



CONTACT - NOV 2023

Newsletter of the Dunstable Tennis Club

Editor: Graham Morgan

Email: info@dunstabletennisclub.com

Website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/DunstableTennisClub

DAVID ERNEST BRADSHAW PASSED AWAY ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2023, AGED 81 YEARS.



BRADDERS

SCOOP BRADSHAW

EX-EDITOR (CONTACT) AND GENERAL
CLUB RECORD KEEPER !!

David Bradshaw sadly passed away on 26th September, 2023, aged 81. He was a beloved uncle, cousin and friend, remembered for his kindness and wit, generous nature and love of dogs and tortoises, amongst other animals, and of course model toys and Luton FC. He was a lifelong member at our club and is sadly missed. Condolences on behalf of the club have been passed to the family.

His funeral was held at 2.30pm on Friday 3rd November in the Cedar Chapel at Luton Crematorium, and afterwards family, friends and members gathered in the clubhouse to remember and celebrate Dave's life.

The family have asked for donations to his charities which can be found on the following memorygiving page:

DAVID ERNEST BRADSHAW | memorygiving.com

FROM THE CHAIR...

Yes, it was certainly a sad day when we heard of the passing of Bradders, coming shortly after news of the passing of Nick Jones, a former member of the club.

As the news broke of Daves passing the tributes started to pour in, showing how much he was loved and admired at the club and how much he would be missed.

Dave joined the club in the early 80's and loved his tennis and was a true club member, although never won any honours. He also had a knack for organising and was involved in the Saturday evening Bingo sessions and the Friday evening Indoor Games tournaments of Cribbage, Dominoes and Shove Ha'penny. In 1988 Friday evenings progressed to Darts Knock Out tournaments, Singles and Doubles. Due to its popularity, he soon formed the darts league with 4 divisions, each division playing alternate Fridays.

In 1984 he became involved with the Club's newsletter, CONTACT, as Editor and produced 220 copies up until 2004 when I (GM) took over. Dave was always on the hunt for gossip and stories to include in the newsletters which earned him the nickname of 'Scoop Bradshaw'. He also used to keep the honours lists up to date each year along with club achievements in the Beds Leagues. Those who remember the peg board on social evenings have Dave to thank for that too. He wrote the booklet to commemorate 25 years of the club from 1966-1981 and was the main contributor to the 40-year brochure. I wonder who has the time or energy to update to the 60-year anniversary coming up in a just over 2 years' time? He organised and played in the Winter League Competition for many years up until 2007 during which he only missed 2 out of 253 sessions. A hip operation that wasn't a complete success sadly ended his playing career. The prize for the winner of the Winter League was the Nancy Tibbett Cup. This trophy was donated to DTC by the company Dave used to work for, Ben Johnson Printers, when it closed down. Dave never won the Winter League, but his name is on the trophy as he won a Ben Johnson tennis competition whilst he worked there. We will all miss Bradders...

FROM THE COMMITTEE...

The committee last met on Monday 2nd October and each member of the committee works hard to ensure the club functions well in a safe and inclusive environment.

The Chairman keeps the club up to date with what's happening in Bedfordshire by attending the Beds LTA committee meetings. The club have agreed to host the Senior County Closed finals in 2024 and Craig will consider hosting some sessions of County training at DTC.

The committee was pleased to receive a generous donation from ex member Brian Houston who recently left the club when he moved to Oxfordshire. Courtesy of the donation we now have 2 new benches on court 4. These are made from recycled plastic, guaranteed for 25 years.

Jacqui has been busy with court management having courts 1-3 deep cleaned and re-sanded. This was scheduled for February next

year but bought forward for safety reasons. In order to better maintain the courts, we will revert to brushing the courts on a regular basis of at least once a week. Notices will be put up.

The committee have decided to make further updates to the clubhouse to improve the insulation and heating to save energy. Glenn is looking into having the windows replaced with double glazed units, insulated ceiling tiles, and more energy efficient heaters. Treasurer, Mike, confirmed that there are sufficient funds available for these improvements.

The S. Beds & Vets Winter League matches are well under way and all the fixtures can be found on our website...

[Dunstable Tennis Club / Fixtures \(lta.org.uk\)](http://Dunstable Tennis Club / Fixtures (lta.org.uk))



REGISTERED VENUE 2023/24...

Club Secretary, Anouska, has completed the annual registration process, and we are an LTA registered venue for another 12 months.

Dunstable Tennis Club meets the LTA's Safeguarding Standards ensuring a safe and inclusive venue. Safeguarding and Diversity/Inclusion policies are in place. We have a trained Welfare Officer, AJ Webley, who oversees safeguarding at DTC. All appropriate volunteers have undertaken a Criminal Records Check. We undertake an annual Risk Assessment, and all level 2-5 coaches are LTA Accredited...



VISIT BY TC ROT-WEISS...

In August a group from our twin tennis club in Germany visited Dunstable for a long weekend as part of the twinning association between the clubs. This year we celebrated 50 years of our friendship, 1973 - 2023.

Although normally an annual exchange, this is the first visit since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Club members host our guests at their homes and the typical format for the weekend is usually; meet and greet on Thursday evening followed on Friday with a day excursion (This year was an Oxford walking tour) and social tennis in the evening. An annual tennis tournament on Saturday with a party in the evening. Time with hosts during the day on Sunday before returning home in the evening.

If you would like to become involved in these annual exchanges, then please let us know.



We look forward to visiting Porz, Germany in 2024.

WINTER LEAGUE 2023/24...

The Winter League started on October 1st. Open to all intermediate and adult members it takes place every 2 weeks on a Sunday with 6 sessions being played before Christmas

The Open Trophy					
First name	Last name	Gender	Points	Ranking	Played
Sarah	Lynch	F	20	3.3	2
Harley	Gore	M	19	16.5	2
Shanks	Putwain	M	19	4.6	2
Joshua	Brown	M	19	0.9	2
Joanna	Kettle	F	18	4.1	2
Richard	Mabbitt	M	18	2.2	2
Graham	Morgan	M	18	1.3	2
Russell	Hillman	M	17	10.3	2
Alex	Knight	M	17	10.3	2
Adrian	Luczak	M	17	1.6	2
Paul	Madden	M	17	4.8	2
Andrew	Sherratt	M	17	3.8	2
Andrew	Stanczak	M	17	2.6	2
Gill	Starkins	F	17	2.1	2
Agnieszka	Szklaruk	F	17	3.5	2
Renato	Natale	M	17	14.0	2
Kristian	Stovey	M	17	2.4	2
Nick	Browne	M	16	14.0	2
Andy	Burt	M	16	3.3	2
Shaun	Coombs	M	16	2.4	2
Jacqueline	Crossley	F	16	7.5	2

and a further 6 sessions in the New Year. Being a winter league, we play in all weathers - apart from snow or flooding. Please do not cry off on the day 'not coming to play because it's raining' as apart from the difficulty in

finding a late replacement it also lets down the other three who were due to play with them.

The Nancy Tibbett Cup is presented to the winner of the open WL competition, with the top lady winning a separate trophy. This year, and in honour of David Bradshaw, the winner of the open competition will receive the new 'Bradders Cup' and the top lady will receive a new 'Nancy Tibbett Cup'.



CLUB CLOSED TOURNAMENTS...

The club finals took part on Sunday 10th September.

Thank you to all who attended and played and congratulations to the winners...

DTC CLOSED TOURNAMENT 2023 - RESULTS			
EVENT (No Order)	WINNER(S)	SCORE	RUNNER(S) UP
Men's Singles Over 40's	Mike Bartlett	6-1 6-3	Richard Haddock
Men's Singles Over 55's	John Callender	6-2 6-2	Dave Merrell
Ladies Plate	Olivia Wills	6-4 6-2	Jo Ansell
Boys Doubles Under 16's	Ethan Chapman Malcolm Jolly	6-1 6-1	Kristian Stovey Ben Hale Brown
Ladies Singles Over 40's	Jacqui Crossley	6-1 6-2	Jenny Morgan
Ladies Doubles Over 55's	Jo Kettle Jane Wigley	6-2 6-2	Anne Bartlett Jenny Mullany
Men's Singles Open	Harley Gore	6-4 6-2	Ethan Chapman
Men's Doubles Over 40's	Brian Griffith Mike Bartlett	6-2 6-3	Shanks Putwain Jamie Clarke
Ladies Singles Open	Aga Szklaruk	6-3 6-0	Jacqui Crossley
Ladies Singles Over 55's	Anita Norling	6-2 6-3	Jenny Morgan
Men's Plate	Lukasz Luczak	4-6, 6-3, 6-3	Shaun Coombs
Men's Doubles Open	Harley Gore Alex Knight	6-1 4-6 6-1	Craig Keeling Connor Taylor
Ladies Doubles Open	Jacqui Crossley Jo Kettle	5-7 6-3 6-2	Anita Norling Aga Szklaruk
Boys Singles Under 16's	Ethan Chapman	6-0 6-0	Kristian Stovey
Men's Doubles Over 55's	Mike Bartlett Hijazy Yaseen	6-3 6-2	Tony Bunyan Tim Burt
Mixed Doubles Open	Harley Gore Anita Norling	6-4 3-6 6-2	Jonathan Gosbell Jacqui Crossley
Mixed Doubles Over 40's	Jonathan Gosbell Jo Kettle	6-3 6-2	Mike Bartlett Jenny Morgan
Mixed Doubles Over 55's	Mike Bartlett Anne Bartlett	7-5 6-1	Mick Smitham Jacqui Crossley
Ladies Doubles Over 40's	Jacqui Crossley Jo Kettle	6-2 6-3	Sarah Lynch Anita Norling

A LOAD OF BALLS...

We provide tennis balls for members to use for social play. The boxes (6) contain balls that have been used previously in a club league match. When newer balls become available the boxed balls are then placed in the baskets for members use at other times. After that balls are sent away in batches of 200 to be re-cycled with the club receiving 15p/ball. There are some balls that do not meet the criteria for re-cycling, and these are

donated to HM Prison Service to be used by the Regional Dog Team who have 44 dog handlers, each with 2 dogs covering 14 prisons in the South.

We know that some members buy their own balls as they like the feel of a new ball! So, if you have balls that are past their use and wish to have them re-cycled and contribute to club funds or go to a good cause, please place the balls in the baskets or the yellow bin in the kitchen. If you would like to know more of what happens to the re-cycled balls, then visit their website: Recycaball Ltd

ClubSpark...

ClubSpark, by Sportlabs, is the platform that manages our website and encompasses a membership management module which makes it easier for the club and for members to pay, renew their membership and keep informed. Members can also book courts online or through the mobile Booker App and ClubSpark lets Craig manage coaching lessons, events and courses online.

The website contains all club news, events, important documents, and policies.

Login with your LTA Advantage account to manage bookings, coaching, memberships and more. If you don't have an account you will need to register with LTA to use ClubSpark. LTA Advantage membership is free. Your registration details and profile can be managed under 'Your Account'. It is important that you keep personal information in your membership profile up to date. Should you move to a new house, change your email address or phone number then it is important to update your details. This can be managed under 'Your Profile'.

Remember, it is easy to renew your membership each year by following the link in the renewal email you receive. Please do not ignore ClubSpark emails...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Sat Nov 18 Chairman's Supper and Trophy Presentations
Mon Nov 20 DTC Committee Meeting 8pm in Clubhouse
Thu Nov 30 Beds LTA Extraordinary General Meeting
Sun Dec 3 Club Tidy Day (TBC)
Sat Dec 23 Juniors Christmas Party
Sat Dec 23 Jim Balls & The Rackets Christmas Party
Wed Dec 27 Christmas Pudding Tournament
2024
Sun Jan 3 Restart Winter League (7-12, every 2 wks.)
Fri Mar 8 Club Annual General Meeting (TBC)

FLOODLIGHTS...

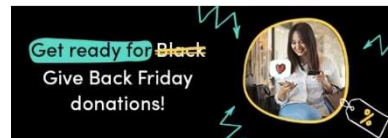
For all new members and as a reminder, the floodlights need to be turned off at 9.30pm and are NOT to be used at weekends. This is due to planning restrictions.

Floodlights are available on courts 1&2, 4&5, and court 6 and all have LED lights. (No floodlights on court 3) There is a cost for the use of floodlights of £4/hour, with no charge during club nights, Wednesday, and Friday from 7pm. The payment method, at present, is based on honesty and it is the responsibility of the person who booked the court to make the payment. Although we have discouraged cash transactions at the club, cash payment may be made into the cash box on the wall adjacent to the floodlight switches. Other methods of payment are by card payment when the bar is open or direct bank transfer to the club...

Sort Code: 30-92-77 Account Number: 00368923

RAISE FUNDS BY SHOPPING!!!

With Christmas on the horizon, it's very simple - Just visit easyfundraising to register and shop with over 2,000 well-



known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay and many more. Whenever you buy something, the retailer donates to

Dunstable Tennis Club. They've helped other causes raise over £2,000,000 so it really does work. It won't cost you a penny extra to shop through easyfundraising and you can even save money with special offers and voucher codes.

Plus, you can help Dunstable Tennis Club WIN one of three BIG donation prizes in #easyfundraising's epic £3,000 Refer to Win giveaway. Dunstable Tennis Club will get a FREE entry each time a new supporter signs up before the 13th November! It only takes a moment and it's completely free, so please sign up today and give us an entry! #MakeltCount
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=38070%26invite%3D94YYME%26referral-campaign%3Dc2s&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=epic3000r2w-fb1

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA...

Information and news for Dunstable Tennis Club can be found on most popular social media platforms.

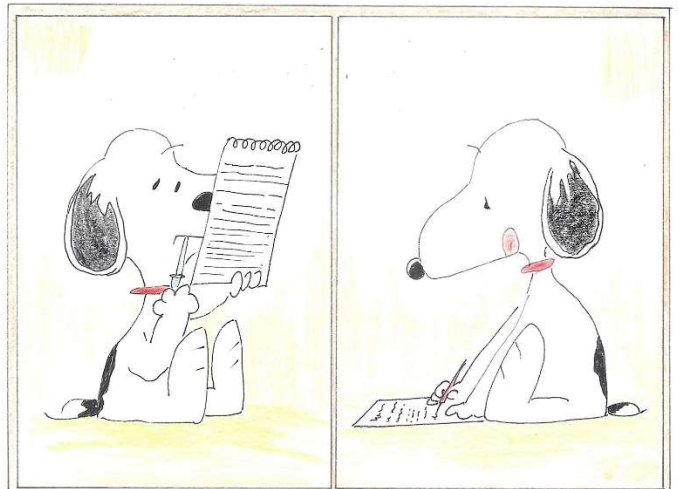


Facebook - an open page and a closed group for members only. X (Twitter) and Instagram. Plus, the club website:

www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/DunstableTennisClub

And there are always the notice boards in the clubhouse...

AND FINALLY...



A tribute to the Editor DEB...

LTA RECOGNITION OF JOHN TAYLOR

At the recent County/South Beds Leagues' Presentation Evening John Taylor's contribution to local tennis was recognized when he was presented with a *Long Service to Tennis* award from the LTA. It is a much deserved and popular choice amongst everybody who knows him within the local tennis scene. John is the longest serving member at the Club having joined it soon after its formation in 1966 and is still involved in many activities around the Club in his position of President and although he has now out back on wider scene we hope his involvement at Club level will go on for many more years yet. Well done John. . .

ADDITIONAL COUNTY WINNERS

Quite by chance I learnt that Dunstable had two men's singles winners in the County competition with Michael Tatham winning the division 4/5 trophy and Udev Makwana the division 6/7. Well done to both. . .

PASTURES NEW?

After their dismal showing last winter when the men's team in the county league played only three out of seven matches – of the other four two were conceded and two declared void – as a result of which they were relegated to the second division where they now find themselves up against some possibly new opposition in Woburn and Pavenham amongst more familiar names. After dropping out of the league last winter there will be no ladies' team in the county league this time but a mixed team has been entered and placed in division two where 'new' faces again feature amongst the opposition in the form of Pavenham again and Langford.

No such complications in the South Beds league where the two men's teams, ladies and mixed all appear in their respective first divisions once again. . .

FAVOURITES GO OUT

When the draw was made for the darts open doubles tournament twenty six names went into the hat necessitating a preliminary round match before settling into four groups of three pairs. Unfortunately two pairs then had to drop out because of unavailability (!) after the draw was made so another pair came in to bring the number of pairs back up to twelve. Perhaps the biggest surprise in the group stage was the elimination of the tournament favourites, current part champion Clive Tilcock and his partner for this year previous four times winner Alan Gore, for whom their 2-0 defeat in their opening match against Alan Harris and Chris Fourmy proved decisive. Alan and Chris then cemented their semi-final place with a second victory against Cath Turner and Simon Ward who had already lost to Clive and Alan.

The other half of the reigning champions partnership Dennis Stone also went out in the group stages with wife Pat in the group where Claire McMenamin and Ron Lynch claimed a semi-final place. Other semi-finalists were Pauline Robinson and Liam Barton along with Jenny Mullany and her partner and new face on our dartboard Graham Morgan.

Just one semi-final was played on the scheduled evening and Claire McMenamin grabbed the attention of the crowd when during the first leg of her doubles semi-final she scored a 127 following up just after with a 103 which set her and her partner Ron Lynch on the way to a 3-0 victory over Alan Harris and Chris Fourmy who never recovered from Claire's battering! At the time of writing their final opponents were not known as the other match had to be cancelled because of sickness.

Ten ladies went into the draw for the ladies' singles and they were split into one group of four and two of three with the top two of the four person group going into the semi-finals along with the two group winners. Di Riddy and Jenny Mullany both reached their fourth semi-finals from Group A whilst last year's finalists,

reigning champion Bea Osleger and the 2001 winner Cath Turner, won Groups B and C respectively to join them. First match saw Jenny comprehensively defeat Cath 3-0 to reach her first final at the tenth attempt whilst Di after leading 2-0 almost let the champion pass her by as Bea fought her way back to 2-2 before Di won the final leg to also reach her first final – after six attempts! Results to date are on the board.

RETURN OF 2pm SESSIONS

The winter league commenced on Sunday 3 October and for the first time in a number of years a two o'clock session with four divisions was held. This came about partly by the fact that with the hard court being deemed dangerous in the winter only five courts are now in use for the winter league and also because of the influx of new members. Nineteen divisions in all involving seventy six people were held which was the largest number for some time. Interestingly amongst the first timers in the winter league was Lyn Dorman who has been a member of the club for well over twenty years but had never played in the winter league before! Apparently she was quite surprised at just how competitive it is for every game!

The organizers this year are Di Riddy, Sue Magee, Nick Cumbers and Claire McMenamin and the weeks they are responsible for are listed on the board. If anybody has a problem with their particular week whether it be unavailability or wishing to get back in then they should contact them. Their telephone numbers are also listed in the 'Dates for your diary' section overleaf.

NEW SHED

The new storage shed was put up at the end of September next to the clubhouse although the Editor did not notice it on his first visit to the Club after installation – mind you, it was dark at the time! Hopefully this will mean that the ladies' and gents' changing rooms will be kept clearer thus removing the need to 'back out!', i.e. no more leaving the ball machine etc in the ladies' or empty bottles and barrels in the gents. Thanks to Mike Bartlett, Vinnie Fildes, Nigel Magee, Graham Morgan and Andrew Riley who were involved in its construction.

THE '49 CLUB'

The idea of the '49 Club' is to help raise funds for when our twin club in Germany, Rot-Weis Porz, make their two yearly exchange visit to Dunstable which will be next summer. When our members visit them in the years in between they are not allowed to pay for anything so although we are a smaller club with smaller resources we like to be able to respond in a similar manner so the '49 Club' gives us two years in which to build up an 'entertainment fund'. There are twelve draws in all for a £25 prize and the draw takes place every winter league Sunday lunchtime. Anybody interested in joining should contact Alan Gore.

Winning number for week 1 (3 October) was 2 (Ann Stapleton) and week 2 (17 October) 49 (Jenny Mullany).

SENIOR/JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

Forty senior and junior players took part in the annual senior/junior tournament for the *Taylor Shield* on Saturday 11 October which turned out to be a warm and sunny autumn day. Four rounds were played after which the four finalists emerged which saw Leon Leenders and Adrian Millard defeat Phil Moss and Evelyn Fleming 15-11. A good day was had by all and the players who took part were as follows:

Seniors: M Bartlett, M Beedon, J Cornwell, P Fleming, K Holt, S Holt, L Leenders, S Magee, G Morgan, P Moss, T Moss, Z Munden, M Peck, D Riddy, D Strange, J Strange, C Turner, S Ward, S Yule.
Juniors: K Beedon, S Berry, J Christmas, L Christmas, E Fleming, D Hewitt, L Holden, J Keane, A Millard,

C Moss, A Nair, H Nash, S Norman, M Osborne, Y Ransom, M Smith, K Stapleton, T Strange, B Ward, A Webley, H Whittaker.

QUIZ EVENING

This marked the end of a busy day at the club following on from the senior/junior tournament earlier and the tense Turkey versus England football match being shown on television! As soon as the final whistle blew the football supporters who were still able to stand (!) were expelled from the clubhouse whilst nine tables were put into place for the quiz evening which followed. Nine teams involving thirty six players took part and found their brains stretched through eight different rounds of questions! Eventual winners were the 'Badger Set' consisting of Claire and John Ward with Jenny and Peter Wright. Runners up were the 'University Challenged' who were Linda and Brian Houston in partnership with Alan Gore and Phil Moss whilst an impressive third place was claimed by the Ward family 'Houghton Horrors' with Jeanette, Simon, Katy and Ben. Thanks from all to 'The Lynches' Marilyn, Sarah and Ron who organized and ran the evening which included running the bar.

FLOODLIGHT WARNING!

It was announced at the recent committee meeting that the floodlight token mechanism is soon to be repaired which will mean that anybody playing under lights except for Wednesday and Friday social evenings and any league matches will have to insert tokens. Each token will cost £1 and will last half an hour. They can be purchased from behind the bar.

Please note that if the lights go out then they should not be switched back on for about fifteen minutes.

DEBUT VERSUS 'THE PROFESSIONALS'!

Dunstable Tennis Club made their debut in the Dunstable & District Darts League on Thursday 16 October and must have felt that they had landed on another planet when their first fixture pitted them against the reigning champions St Vincents at Houghton Regis. Whereas a 'ton' in our tournaments almost merits a mention in *Contact* they positively rained down from the home team! Although I think they all enjoyed the evening by my reckoning the tennis club team were all tucked up in bed by closing time! Anyway the players who took part in the historic first match (In alphabetical order rather than order of merit!) were: Mary Comb, Chris Fourmy, Alan Gore, Ron Lynch, Pauline and Graham Robinson, Linda Smart, Clive Tilcock and Simon Ward.

'Night of the Grahams'!

Their second match and their first at home saw Froth & Elbow 'B' the visitors and although another loss was suffered it was not without its exciting moments as Graham Morgan won the opening match and Graham Robinson won his match later on. I also heard a word or two about Mary Comb's 'double' which brought she and Ron Lynch up level in their match which they unfortunately lost!

The league is divided into two divisions and although every team plays against all the teams from both divisions only the results against teams from their own division count (Got that?!). The fixture list is on the board and if anybody would like to play then they should contact either Ron Lynch or Clive Tilcock.

THE RACKETS AT THE CON CLUB

Jim Balls and The Rackets had their usual following from the tennis club in attendance when they appeared at the Conservative Club on Saturday 18 October. As ever they were in good form and everybody had an enjoyable evening. Their next appearance is at the charity evening being held at the Rugby Club on Saturday 1 November and they will be making their usual appearance in the clubhouse for their Christmas Show (with 'guests?') on Saturday 20 December.