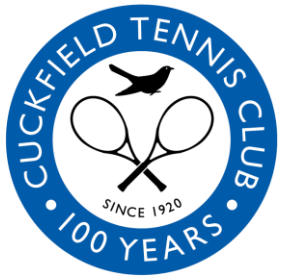


# Cuckfield Lawn Tennis Club's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

May 2020



# Celebrating Cuckfield Lawn Tennis Club's

100<sup>th</sup>

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Tennis – in fashion in Cuckfield for over 100 years!



Tennis circa 1900 at Warden Court



CLTC team in the 1940s



1950 Champions



1952 Champions



1955 Women's Champions



Tools of the game, 1968



Cuckfield team wins 1968 Express-Herald Trophy



Mike Willmott and Peter Brigden winning doubles for CLTC



Tennis in the age of COVID-19

## Brief History of the CLTC

1920 - 2 small clubs merged to create CLTC, playing on 2 courts at Vicarage Field

1921 - Dues 30 shillings/yr.

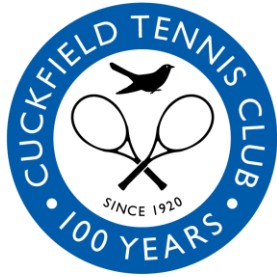
1927 - 3 grass courts built on recreation ground

1938 - Council agrees to build 1 hard court; rent £25/yr.

1943 – Play goes on during war years with 30 members

1969 – Members loaned CLTC £100 to build clubhouse

2014 - CLTC registers as charity; takes control of courts from Council



# A Brief History of the Cuckfield Lawn Tennis Club

**1920** – The Cuckfield Lawn Tennis Club was formed from two smaller clubs, played on two courts in the Vicarage Field, and was led by a committee of six under the chair of Miss Payne. Later that year Mrs. Richard Worsley presented the recreation ground to the village of Cuckfield.

**1921** – A further court was added and the joining fee was set at 10 shillings.

**1927** – Three grass courts were constructed on the recreation ground.

**1938** – The Council agrees to construct one hard court with a rent set at £25 per annum.

**1943**– Play continues during wartime. The AGM reported 30 members and the Club won the Challenge Cup against Haywards Heath.

**1969** – A clubhouse was erected and each member was asked to lend £100 for the project, and each member was repaid.

**2000** – The Clubhouse was extended and professionally clad by the members.

**2014** – The Club becomes a registered company and a charity, and takes responsibility for the courts from the Council.

*With acknowledgement to the Cuckfield Museum*

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Schoolgirls playing at Warden Court circa 1900



...and ladies' tennis at Warden Court too



# The CLTC is victorious again!

(Possibly winning  
Champions Cup over  
Haywards Heath in the  
1940s)



Photo Courtesy of  
Daphne Page (nee  
Dann)

Back row middle – Alan Bilsby

Front row from left – Rosemary Bransden, Ivy Dann, Olive Askew, Win Seldon, Diane Markwick

# A happy time at the Club, circa 1940



Photo Courtesy of  
Daphne Page (nee Dann)

Seated on ground from left – (boy unidentified), Peggy Brigden (Peter Brigden's mother), Ivy Dann

Seated in chairs from left – (first 2 unidentified), Win Seldon, Olive Askew, (unidentified)

Man in back row with stripped jumper is Mr. Gowan with Mrs. Gowan next to him. They owned The Gents and Ladies Out-Fitters on High St.



# The Club in the War Years

Arrow identifies Ernie Norman who was stationed at Ockenden Manor during the war (R.E.M.E). He often collected the keys from Ivy Dann's house (Highbury on High St) to open up the tennis courts so the soldiers could play. (Circa 1943)



Photo Courtesy of  
Daphne Page (nee Dann)

Back row far left – Florrie Jennings

Seated from left – Freda Clayton, Margaret Beard, Ivy Dann, Win Seldon (with dog), (unidentified), June Morrison, (unidentified)



# Tennis Club gathering, circa 1944



Photo Courtesy of  
Daphne Page (nee Dann)

Children sitting on ground from left – (boy unidentified), Daphne Dann, Jennifer Dann

Next row sitting on ground from left – Freda Clayton, Rosemary Bransden, Florrie Jennings, (unidentified), Mrs. Bilsby, (unidentified), Alan

Next row seated in chairs from left – (first 3 unidentified), Ivy Dann, Win Seldon, (unidentified), June Morrison in army uniform

Standing far left – Frank Seldon, Mrs. Quickenden also known as The Tea Lady

# Trophies, plaques and flowers for the winners in 1950



Photo Courtesy of  
Hazel Gubbin

Back row from left – Hazel Gubbin, Meg Brolly, Mr. Edgerton, (Unidentified), (Unidentified), Anne Brinkler, Margaret Kayles  
Sitting – Edward Fox, (Unidentified)





Photo Courtesy of  
Hazel Gubbin

More CTLC champions from the 1950s



Photo Courtesy of  
Hazel Gubbin

Champions are joined by Club members, 1950s



# Cuckfield champions with their trophyes, 1952



Photo Courtesy of  
Hazel Gubbin

Standing from left – Mr. Fox, Mrs. Patient, Gillian Patient, Ken Dean, Grover, Boy Upton, Mr. Lyle  
Kneeling from left – Janet Hilsop, Peggy Baker, Edward Fox



Photo Courtesy of  
Hazel Gubbin

Club champions in 1953





Club champions in 1955





# The Cuckfield team that met Cross-in-Hand for the 1963 Express- Herald tournament

Pictured from left – Mr. P.  
Brigden, Mrs. A. Edgerton, Mr.  
M. Edgerton, Mr. D. Pullinger,  
(unidentified)





Some Cuckfield  
tennis stars and  
their trophies





An experienced  
Cuckfield team  
defeated the  
Southdown  
Juniors (avg. age  
17) for the 1968  
Express-Herald  
tennis trophy

Pictured from left – Mrs. L. Ball, Mrs. P.  
Crawford, Mr. D. Pullinger, Mr. and Mrs.  
Seagrave (from the Sussex Express), Mr. M.  
Edgerton, Mrs. A. Edgerton, Mr. P. Brigden



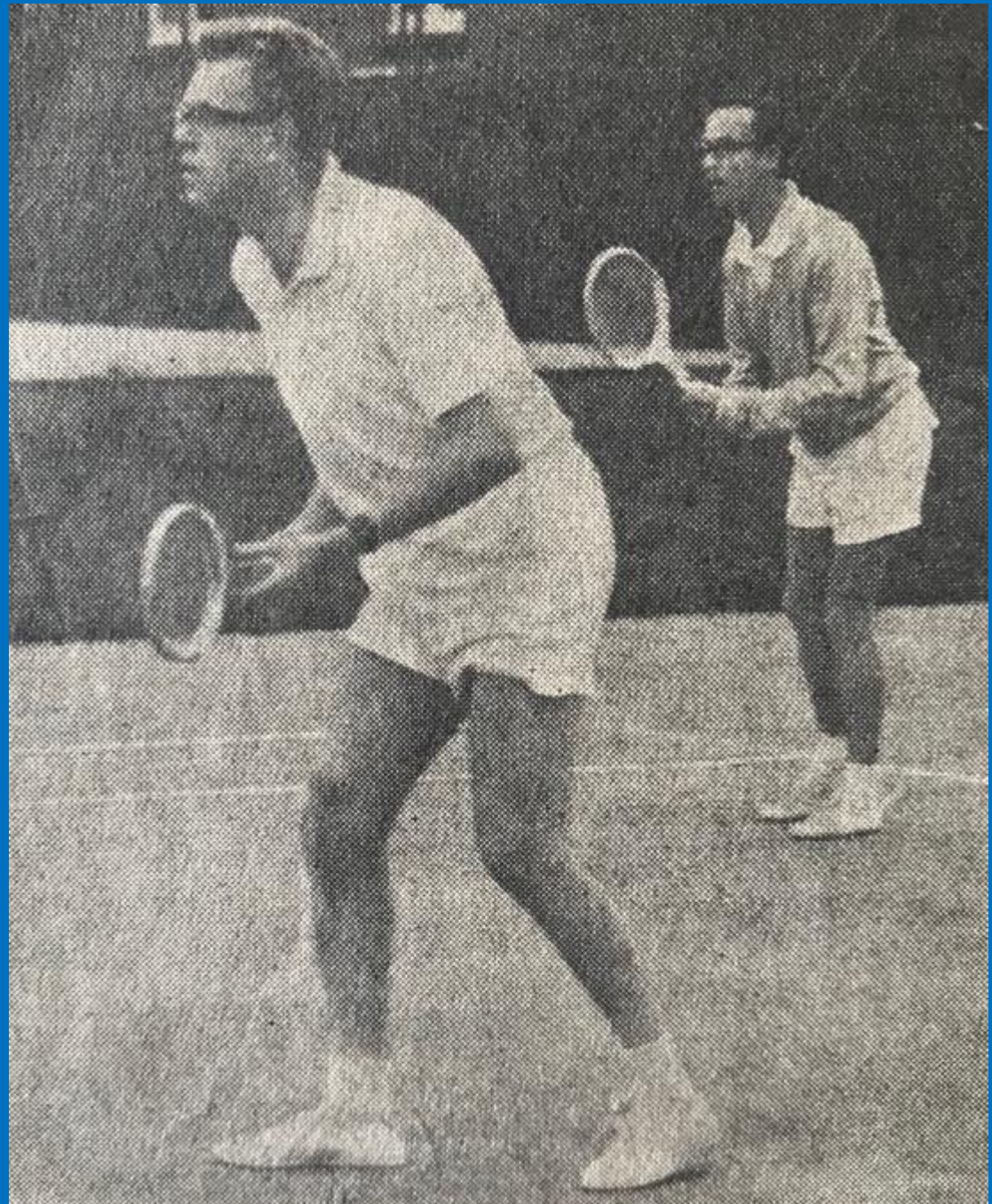


One of these  
players in 1968  
is guaranteed  
not to have a  
warped  
racquet!



Vintage equipment  
courtesy of Brenda  
Walker

Mr. D. Pullinger  
(foreground) and  
Mr. P. Brigden of  
Cuckfield win the  
1969 Mid-Sussex  
Tournament men's  
doubles, 13-11 and  
7-5





Mrs. P. Crawford and Mr. P. Brigden receive the Mixed Doubles trophies at the 1970 Mid- Sussex tournament

Presented by Mr. R. W. Diggins, Secretary of the County LTA





Mr. Mike Shaw is the men's singles winner at the 1972 Cuckfield LTC finals day. With him are runner up Mr. Peter Brigden and Mrs. Patient





# Tennis in the 1990s



From left – Ann Holberton, Sue Pegler, Juliet Middleton, Barbara Davis



Ann Holberton and Richard Holberton

Winners of the  
Mid-Sussex  
Veterans Mixed  
Doubles - Mrs.  
Ann Holberton  
and Mr. David  
Marlow







**Ladies in the News:** "The lady members of the Cuckfield Tennis Club took to the courts last week for their traditional summer tennis tournament. A total of 24 players played a succession of three lively 20-minute rounds organized by club member Elaine Silverwood. When the tennis was over and the games had been counted up, it was Elaine herself who had won the most games and was declared the clear winner. Club secretary Ruth Wetherall presented her with a prize and thanked the committee for organizing the occasion. Then the players and supporters all repaired to the clubhouse to recharge their batteries with an excellent lunch washed down by a glass or two of wine."



Peter Brigden (glasses) and Mike Willmott (beard) show off their winning doubles form





## 2020 - The challenges of playing tennis during the pandemic

A closed clubhouse, singles only, social distancing & everyone marks & uses their own balls



May 2020

But despite the  
pandemic, we  
continue to play  
the game we love  
so much!

