CLTC), Neil Carmichael (CLTC), Brian Wilson (Chair CLTC), Alex Carmichael (President CLTC) and Chris Davy (King's School)

1997



Pictured above are some of the junior event winners from the club tournament

2001



Junior trophy winners with the club president, Alex Carmichael

2002

Adam Chadwick assisted with club coaching.



L to R: Ron Scott, John James, Chris Trousdale and Paul Thompson before the men's doubles final



Jill Potts and Marcia O'Callaghan pictured before their club single's final

2003

A new court brushing machine was ordered.

Ben Adams helped with the club coaching

Club tournament rounds were played throughout July and August with the usual flurry of activity in early September. Finals Day dawned warm and sunny (again!) and battle commenced to the sounds of sausages sizzling and corks popping.

Winners were:

Men's singles- John Harris

Ladies' single- Jill Potts

Men's doubles- Chris Trousdale and Paul Thompson

Ladies' doubles- Kate Cross and Catherine Edwards

Mixed doubles- Kate Cross and John Harris

2004

Kate Cross and John Harris reached the semi- finals of the annual Coast Tournament.

The Christmas party was planned to take place on Thursday 9th December at the Unionist Club in North Shields. Tickets cost £10 including a hot buffet and disco.

In the summer two full bags of lost property were given to the Apostleship of the Sea in South Shields where it was gratefully received.

David Boddy was the club coach.



Bill Dunn is pictured above collecting a trophy at the Northumberland and Durham league presentation evening

2005

G Thorntons (Contracts) Ltd surfaced the single tennis court with their “Classic Club” synthetic grass. They also provided a new net and posts. The cost of the work was £9,600. The work was completed in May.

President’s Day was organised for the 23rd April.

2006

At the AGM, held at the Unionist Club North Shields on 29th March, the chairman, Mike Rule, thanked Chris Potts for his 15 years of service. Chris was standing down from his role.

Stuart Cass was introduced as one of the new coaches at the club.

It was reported that the club Christmas party, held at the Dolphin pub in Tynemouth, had been a great success. Hilary was thanked for organising the evening.

Bill Dunn and his family were thanked for all of their hard work over the Christmas period installing a new kitchen in the clubhouse.



Alex Carmichael (President, front centre seated) and Mike Rule (Chairman, seated front right) with club members

2007

Monkseaton Cricket Club used the clubhouse 11 times during the course of the summer season.

2008

Chairman- Mike Rule
Secretary- Catherine Edwards
Membership Secretary- Joan Reeve

The order of play at the club was as follows:

Monday evenings- Ladies' practice

Thursday evening- Men's practice

Saturday morning- Junior coaching, 9am-1pm on the far (Priory) courts

Saturday afternoon- Club play with all welcome

2009

The committee meeting on 16th February took place in the Copperfields bar at the Grand Hotel. The AGM took place at Tynemouth Cricket Club on Monday 23rd March. The proposed subscription for the 2009/10 season were:

Senior- £85

Family £130

Junior- £30

Concession- £60

Teams finished in the following positions in the Northern Rock League:

Men's 1st - 4th in group C

Men's 2nd- 5th in group E2

Men's 3rd- 4th in group G1

Ladies' 1st- 4th in group LD

Ladies' 2nd- 2nd in group LF2

Men's vets - 4th in group C

Ladies' vets- 3rd in group D

Men over 55's- 5th in group A

Mixed vets- 3rd in Group F

Boys' under 16- 1st in group C2

Girls' under 16- 2nd in group B1

Boys' under 12- 1st in group D

Girls' under 12- 3rd in group B

All members were asked to call the police if they see any signs of antisocial behaviour in the park or courts.

2010

At the AGM Neil Carmichael became Chairman taking on the role from Mike Rule.

A new carpet was put in the clubhouse during the course of the year. The club spent £516.06 on publicity. The cost of trophy engraving was £228.

Stuart Cass organised a team training/match top to enable players to look smarter for matches and training. The tops were a grey 'Hoodie' with priory castle logo on one side and British Tennis logo on the other with '*Collingwood Tennis team*' on the back.

2011

In February the club achieved the LTA's Clubmark accreditation.

The club resurfaced the three clubhouse courts with Proturf Plus 15mm dense pile sand filled artificial grass. The cost of the work was £33,900 plus vat and was undertaken by Fosse Contracts Ltd who were based in Leicester.

It was also agreed to replace the fencing of the three courts along the side of the gate and single court. Fosse also completed this work at a cost of £4,130. The net posts were replaced for £600.

The cost of match balls in 2011 was £489.73

The club also paid £440 for the use of the indoor courts at Churchill Community High School where new indoor courts were available.

A lot of the teams did well, particularly the juniors. The boys' under 12 won their league, another was a runner up. In the AEGON league the under 9's won the group for the third consecutive year. The best performance goes to the Ladies' Vet's 2, captained by Pam Miller, who won their league, congratulations.

Membership levels remain strong with 96 seniors, 61 families and 74 juniors.

2012

It's been a fantastic year with the following stand out results:

Ladies' 1 - won league
Men's 1 - won league
Men's 2 - 2nd

Mixed vets - won league
Men's vets 1 - won league

Nine junior finals took place as part of the club final's day in July. Dan McDermott won the boys' singles under 16 and 18 categories. Samm Brown won the under 18 and ladies' singles events to become the youngest ladies' singles winner for many years. Following all of the matches, 14 pairs took part in a family doubles event which was eventually won by team Ridley.

Junior success - 2012-13 saw unprecedented Collingwood success in the Northumberland and Durham Junior leagues with a clean sweep of all the girls' leagues winning 16 under A and B league as well as 12 and under A and B League.

2013

Alex Carmichael, the club president, sadly passed away in December. Alex had been a member of the club since 1956 and had been club secretary for many years. He helped ensure that the club survived through very difficult times and, without his involvement the club would not be here.

2014

Marcia O'Callaghan became the President of the tennis club. One of the priory court fences blew down in strong winds in October.

Collingwood girls' under 14 "A" team won the northeast league after a title deciding win against Virgin Active, Sunderland. The team was Laura Van Rensbeke, Ailsa Denholm, Esme Jonzy- Brown and Hannah Chapman.

The orange team came second in their league.

2014 saw Collingwood win the most Aegon team tennis leagues in the northeast with 6 titles which led to receiving the Aegon team tennis venue commitment award in 2015.

2015

Council stopped collecting bins and we had a struggle to get collections restarted. New bins were also ordered.

The courts were being brushed weekly and the decking was painted. Some of the trees near the courts were pruned.

The police visited the club as there were more instances of antisocial behaviour in the park.

In July, the club achieved Tennismark accreditation. By achieving the Sport England accreditation, the club provides a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for members and players at our venue. Tennismark venues also demonstrate a high quality, all year-round programme.

The boy's 12 team won division 1 of their age group in the Northumberland and Durham leagues

2016

At the AGM held on 16th March it was reported that park benches and decking steps had been repaired and that an ongoing maintenance programme was in place to ensure the courts and surrounding areas remain in good shape.

In the Northumberland and Durham leagues the following teams won their leagues: Under 16 boys' (Group A), under 12 boys' (Group A), under 16 boys' (Group B1), Veterans ladies' (Group E)

A new net was purchased for the first clubhouse court.

Collingwood dominated the latter years of the Northumberland and Durham Junior leagues winning the boys 16 and under division 1 in 2016, as well as the Boys 12s division 1.

2017

One team was entered in the local winter league competition.

At the AGM the juniors continued to outperform other larger clubs. Stuart Cass and his coaching team were thanked for their endeavours.



The photo above was taken in August to “Thank” the club president, Marcia O’Callaghan, before she moved away from the area. Marcia is second from the right on the front row

The Collingwood Tennis Club presentation evening took place on Wednesday 20th December at Tynemouth Golf Club starting at 7.30pm. A free buffet was provided at the conclusion of the event.

2018

Club Secretary David Pope was recently nominated for a Tyne and Wear Sport community award.

The “Pass on your Passion” award acknowledges individuals for their dedication, commitment, inspiration in getting people active, keeping clubs going, and delivering inclusive activity.

David's nomination was successful. The work he does to help organise the club is really appreciated and helps to ensure that over 200 people can enjoy their tennis in a friendly and welcoming environment.



Representatives from Tyne and Wear Sport attended the club on Wednesday 30th May to present David with his well-deserved award

The priory and clubhouse courts were deep cleaned and professionally brushed in the Spring with new sand added to the surface. The work was carried out by Turfcare Specialists Ltd of Consett. The cost of the work was £1,890 and it ensured that the courts were kept in as good a condition as possible.

The men's vets' 1st team won group B of the Northumberland and Durham Leagues with the men's vets 2 team winning group F.

The boys' under 16 team won division 1 of the Northumberland and Durham leagues.

2019

The AGM took place at Tynemouth Cricket Club in March. Fees were to remain the same for the coming season.

The decking overlooking the clubhouse courts was replaced in the late summer and was ready for the club to host the finals of the annual Coast Tournament. The event takes place each year and is between the clubs of Beverley Park, Cullercoats and Collingwood.

A new mixed vet's team was added to the local tennis leagues.

2020

This year was a very difficult one for the club and all members. The Covid 19 pandemic caused the club to be closed for a number of weeks from March.

Collingwood final's day results are as follows:

9 and under boys	W	George Menne		
10 and under boys	W	Hugo Milligan	RU	Roman Wyatt
12 and under boys	W	Luke Thompson	RU	Stephen Wilkinson
12 and under girls	To be played			
14 and under boys	W	Olly Cass	RU	Luke Thompson
14 and under girls	W	Evie Tones	RU	Anna Elizabeth Osborne
16 and under boys	To be played			
16 and under girls	W	Elizabeth Graham	RU	Evie Tones
18 and under boys	W	Jacob Eccles	RU	Josh Barnaby
18 and under girls	W	Elizabeth Graham	RU	Anna Winship
Men's singles	W	Sam Allonby	RU	Matt Smith
Men's doubles	W	Olly Cass/ James White	RU	Adham Harker/ Michael Trueman
Ladies' doubles	W	Elizabeth Graham/ Zoe Parkin	RU	Helen Cass/ Anna Winship
Ladies' singles	W	Hollie Lancaster	RU	Laura van Ransbeke
Mixes doubles	W	Olly Cass / Helen Cass	RU	Adham Harker / Laura van Ransbeke

W = Winner; RU = Runner-up;

President's Award – Donated by Marcia O' Callaghan:

Winner: Matt Barnaby

Runner-up: Evie Tones

Over recent years many Collingwood juniors have gone on to county representation such as Clara Loughlin, Laura Van Ransbeke, Jasmine Hacıoglu, Elizabeth Graham, Sam Cottrell, Alex Osborne, Gabe Allonby, Luke Thompson, Olly Cass.

2021

It is hard to believe that the club is 100 years old this year. At the time of writing (April 2021) we have just reopened the club, on March 29th, after being in lockdown since December last year.

Thanks to Ray McIntosh for all of his hard work in maintaining the tennis courts and surrounding areas. Thanks also to Gill Brown who continued to clean and check the clubhouse. Ray and Gill provide excellent support to the club and help to ensure that members can all enjoy our tennis.

Centenary signage has been installed along with court banners. Some new seating is in place on the decking area to help with social distancing. The clubhouse door and windows have been painted green as have some of the court gates. Bike racks are in place against the clubhouse wall to help encourage members to cycle to the club. The inside of the clubhouse is also being decorated for the new season.

I remember... Neil Carmichael

I have been a member of the tennis club since the mid-1960s and have seen so many changes over the years.

The old clubhouse (pavilion) was located at the far end of Priors Park where the disused practice wall area is currently located. The pavilion did not have any electricity in the 1960's and used lights that were powered by a large gas cylinder. When the lights were lit with a match, they were like mini flame throwers until they settled down!

There was no heating in the pavilion, so it became extremely cold in the winter.

The toilets were large metal drums that were not connected to any sewer pipes- I will say no more on this topic!

It was also possible to enter the park from Bath Terrace as there were steps leading down from in front of the Royal Sovereign pub, that used to be on the corner.

In the early 1970s the new clubhouse was built, and it was decided to demolish the old, prefabricated pavilion. The job was started on a Sunday and senior members came to the club to help with the work. It was anticipated that the building would fall very quickly but, as the job progressed, it became evident that it was not going to fall over. It had to be left overnight in a dangerous condition until an engineer looked at it the next day. He hit the side of the building with a heavy hammer, and it fell down straight away!

Scrap from the building was burnt on the Sunday when work began. Somebody called the fire brigade when they saw the smoke. The fire officers were not impressed when a couple of our members laughed when they arrived.

The courts in front of the old pavilion were grass but were certainly not of Wimbledon standard!

There was a large wooden cricket pavilion that was located on the right-hand side when walking towards the grass courts from the main shale courts. A wooden single swing was also located on the grass about twenty metres from the Priory courts at the far end of the park.

Where the wooden decking is located (next to the four clubhouse courts) there used to be an old greenhouse that we would shelter in when the rain disrupted our tennis. The problem with the greenhouse was that most of the glass panels had broken, so wherever you stood you were pretty much guaranteed to get wet.

In the 1960's the courts were made of shale. If the weather was dry and the wind was blowing it was like playing in a dust storm. As the courts aged the small stones under the surface would cause the tennis balls to bounce in all directions. You had to have good reflexes! At the end of play we would water the courts and then brush them. The water pipe was located at the lane end of the second clubhouse court. The large hosepipe would be another obstacle that had to be avoided when chasing back for a deep shot!

My father, brother and I would often play on Christmas Day morning and, if the weather was very cold, we would have to hammer down the nails that secured the plastic tape court lines.

The tennis balls used to be white and came in a cardboard box of four. I remember my father putting the tennis balls in our washing machine to clean them of all the dust and dirt. The introduction of yellow tennis balls in the 1970s was a major change that helped the game develop.

Junior coaching used to take place during the summer on the three main clubhouse courts on a Sunday afternoon between 3pm and 5pm. In the 1960s and early 1970s the coaching was Sid Evans who would coach our juniors in 30 minute sessions for each age group.

In the early 1970s there were no junior matches that took place with other clubs.

I remember some senior matches when we had fish and chips delivered from Marshalls in Tynemouth. That was just what was needed after a long evening!

I remember... Geoff O'Brady Jones (summarised from notes given to Neil Carmichael in 2004)

1930s, 40s and 50s

Murray Henderson and Jean Henderson (brother and sister) were prominent players. Bill Baker resided in Priors Terrace. His mother, Kathleen, organised the junior tournaments.

Kathleen was a formidable lady of the "old school" and a strict disciplinarian. I recollect playing a final's match against my cousin Douglas Tasker and was awarded a small cup presented by Kathleen Baker. I felt very overawed by the lady.

Bill Baker was a very powerful man and had a dreadful kicking serve. He was also a very good hockey player who took part in home matches taking place in Priors Park.

They were probably active until 1938-1939 when the park membership was depleted by the war.

The tennis court at the bottom of Collingwood Terrace, I believe, was a private court belonging to a Mr Hall of Priors Terrace or Collingwood Terrace. He was a well known scientist and a major contributor to the upkeep of the park.

Many other past park members come to mind. The Bolts of Bath Terrace. Fred was manager of Wallsend slipway and had three sons. John was an ex officer in the marines and later lived in Ponteland.

The Heslop family lived in Bath Terrace and, along with the Emily family, were park members in those days.



Note the style of tennis racket in the front right of the photo above. All the players are so well dressed.



The photo above was taken about 1901 and shows members of the Avenue Tennis Club



The photo above shows number 4 Priors Terrace which was the house of Geoff O'Brady Jones's grandfather William Maughan. Geoff's mother is in the centre with Muriel, her sister, on the left.



Above- Avenue Tennis Club. Back row right Dorothy Maughan, 2nd row ext left Thelma Maughan, 2nd row centre Muriel Maughan, 2nd row ext left Bessie Charlton.



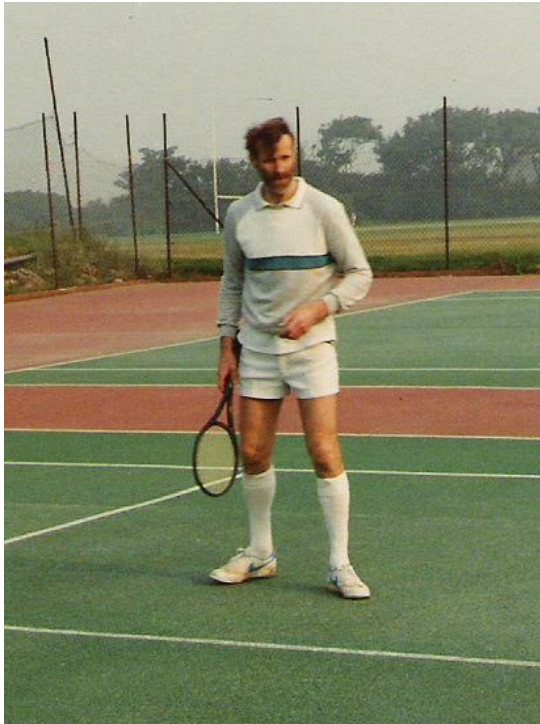
Above- Avenue Tennis Club. Thelma Maughan front row 2nd from right.



Above- Priors Park- Four Maughan sisters around the table



Above- Geoff's father, Revington O'Brady Jones, pictured extreme left with racket



Left - Hugh Graham who was Chairman in the 1980's and also won the men's singles title

Right - Geoff O'Brady Jones pictured in September 1989. 57 years previously, in 1932, he had won the junior singles, against Douglas Tasker who is seen below.





Above- A well worn photo of Geoff O'Brady Jones in his Royal Grammar School uniform. He looks to be standing on the grass court where he won his singles.



Above- a slightly blurred photo taken in October 1989 of Douglas Unsworth who was a trustee of Priors Park and also a teacher at King's School. Douglas was a great supporter of the tennis club and was also a club chairman. In 2021 there is still a bench seat dedicated to Douglas near the clubhouse.

I remember... Marcia O'Callaghan

We moved to Tynemouth in August 1988 and I joined the tennis club as soon as I could. Keith Robson was Member's secretary but was so busy with family business that he asked if I would take over his CLTC role. I agreed and I loved it. I met the members very soon, as membership fees were due, and I cycled all around and got to know the area very quickly.

So, Ring the bells... "Who are you?" Explain etc.

When I was introduced to new people on my cycle rounds, I would tell them about our amazing, wonderful club and invite them down for a free introductory game.

Richard Williams, a new neighbour in Hotspur Street, used to tell people that as he was crossing the road with a wardrobe on his back when I met him and welcomed him to Hotspur St. I said, "You'll be pleased to know we have a super duper amazing tennis club with a few spaces for new members. He replied, "Marcia, thank you, but do you think we could discuss this another time when I get this weight off my shoulders!"

Take my word for it that this was grossly exaggerated but when Richard and his wife played soon afterwards, he had the club members believing his imagined encounter.

How lucky I was, a member of this club with friendly relaxed people all around me. Such beautiful memories.

I wanted to play for our club but there was no room as we only had one ladies' team. So, I told Mr Carmichael about this, "Well you know what to do don't you?... Form your own team" ...so I did.

I invited Kay, Linda, Pat, Ann, Kathy and myself. So much excitement and they were very keen.

Our first match was a home one, we played and won. Had a really good 'slap up meal' for our visiting team, with polite conversation. We watched the visiting team go and then we erupted into cheering and laughter and washing up. Nothing could ever be so exciting again... a time to remember forever.

So many ladies asked if they could join our team, so I formed a ladies' third team.

We were winning most of our matches and Mr. Carmichael (now Alex) said, "Marcia, wouldn't it be exciting if your team became ladies' first team?" and it was! We made it but only for one year then we were back to team two and happy about it.

Away matches -

Often it was so late by the time we got to the Tyne Tunnel, and had to queue, but we didn't care, we would just sing.

One of the away teams we visited had natural grass. The grass was so long the ball would just not bounce...Frustration....When I said, "This is just impossible!" Kathy my partner said, "Just get on with it"-and we did and we won!

We would play during the winter and, on several occasions, we would have to brush the snow off the courts before we could start. Local residents walking through the park would say we were mad to think about playing in such conditions- we were dedicated!

I remember... Jim McGregor

The Vicar, he once told me that he always said a little prayer before each game of doubles and that he would have the strength to call a ball out if it hit the line!

I remember... Catherine Edwards

Another great story about the vicar (Rev White).

The vicar told me that he would look at the sea when he was driving along the coast to the tennis club. If he could see the white tops on the waves then it was probably going to be too windy to have an enjoyable game so he might turn the car around and go home!

I remember... Pam Miller

My husband and I have been talking about it as this memory is really his!

He remembers his father, Tom Miller, talking about being one of the founder members of Collingwood Tennis Club.

Tom was born in 1900, so would have been 21 at the time of its founding. His family house was in Northumberland Terrace and he played frequently when living there. When he married he and his wife, Brenda, were still members from the 1930s to the 1950s.

My husband remembers photographs of groups of members outside the previous club house, near the bottom of the park, picnicking after play. However, his mother threw all of the photographs out when she moved house, but they recorded happy times!

I remember... Brian Wilson

I always remember Collingwood as a very friendly club. Summers were great with BBQ's and matches. I always remember Clem White (Vicar) coming up to me with a donation for a BBQ saying, "I love people enjoying themselves". Without Alex Carmichael the club would not still be around- great secretary.

I remember... Mike Rule

I took over as Chair around 2000 and stayed in post until succeeded by Neil Carmichael in 2010.

I had previously been a committee member, mainly with Brian Wilson., during which time the club had pottered along in much the same way as it had for the previous 50 years. Its great strength was - and still is – the unfussy sociability and the friendly atmosphere which permeates all aspects of the club. In my experience it is unique in this regard.

Alex Carmichael of course will always be remembered as the father of CLTC, having looked after all aspects of it for so long. When I joined in the '80s he took me under his wing, and I learned so much about match play from him. At the same time he was repairing fences, sorting nets and posts, painting fence poles, clearing weeds and generally setting a high standard for conduct and behaviour.

Brian Wilson was also a great Chair for the club. His affability and good sense helped him deal with a variety of the issues of the day, and he ensured that it continued to function in a manner which met with the approval of the vast majority of members.

Everyone had a high regard and admiration for Brian, who's stature fully matched the requirements of a club Chair.

After Brian retired there was a couple of intervening years, with Marcia O'Callaghan and others looking for a way forward as a number of contemporary dilemmas arose.

I could greatly expand my reminiscences on any number of these matters, but that really would be too long-winded, so I will settle for a thumbnail reference to the key ones I remember.

I was fortunate to have the backing of a great committee, which included Catherine Edwards, Joan Reeve and latterly David Pope. My thanks to them all for their support. During my, approximately, 10 years the Chair and committee addressed a wide variety of issues, including:

The King's School

Ongoing and continuous discussions about level of use and appropriate payment.

Duke of Northumberland

The nature and costs of the lease arrangements were becoming the subject of negotiation and review as the existing deal was due to expire.

Court Lights

Considerable efforts were made to research the possibilities, ultimately to meet rejection.

Clubhouse management and upgrade (including cricket club and school use)

To extend or not? To upgrade? To manage cricket and school use – all matters requiring attention and decisions.

Fencing

New – and higher - fencing researched, purchased and installed.

Nets

Replacement nets and posts researched, purchased and installed.

Court surfaces

Much work undertaken on all courts to manage numerous upgrades to provide good all-weather surfaces.

Priory courts vs main courts

Much discussion and planning on priorities, naming and management.

Site maintenance

Introduction of regular paid site upkeep, augmented by voluntary work.

Membership

Attempts to increase number of players, especially the young people of the area.

Finance including fee collection etc.

Substantial sums of members' cash to be monitored, protected and utilised. All fees to be collected and banked through cash and cheques.

Park conduct

Spring and summer often brought anti-social behaviour in the park. Call-outs often occurred.

Agreed 4 slots vs social play

The introduction of 'Fixed-fours' took place through agreed timings. (Not to the liking of all).

Teams and selection issues/matches

Club matches and team selections by many clubs caused concern at the league, resulting in new guidelines, which were not always straightforward to implement.

Club competitions, social events and club presentation events.

Many efforts were made to find the best way to deliver the annual event, and although there were glitches, some great competitions and champions emerged over the years. Final's day often became a big social event with a large turn-out, and many of the presentation evenings were well attended fun events.

Coaching development

To this day the club can rightfully be proud of its encouragement of new and young players, and much of the current success stems from the appointment of a number of highly proficient coaches.

Decking

From day one I was unhappy about the messy grassy knoll between the courts, and I personally built the original staged decking which transformed the viewing area.

Park paths

Fed up with the flooding on the path inside the entrance we dug a ditch to divert the water.

Front St access

Before the path was closed members could pop up to Front Street for a pint between sets. Ah, those were the days!

It was with a great sense of pleasure – and relief – that I was able to pass the role on to Neil Carmichael, who has continued the great family tradition of making the very best of CLTC.

I remember... Chris Trousdale

I have many happy memories of playing and coaching at Collingwood. I played in the men's first team during the 1980s and I remember playing one club match when we won each of our three matches against the opposing team in less than 30 minutes each. It was one of those days when everything went right for us!

I remember... Dennis Henderson

I have been a member of the club since the 1970s and remember playing tennis with Mary Hunter many times. Mary won the singles trophy numerous times, and you always knew when she was near the club as her small dogs would be leading the way! One day in the mid 1980s Mary and I were playing on the first of the three main courts. The television programme "Supergran" was filming on our single court and the producer came over to us and asked if we could stop playing for a few minutes whilst they filmed a scene. She said the noise of us playing was affecting the sound recording. There were about eight film crew on the single court at the time.

Mary and I played one snowy day in the early 1980s and got some funny looks walking past the Royal Sovereign pub in our tennis clothing. There used to be a path leading down to the park by the pub and it was white with a dusting of snow. We swept the tennis court with a brush and played for about 45 minutes until the cold became too much for us to deal with. We walked back past the pub and they were all amazed that we had been playing tennis on such a cold day!



Dennis Henderson and Mary Hunter pictured next to the clubhouse circa 1990

Women's Singles Winner

1932 B S Hughes	1966 M Hunter	2011 A Sowerby
1933 D I Jenkell	1967 M Hunter	2012 S Brown
1934 L Hannay	1968 M Hunter	2013 L Van Ransbeke
1935 B S Hughes	1969 M Hunter	2015 H Cass
1936 B S Hughes	1970 S James	2016 C Loughlin
1937 B S Hughes	1971 F Purdy	2017 A Winship
1938 B S Hughes	1985 J S Walker	2018 C Loughlin
1939 B Leonard	1986 J S Walker	2019 L Van Ransbeke
1946 B Leonard	1987 M Hunter	2020 H Lancaster
1947 L Sonn	1988 C Mason	
1948 D N Thompson	1989 C Mason	
1949 G L Milburn	1990 C Mason	
1950 E K Williams	1991 R Jackman	
1951 F V Parker	1992 O Kirkby	
1952 E K Williams	1993 J Whiffin	
1953 L Sonn	1994 J Whiffin	
1954 M Hunter	1995 J Whiffin	
1955 M Hunter	1996 J Whiffin	
1956 V Dickson	1997 J Carmichael	
1957 M Hunter	1998 J Potts	
1958 M Hunter	1999 P Wood	
1959 M Hunter	2000 J Potts	
1960 M Hunter	2001 J Stephenson	
1961 M Hunter	2002 J Potts	
1962 M Hunter	2003 J Potts	
1963 M Hunter	2004 P Wood	
1964 M Hunter	2005 J Potts	
1965 M Hunter	2006 S Smith	
	2008 L Carmichael	

Men's Singles Winner

1932 R C McPhee	1966 W J Lomas	2002 J James
1934 R C McPhee	1967 W J Lomas	2004 P Robson
1934 H H Dobson	1968 H Wells	2005 J Harris
1935 R M Robson	1969 I S Carmichael	2006 N Carmichael
1936 W J Robson	1970 I S Carmichael	2007 N Carmichael
1937 W J Robson	1971 I S Carmichael	2008 N Carmichael
1938 W J Robson	1972 I S Carmichael	2009 N Carmichael
1939 H H Dobson	1973 I S Carmichael	2010 P Carmichael
1946 C Watts	1974 S Prakash	2011 P Carmichael
1947 C Watts	1975 N A Carmichael	2012 N Carmichael
1948 F A Millington	1976 C F Purdy	2013 P Carmichael
1949 C Watts	1979 F Holloway	2014 P Carmichael
1950 C Watts	1983 N P Clark	2015 J White
1951 C Watts	1986 E H Graham	2016 S Cass
1952 D G Gilberg	1987 J F Wall	2017 N Carmichael
1953 D G Gilberg	1988 E H Graham	2018 P Carmichael
1954 D G Gilberg	1989 P Robson	2019 S Cass
1955 D G Gilberg	1990 E H Graham	2020 S Allonby
1956 D G Gilberg	1991 P Van Gulp	
1957 R Athey	1992 P Van Gulp	
1958 D G Gilberg	1993 P Van Gulp	
1959 D G Gilberg	1994 A Ashman	
1960 G W Bower	1995 I A Read	
1961 R Armstrong	1996 A Ashman	
1962 R Armstrong	1997 A Ashman	
1963 D G Gilberg	1998 B Smith	
1964 R Armstrong	1999 J Wall	
1965 W J Lomas	2000 S McIntosh	
	2001 P Thompson	