



INGATESTONE & FRYERNING TENNIS CLUB

9 HIGH STREET

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Ingatestone & Fryerning Tennis Club: A history

Original research initiated by Rolf Blum. Subsequently updated by John K Bright.

Current update: April 2024

Ingatestone & Fryerning Tennis Club

Affiliated to the LTA and to the Ingatestone and Fryerning Community Association

A history

When was the tennis club established?

The Essex Record Office (ERO) holds some records which confirm the club was formed in 1892 as Ingatestone Tennis Club, becoming Ingatestone & Fryerning TC in 1894 it seems. The ERO holds some records of club minutes and an AGM from the late 1890s.

In these early days a Mr Gray, Mr Upton and Mr Crowe are recorded as Club vice-presidents. The latter was Cecil Hervey Crowe, who died in 1916 in the Sinai aged 43 with the NZEF (Canterbury Mounted Rifles) and who has a memorial in Ingatestone Church.

At a meeting in or around 1896/1898 Mr Raven proposed that the club establish their own "colours", and the task of determining these was delegated to the "lady members".

(It appears that women's involvement in tennis and other sports, plus a growing middle class with more leisure time in the late Victorian era, were important drivers in the development of the game).

At an AGM on 10th May 1897 present were Miss Maud Smith, Miss E Raven, Miss E Hone, Miss Ada French, Reverend Earle as Chairman (also vicar of Ingatestone until 1918), Messrs. GJ Smith, C Howell (Secretary), H Welton, JW Gallagher. Club President was Colonel Wood.

The club accounts showed a balance of £3/7s/7d, plus tournament fees of 8 shillings from the 1896 event, which had not been completed.

The location of the club in those early years is unclear, but is likely to have been on a private court at one of the large local houses.

Around 1912 two courts were constructed at Fairfield, just south-west of the cricket pavilion. (Two plateaux can still be seen there to this day). At the same time, the Bowling Club was formed, situated by the railway bridge. The club remained there until the end of World War II, at which time it is possible the courts had fallen into disrepair.

In or around 1947, three grass courts were laid at the Working Men's Club in the High Street – close to the current site. They remained there through the 1950s and 1960s, and can be seen on some aerial photos from that time.

(In 1959 there were also the first hard courts in the village at the Secondary School in Willow Green, but these were lost to the new Anglo European School block in the 2000s).

Now read on...

1970 Tennis Club goes into hibernation for 2 years, as the land on which the grass courts were located had been sold.

1972 Doe Contracts Ltd lay hard courts 1 & 2 at rear of 7 High Street, Ingatestone. A meeting was held at 48 Willow Green on 22nd September to discuss the club revival. Mr & Mrs G Bacon, Mr & Mrs C Bishop, Mr & Mrs R Pain and Mr & Mrs B Shedel attended. The above-named would act as a caretaker committee with Mr Pain as Chair & Treasurer and Mr Bishop as Secretary

The Ingatestone & Fryerning Community Club (IFCC) Newsletter from that year confirms that, thanks to the generosity of the Club, new members, of all standards, are being invited to join the tennis club on these new courts behind the car park, club & library building. Notices inviting application were to be displayed in the village. The tennis pavilion was relocated and renovated.

It was agreed as reasonable by the caretaker committee that, in accordance with the IFCC conditions, the tennis club membership be open only to IFCC members.

Adult membership £4.50 p.a. (exclusive of IFCC membership fee) Juniors (aged 11 to 17) £1.50. Adults had priority for play on Saturdays and Sundays after 2pm., and on summer weekdays after 7pm. Juniors under 14 had to be accompanied by an adult. Proper tennis shoes should be worn, and members normally played in white apparel.

There were special arrangements for coaching in the summer holidays and at other times.

The tennis club supplied tennis balls.
Visitors welcome on payment of a fee.
Club contacts were Richard Pain, 9 Willow Green and C. Bishop, 24 Pine Drive.



1973 September / November. Pro-rata membership proposed for those joining later in the year. The house in Pine Drive behind Court 1 had refused to return some 3 dozen tennis balls. It was decided to investigate raising the height of the back netting, but the cost of £142 needed more consideration and should only be a last resort. Richard Pain to write to neighbours to apologise for any inconvenience.

As at November, Committee comprised: Chair - Richard Pain, Vice-Chair - Geoffrey Bacon, Secretary - Cliff Bishop, Treasurer - Lyndon Day, Jean Lewis.

1974 February. Draft club rules drawn up. Application made to affiliate to Essex LTA (and approved). Drag broom to be purchased.

The IFCC newsletter of March 1974 reports that the first full season (1973) on the new hard courts was enjoyed by some 120 adult & junior members. The weekend turnout was somewhat disappointing as many members preferred to play during the week "when there are fewer eyes to watch their endeavours to recapture lost form after being dragged out of early retirement by their enthusiastic children".

An American tournament had been held on what was probably one of the hottest days of the summer and was a resounding success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The winners were Angela Marks and Reg Isherwood and the runners-up Sally & Simon Bevan. (*Editor's note: In 2012, it is understood that Angela was living in Margareting, and she loaned her own tennis court to us for after-school coaching in two recent summers*).

It was hoped to recommence the knockout championships in the summer (but see 1976, below). The 1959 men's singles champion had yet to return the trophy, and it was speculated that he might have pawned it!

"Ladies Days" had been held on Wednesdays in 1973 and had become very popular by the summer's end. The hardier females had already commenced activities this year.

Dorothy Reynolds, "our very able coach", had held three coaching courses for junior members. These were over-subscribed so it was hoped to arrange further sessions in 1974 to accommodate those who missed out.

Club Secretary, Cliff Bishop encouraged new members.

June. 51 adult and 44 junior members.

July. American tournament planned for 7th July.

1975 Proposals that membership fees be fixed at £5 for adults (18+) and £1 juniors (age 14-17). Adults encouraged to join IFCC. Junior membership for those aged between 11 and 13 restricted to children of adult members.

AGM (March)

Electricity installation had not been proceeded with due to cost.

Junior coaching had been successful in the summer holidays.

Membership figures remained fairly constant – 59 adults 63 juniors.

Expenses incurred in maintenance of pavilion and buying a broom. However income exceeded expenditure by £42.81 and balance sheet showed a credit of £207.09.

Junior coaching planned for August.

Tournaments had been planned for July and September, but didn't proceed.

October. Cliff Bishop resigns as club secretary from next AGM, due to "lack of support and club feeling amongst members".

The bowling green was to be completed and there were plans for a new shared pavilion.

Opinion divided on the relationship with IFCC – whether to maintain independence or be a "tennis section".

Agreed in principle to work closely with IFCC.

1976 The pavilion is re-erected after storm damage. Some damage also to bowling green. Knockout championships arranged again for the first time since 1959. Possibility of a joint pavilion with the bowls club is discussed, but no definite decisions reached.

AGM (February)

31 members attended.

Ladies' Days on Wednesdays were well-attended and junior coaching sessions continued. However there was disappointment that the club had not flourished as hoped for, particularly at weekends. The regular club night had been poorly attended. Two tournaments were cancelled due to lack of support.

Club officers:

Chair – Richard Pain, Secretary – Ron Lewis, Treasurer – Valerie Day. Committee – Helen Vivers, Janet Shedel, Phil Vallis, Cliff Bishop.

Subscriptions: 2 parents & children £12.50, 1 parent & children £7.50, adults £5, juniors £2.50.

Annual tournament proposed.

Saturday afternoons to be designated as club afternoon.

A springtime social function was proposed, to enable members to meet each other.

Club Tournament (Sunday 11th September):

MS – Peter Leather bt Robert Charleston 8-6 6-2

WS – Jean Heath bt Pat Bishop 6-3 7-5

MD – Robert Charleston & Cliff Bishop bt Ron Lewis & Phil Vallis 6-1 6-3
WD – Pat Bishop & June Exley bt Chris Eastell & Anne van de Velde 7-5 6-1
MX – Angela & Ian Marks bt Mary & Phil Vallis
Junior – David Crisp bt James Brooking 5-7 6-4 6-3

The bowling club proposes laying on electricity and water, utilities being extended to the tennis pavilion, with costs shared equally. Separate metering was considered essential.

1977 IFTC to donate £5 to the village's Silver Jubilee celebrations.

AGM attended by 41 members. Attendance helped by also making it a social gathering.

March. Members were requesting American tournaments and specific club sessions. Tuesday evenings to be a regular "club evening". Junior committee to be considered.

1976 storm damage costs had been covered by insurance claim paid.

July. Some complaints of junior members' behaviour.

Pavilion roof beyond repair – new roof agreed up to a cost of £100.

September. Junior committee was operating successfully. High number of junior members needed careful managing. Maximum of 100 to be set.

American tournaments had been very popular in the summer, and another in October.

Club Tournament (over several weekends in September):

MS – David Crisp bt James Brooking

WS – Pat Bishop bt Angela Marks

MD – James Brooking & David Crisp bt Cliff Bishop & Robert Charleston

WD – Pat Bishop & Lilian Pegg bt Jennie Bowman & Angela Marks

MX – Pat & Cliff Bishop bt Angela & Ian Marks

Junior – David Crisp bt Rupert Eastall

Electricity is installed in the pavilion.

1978 January. The Boys' Club had asked to use the courts once a fortnight in summer evenings. Agreed, subject to strict supervision.

Treasurer reported income exceeded expenditure by £208.05.

Junior lower age limit recommended to be 12.

Subscriptions to be proposed: 2 parents & children £15, 1 parent & children £9, adults £6, juniors £3.

April. Discretion to admit juniors over 16 to full adult membership. Junior members to be limited to 100.

Bowling Club requested permission to park a "toilet caravan" next to the pavilion. To be further discussed.

May. IFCC advise they are about to seek planning permission for two squash courts at the rear of the car park (near where Court 3 is now situated).

June

Juniors beat Southend in Essex under-18s event.

July

Bowling Club toilet removed due to lack of planning permission.

Income exceeds expenditure by £120.30. Adult membership down from 78 to 65.

Juniors lost to Connaught in a recent home match in Essex under-18s.

American tournament in June was attended by 20 members.

August American event very successful. It was envisaged that events would be held on the last Sunday every month, weather permitting.

September

David Crisp joined the committee.

Discussions with Bowling Club re a shared pavilion.

IFCC had (it seemed) gained planning permission for 2 squash courts, but there would still be space for a 3rd tennis court.

1979 January. IFCC had a surplus of £5,000. Possible projects discussed – 3rd tennis court or joint pavilion with bowling club. Squash courts now refused permission!
Excess of expenditure over income of £32 due to increased rent & maintenance costs.

April. “Mr Bert Smith” would continue to do gardening. A working party was needed to paint the pavilion and the court lines. A table and a kettle were needed. The fluorescent light in the pavilion had come away from its mountings.

A vote at the AGM showed members’ support for a 3rd court before a new pavilion.

May. 62 adult and 60 junior members. Juniors remain limited to 100. Club was breaking even financially. To rejoin the ECLTA.

July. Reports of bad behaviour by juniors.

Chair, Richard Pain to relinquish his post at the end of the year.

1980 February. Stuart Heath to be in charge of tournaments. Allan Pegg i/c of maintenance. Geoff Perry i/c of matches. Leslie Peters to continue as Treasurer. Cliff Bishop willing to return to committee – possibly as secretary.

Club Tournament (10th September):

MS – Rupert Eastell bt Chris Van de Velde

WS – Jean Heath bt Deirdre Kemble

MD – Rupert Eastell & Chris Van de Velde* bt Robert Charleston & John Taylor

WD – Angela Marks & Jennie Bowman bt Deirde Kemble & Dorothy Taylor

MX – Deirdre Kemble & Robert Charleston bt Jean & Stuart Heath

*winning the doubles for the 3rd year running.

1981 January. It was considered that there had been no further deterioration in “standards of dress”, but an appeal would be made to members at the AGM.

Leslie Peters to stand down as Treasurer. Rest of committee to continue. Ron Lewis as Chair.

March. Easter and summer coaching to be organised for juniors. Friendly matches had been arranged for ladies, and the possibility of matches for men and mixed teams was being investigated with Mountnessing and Gidea Park TCs.

Enquiries were being made about friendly matches with “Ingatestone’s twin town” – Roth, in Germany.

Paul Hiscock to organise pavilion repairs and line painting. Bert Smith to put down paving stones between the bowling green huts and through to the gate.

May. 98 adults and 111 juniors had paid their subscriptions. The maximum number of members is restricted to 125 adults and 125 juniors.

Non-members had been observed playing. A notice would be displayed reminding members of the guest fee of £0.25p.

Ingatestone ladies beat Mountnessing 8-6.

June. American tournament had an attendance of only 11 members. Poor weather may have been a factor.

July. A window of an adjoining house had been broken. Repair cost is £23.

Ladies lose to Mountnessing 6-3, but beat Gidea Park 6-2.

Bert Smith required extra top soil to level the grass around the pavilion.

Club Champions

MS –Chris Van de Velde

WS – Jean Heath

MD – Robert Charleston & Stephen Pegg

WD – Pat Bishop & Lilian Pegg

MX – Deirdre Kemble & Robert Charleston

Two successful summer American events and various junior and senior friendly matches had taken place.

October. Various complaints received about bad language and vandalism by young people. A resident complained of pebbles being thrown and breaking a window. A new soakaway was required to deal with water draining from the Bowling Club shed roof.

1982 February. The question of a 3rd court continued to be discussed. Mike Bysouth & Simon Wills to jointly organise all tournaments this year. Jean Heath to take over organisation of ladies' matches from Lilian Pegg. Bert Smith continues to cut the grass @ £1.50 an hour.

March. Lynne Abbott recruited as junior coach, for a fee of £5 per hour plus petrol costs.

Membership reaches 257 Members (*still the highest total on record as at 2021 – Ed*). In the IFCC Newsletter "The Clubster" in November, it was reported that membership was up by 10% over the last two years, and that there was an equal number of adults and under-18s. Specific mention is made of 2 outstanding juniors in the 12/13 year-old category – Simon Kelly & Richard Hallett. (*Editor's note: I understand that the second-named went on to some success – including being Mountnessing TC singles champion six times in the 1990s and also picking up a number of doubles titles there*).

There were American tournaments from April through to October, and an annual tournament with a successful and happy Finals' Day. The two hard courts were being fully used, and it was hoped to soon provide a third court. It would be difficult to accommodate more members at this time, but nevertheless the Treasurer (Mr G.Perry, 4 Pine Drive) would welcome any enquiries.

Champions:

MS – Simon Wills

WS – Jean Heath

MD – Ian & Nick Marks

WD – Jean Heath & Jean Lewis

MX – Deirdre Kemble & Robert Charleston

December. £179.50 spent on pavilion repairs had been very good value.

1983 March. Friendly discussions with Bowling Club about the possibility of a new pavilion. Bowling Club had no funds but the IFCC would provide one-third of the cost. IFCC commented on IFTC members not frequenting the bar; also they were opposed to IFTC using their loos. IFCC priority was to resurface and extend car park rather than fund a 3rd tennis court. Juniors not to be accepted at American events, except if numbers were short. Mountnessing TC had 2 courts out of action for a few weeks, so their members might use IFTC courts at £0.50 a time.

August. Membership 120 adults and 105 juniors.

Ron Lewis to stand down as Chair, and Geoff Perry as Treasurer.

1984 February. Jean Heath now Chair, Lois Morton Secretary, Kate Hiscock Treasurer.

June. The Chair to offer Richard Pain, a founder member of the club, life membership for £25.

August. The Chair had heard of a scheme to redevelop the car park and tennis courts (into a larger car park?) and for a site at the end of Docklands Avenue to be developed for housing plus 4 tennis courts and a clubhouse.

November. Discussions with Brentwood Council (BBC) covered the following points: Converting the tennis courts into a car park and the possibility of building 2 courts on Seymour Field; The funding of court resurfacing; The drainage problem.

December. Club receives a quote to resurface courts for £5,300. To relocate to Seymour Field, by the by-pass, would cost £50,000 plus pavilion costs.

1985

January.

The Ladies' Singles Cup is stolen from Deirdre Kemble's house. Its value between £100 and £200. Deirdre generously agrees to replace it.

BBC give suggestions re a loan or grant for resurfacing and creating a 3rd court. They recommend pursuing a long lease from the IFCC. (April 1985 - the IFCC not willing to grant a lease).

The need for a 3rd court stressed by club Chair Jean Heath due to having 131 senior and 103 junior members. Estimated cost of resurfacing and creating a new court was £17,687. Resurfacing & new fencing only would be £8,612.

July/August – BBC agree to contribute towards the cost of having existing courts resurfaced (first recorded as necessary at 1979 AGM). Amongst the conditions is that certain car park works take place, that BBC be able to use the IFCC car park as a public car park, that IFTC undertake that the courts remain available for tennis for a reasonably long period and that the public would not be debarred from joining the club, and that the Tennis Club takes over responsibility for maintenance. To be hard courts, as artificial grass stated to be too expensive.

August. A tennis ball causes damage to glass in a Pine Drive rear garden. The tennis club pays the cost of £1.98.

Champions:

MS – Charles Bowman

WS – Jean Heath

MD – Mark Boyle & Robert Charleston

WD – Sue Alcock & Marjorie Smith

MX – Lois Morton & Nick Austin

Vets – Wolfgang Weigel

Barn Dance at Mountnessing Village Hall was successful. 100 tickets had sold quite quickly. Profit of £275.

November. Jill Tomes, Kate Hiscock and Mike Bysouth to stay on committee, although Mike to cease being tournament organiser. Paul Hiscock to retire from committee.

1986

February. Neil Macalister to organise club tournaments with Mike Bysouth's help.

Club play had dwindled over the last year, but we would persist with Sunday mornings, Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings for ladies.

It was suggested that juniors should receive one warning for bad behaviour, but after that lose their membership.

March/April – Doe Sport Ltd resurface both courts, paid by BBC. New third court for public use is built at the same time. Estimated 7-10 years before resurfacing needed.

Some haggling over fees payable to IFCC. £400 agreed. Bowling Club pay only £200, but it was argued that they only play 6 months of the year, and they use the IFCC bar!

IFTC made a surplus of £1,400 last year, and thus we could afford the IFCC fee.

Some members had not paid their individual IFCC fees.

Discussions on getting a new or renovated clubhouse.

May – works needed to treat persistent thistles pushing up through the new surface. Courts described as slippery, but Doe advise should be resolved shortly, once courts used in dry weather.

June – Some discussion at committee about entering local leagues. Some were in favour. Some (Chair and Secretary) were opposed as it would change IFTC from being a "village family club" and those who sought more competitive play could join Mountnessing or Billericay TCs etc.

July – Doe express concerns about chairs being placed on the courts, causing indentations.

Poor drainage becomes a serious problem (*Ed: still unresolved in 1989... and indeed 2014!*). Doe suggest creating a new soakaway. High water table was an issue.

MS – Simon Wills bt Mark Boyle

WS – Deirdre Kemble bt Jean Heath

MD – Nick Austin & Mick Marion bt Mike Bysouth & Simon Wills

WD – Mavis Hill & Deirdre Kemble bt Jean Champness & Lois Morton

MX – Jean Hallett & John Hallett bt Mavis & Ken Hill
Vets – Ken Hill bt Robert Charleston
Open Vets Doubles – Ken Hill & Robert Charleston bt Marjorie Smith & Mavis Hill

September – A card to be sent to Wolfgang Weigel, a longstanding member who was moving away.

November – Quotation of £10,996 for new clubhouse considered unaffordable.
Poor response to American tournaments this year.

December - Southern Sectionals quote for a new clubhouse, a “Sunningdale” cabin. Cost similar to other quote once all extras added in.

1987 March – It was suggested that an aggregate total kept of all games won at American events in the year, and the overall champion to receive a small prize.
A 10-year lease to be requested from IFCC.

Solicitors (Wortley, Byers & Co) advise the Club on 21st April that “neither the Community Association (CA), nor IFTC are, at law, in a position to grant or take a lease of the premises”. This position is reiterated by the CA in their letter to IFTC 1st June.

June – Decision to refurbish existing clubhouse rather than provide a new one which might be at risk if IFCC should have other plans for the site.

Champions:

MS – Charles Bowman
WS – Jean Heath
MD – Nick Austin & Mick Marion
WD – Mavis Hill & Deirdre Kemble
MX – Jennie & Charles Bowman
Vets – Malcolm Argent

July - New nets in place for finals' day. Drainage problems continue.

October – Barn Dance planned at IFCC.

November – Clubhouse to be renovated, with provision of toilet and basin. Cost c£2,500.

1988 January – Decided to just install a toilet rather than carry out more extensive works.
Mike Bysouth to leave committee. Nick Austin to stay as Treasurer. Neil Macalister to continue as tournament organiser. Sally Wills, Kate Wills & Deirdre Kemble to remain. Jean Heath to step down as Chair. Jean Lewis to take on that role for just one year. New committee members – Sue Alcock, Dot Thornton, John Heath & Ron Went.
Longstanding member and former treasurer, Geoff Perry, was to leave the area.

February. Doe quote for new fencing at £1,245 + VAT.

Membership lists computerised. Clubhouse renovated and decorated.

Champions:

MS – Charles Bowman
WS – Deirdre Kemble
MD – Michael Bysouth & S Kelly
WD – Mavis Hill & Deirdre Kemble
MX – Deirdre Kemble & Robert Charleston
Vets – Malcolm Argent

July – membership, 134 adults, 89 juniors.

October – Barn Dance in Mountnessing was a great success with a profit of £276.

1989 February. BBC advises that the lack of a piped surface water drainage system is the problem. An estimated cost of remedial works to provide additional gullies and enlarge the soakaway to assist in drainage would be in the region of £1,500, which would not be within their budget.

Introduction of padlock & key. Introduction of £5 discount for early joining.
Cupboard created for lawnmower.

Chair is now Jill Tomes; Dot Thornton is Secretary and Ron Went Treasurer. Also on committee Sue Alcock, Lorraine Heath, Sally Wills, Kate Wills, Neil Macalister, Nick Austin, David Cook.

April - Water supply has now been separated from the Bowling Club and IFTC has own stopcock.
Sunday mornings well-attended again.

Champions:

MS – Nick Austin bt Jonathan Baker

WS – Deirdre Kemble bt Brenda Clark

MD – Michael Bysouth & Simon Wills bt Nick Austin & Mike Marion

WD – Mavis Hill & Deirdre Kemble bt Lois Morton & Annetta Gray

MX – Jean Heath & Michael Bysouth bt Deirdre Kemble & Robert Charleston

Vets – Malcolm Argent bt Peter Terry

October – Mike Bysouth has made an honours board with space for 20 years' names.

Barn Dance enjoyable, with a profit of £226. Some criticisms were of too much light and there was a suggestion of a change of group and food.

1990 February – Kate Wills leaves committee. Stephen Pegg and Cliff Hancock join.

June – A successful quiz night had taken place.

The Bowman family present the club with a rustic seat. (*still being enjoyed 30+ years later! – Ed*).

De facto discontinued the practice of setting subscription levels at the AGM.

Champions:

MS – Simon Wills

WS – Deirdre Kemble

MD – Jonathan Baker & Peter Terry

WD – Deirde Kemble & Sue Alcock

MX – Sue Alcock & Chris Malyon

Vets – Malcolm Argent

1991 Sue Alcock becomes Club Chair.

June – Another successful quiz night had taken place. Profit £229.

Resident of Pine Drive complains of a broken window and rowdy junior members. IFTC reimburses.

Champions:

MS – Simon Wills

WS – Deirdre Kemble

MD – Chris Malyon & Mick Marion

WD – Brenda Clark & Maureen Smart

MX – Annetta Gray & John Baker

Vets – Malcolm Argent

1992 February – Joe Watson to be Membership Secretary.
Juniors under 11 to be allowed, if accompanied by an adult.
Shoe tags to be introduced, instead of membership cards.

April – Quiz Night to take place.
Club's bank balance is c£16,000.

July – Junior coaching only sees 6 or so turn up. It was thought to be difficult to compete with Mountnessing on that front.

October – Sue Alcock to stand down as Chair.

November – Barn Dance. Successful & enjoyable.

Champions:

MS – Martin Heneghan

WS – Deirdre Kemble

MD – Ken Hill & Simon Wills

WD – Deirdre Kemble & Brenda Clark

MX – Brenda Clark & Simon Wills

Vets – Ron Went

1993 January – Ron Went to become Chair. Dave Chipperfield to join committee.

Championships enjoyed good weather and good food.

Men's Singles Final (MS) – Martin Heneghan bt Mick Marion

Women's Singles (WS) – Jean Heath bt Sue Alcock

Men's Doubles (MD) – John Baker & Ron Went bt Dave Chipperfield & Simon Wills

Women's Doubles (WD) – Lois Morton & Sue Alcock bt Ann Malyon & Ruth Boak

Mixed Doubles (MX) – Annetta Gray & Mick Marion bt Hazel Argent & Neil Macalister

Veterans – Ken Hill bt Ron Went

Plate – Ken Hill bt Paul Hiscock

Plate (W) – Anne Malyon bt Pauline Went

American tournaments – overall winners Hazel Argent (W) Simon Wills (M). The August BH barbecue was once again a success with Jill & Dudley Wills acting as chefs.

A qualified coach provided junior coaching Thursdays in summer, free of charge. There was a good response.

Senior coaching was organised by Jill Smith.

Successful quiz night in May (profit £300+) and a "sixties" disco held in November. This was a change from the usual Barn Dance. Special thanks were given to Pauline & Joe Watson for their work on this.

Club relegated in the Redbridge Winter League, but are now having closer, more enjoyable, matches.

Possibility of a joint pavilion with the bowls club is recorded (again).

The IFCC asked tennis club to realign their financial year to be co-terminous with theirs, in December. Future AGMs would "need to be held in November / December". (*Editor's note, it seems this was not implemented until 2005!*)

1994 AGM (February):

➤ *Membership (1993) 90 adults, 35 juniors.*

➤ *Autumn 1993 tournament, completed in Spring 1994, was won by Brenda Clark and Ron Went.*

➤ *Once again, women's friendly matches had been enjoyed in previous year.*

➤ *Nigel Wood, Chris Marion, Jill Smith & Joe Watson to leave Committee. Replaced by Hazel Argent, Malcolm Argent, Lois Morton & Neil Macalister.*

Malcolm Argent becomes Treasurer in place of Nigel Wood. Dot Thornton Secretary.

Champions:

MS – Martin Heneghan

WS – Sue Alcock (pictured below)
MD – John Baker & Mick Marion
WD – Anne Malyon & Jean Heath
MX – Hazel Argent & John Baker (who beat Anne Malyon & John Bright)
Vets – Mick Marion
Plate – Matthew Norris
Doubles events were again run on a “draw for partner” basis.

John Bright, Ann Malyon, Sally Austin, Simon Wills, Ron Went, Dudley Wills, Sue Alcock, Jill Wills



Mike Bysouth ran successful senior coaching on Mondays in June. Junior coaching continued on Thursdays.

A second, late summer/autumn, mixed doubles tournament followed the main championships.

6 Scheduled American tournaments were enjoyed again by a regular core of players (seniors only). August BH barbecue remained one of the most enjoyable days on the calendar, with Jill & Dudley Wills again the chefs.

Successful quiz night held at Margaretting Village Hall in May, organised by Lois Morton & Brenda Dewar; but the “sixties” disco was cancelled due to lack of support.

October. Proposals to replace bowling and tennis clubhouses – 3 new “like-for-like” buildings recommended by a consultant architect.

Club participated in Redbridge Winter league with mixed results but avoiding relegation.

1995 Minutes of Committee meeting 23 January: Club rules rewritten, copies to be circulated to Committee members before putting before AGM (but no copies circulated, nor presented to AGM)

AGM (January):

- *Membership (1994) 124 adults, 53 juniors.*
- *Mike Bysouth had organized junior coaching and organized a match for them against Blackmore.*
- *Women's friendly matches had continued.*
- *Club social play not very well-supported. Tournament finalists rarely seen.*
- *Club made a loss in previous year, due to having courts painted and fence made higher. (The higher fence stopped balls going into gardens in Pine Drive. In the past some residents had objected to fence being any higher, but present occupants were agreeable).*
- *IFCC membership going up by £1.*
- *Along with the Bowls Club, the Club are looking into having a new clubhouse. Possibilities of a grant to be investigated.*
- *Committee to put advert in local paper to seek more members.*
- *Courts need “moss killing”.*
- *Anglo-European School using courts for “GCSE sports”.*
- *Gunther Kuberg to join Committee.*

Champions:

MS – Martin Heneghan
WS – Sue Alcock
MD – David Chipperfield & Mick Marion
WD – Ruth Boak & Madeleine Marshall
MX – Sue Alcock & John Baker

Vets – Mick Marion
Doubles events were again run on a “draw for partner” basis.

American tournaments were again enjoyed, with usual August barbecue by Mr & Mrs Wills.
A second, late summer/autumn mixed doubles tournament followed the main championships.

Club participated in Redbridge Winter league, organised by John Baker.

1996 AGM (January):

- *Membership (1995) 120 adults, 50 juniors, which was similar to the previous year, but unfortunately there seemed to be less tennis actually played by members.*
- *Women’s team played 24 friendly matches, winning 7.*
- *There had been two successful quiz nights last year.*
- *Plan for new clubhouse put on back burner due to “problems with IFCC “and “general apathy in club at present”.*
- *Gunther Kuberg to leave committee. Joan Pateman & Andree Hammond to join committee.*

May – Quiz Night held.

“United Sports” in Brentwood giving a 10% discount to club members.

Community Club transfer the third court – no increase in rent, provided IFTC maintain. Court cleaned and coated, new net bought, fencing made higher, gate created to Court 3. Damage caused by vandalism had to be repaired.
Brenda Dewar elected to the Committee.

Club Champions:
MS – Martin Heneghan
WS – Sue Alcock
MD – David Chipperfield & Martin Heneghan
WD – Chris Marion & Sue Alcock
MX – Sue Alcock & David Chipperfield
Vets – Mick Marion
Men’s Plate – Bernard Manning

American tournaments were again enjoyed with August BBQ thanks to Mr & Mrs Wills.

Successful quiz night was held in September and a Barn Dance.

1997 AGM (January):

- *Membership (1996) 106 adults, 64 juniors.*
- *David Chipperfield had run coaching very successfully with Simon Milner as coach.*
- *Neil Macallister efficiently organized club tournaments. Neil is now retiring from Committee, as is Ron Went (Chairman), Malcolm Argent, Hazel Argent and David Chipperfield.*
- *New Committee members: Brenda Dewar, Sally Wills & Annetta Gray who would join Dot Thornton, Andree Hammond, John Pateman and, the only male, Paul Hiscock. Paul felt more men were needed.*
- *Women won 13 out of 20 friendlies.*
- *Emergency Committee meeting decided to bar juniors from having guests after one such guest hits a stone through glazed patio door of house in Pine Drive. Repair cost stated to be £1,500.*
- *Committee to consider a junior member for Committee.*
- *Essex County LTA had asked for list of names and addresses of all the club’s members. The AGM was generally not in favour of providing this.*
- *The “future of the club” was discussed without any real solutions. Members hoped the club would carry on.*

Up until now, officers were elected at the AGM. This practice apparently ended from 1998 onwards.

April. Courts washed and moss & weed inhibitor applied by “Tennis 2000” - £210.50.

1998 AGM (January):

- *Membership (1997) 92 adults, 40 juniors. (But numbers actually playing had “dropped” again).*
- *Coaching had been run by Sally Austin, but was not well-attended and costs were not covered.*
- *American tournaments had been run with varying levels of attendance.*
- *There had been no club tournaments in 1997.*

- Women's Team played 20 friendly matches, winning 16 & drawing 3.
- August BH American had been cancelled due to rain.
- Quiz Night was well-attended and made a profit.
- An Open afternoon had attracted only one new member.
- A questionnaire had been sent to members asking what they wanted from their club – suggestions included: Saturday or Sunday club sessions, guest days, more advertising, junior competitions, family sessions, more coaching, weekend or 2-week tournaments. Some families were frequent users of the courts but did not want to join in organised activities.
- Dot Thornton (Chair) and Paul Hiscock to leave the Committee. Valerie Manning to join.
- Change to Slazenger Balls to meet LTA requirements, and to assuage complaints from other clubs.
- Bowls Club present plans for new clubhouse.

May – successful quiz night – 81 attended. £354.65 profit.

Poor response to club tournaments – all rounds and “finals” held on one day – 28th June (Winners: MS Martin Marsick, WS Sue Alcock, MD John Baker & John Bright, WD Sue Alcock & Ann Malyon, MX Penny McAdams & Mick Marion).

July – resident of Pine Drive (see 1991) complains of damage to a canopy by tennis ball, and of juniors “skylarking” on the courts.

Pictured below: Martin; Penny & Mick with Club Chair Andree Hammond; Sue & Ann; Sue; John Bright



October – 17 members attended extraordinary meeting to discuss new clubhouse plans initiated by the Bowling Club. Three options identified: A – Agree, but note we would lose all grass up to the baseline area. (Bowling Club had around 60 active members, the tennis club perhaps 15, so all decision-making would likely be dominated by the former); B – Reject; C – Accept a reduced scheme; Mixed feelings, but generally agreed to look to the future, provided new clubhouse wasn't too big and we didn't lose the grass. Possibility of lottery grant.

1999 AGM (January):

- *Women's Team played 20 friendly matches, winning 9.*
- *Membership (1998) 81 adults, 48 juniors*
- *Concerns over size of possible new clubhouse. Unanimous support for astroturf courts. Most members supported a new shared clubhouse with Bowls Club.*
- *Anticipated court resurfacing could cost £6,000.*
- *Coaching for juniors cost £75. Also held junior tournaments and "fun days".*
- *Proposal for a "Junior Club" night on Mondays.*
- *45 people had attended August BH American tournament, with barbecue loaned by Sally Austin's parents, Mr & Mrs Wills, who sadly were unable to attend.*
- *Two junior American tournaments were held and other "fun days" – very successful.*
- *New notice board yet to arrive.*
- *Discussion on floodlights, but mainly limited to low-level lighting along the access footpath.*
- *Courts had been cleaned three times last year, and took all day. A cleaning machine was hired from Mountnessing TC but was no good for our purposes.*
-

February. IFTC accept proposed new pavilion project subject to conditions relating to membership and finances remain the same, that all members would have access to the pavilion and courts at all times, that sole use of the main function room be arranged in advance, with equal opportunities to both tennis and bowling clubs. A wider area between the building and courts would be desirable.

September – Repairs to be carried out to clubhouse boards and guttering and to paint exterior.

BBC rejects application for new clubhouse.

Visitors' box broken into and £4 removed.

August Bank Holiday American barbecue event – but only 11 attended and barbecue was cancelled.

Poor response to club tournaments again – all rounds and "finals" held on one day in September except for WS (Winners: MS Alan Lawson, WS Beatrice Buffett, MD Philip Rogers & Barry Hammond, WD Sue Rogers & Andree Hammond, MX Sally Austin & Alan Lawson)
Guest fees stolen from the "box".

2000 AGM (January):

- *"Junior evening" had been cancelled due to lack of supervision. Other evenings were held for Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Boys' Club.*
- *Sally Austin had attended BBC planning meeting which rejected new clubhouse.*
- *Courts had been cleaned several times last year.*
- *Women's Team won 9 out of 14 friendly matches.*
- *Clubhouse works to begin soon at cost of £680.*
- *Beatrice Buffet, a new member, had run popular coaching sessions. Juniors, in particular, very keen.*
- *American tournaments remained popular, but for first time in many years there was no Bank holiday barbecue.*
- *Trip had been arranged to Davis Cup in Birmingham in September – Great Britain v South Africa.*
- *Quiz night had been popular and well-supported.*
- *Slazenger Balls were initially not popular, but members now used to them. Need to lock balls away, as otherwise they were "taken".*
- *New notice board had arrived.*
- *Danger of losing third court to car parking if courts were not seen to be used.*
- *List of "Members' names and contact numbers" had received no response.*
- *Notice to be put in toilet about personal rubbish.*
- *Suggestion of becoming a satellite of Mountnessing.*
- *Proposal of a "ladder" competition.*

Rolf Blum co-opted to the Committee (confirmed at 2001 AGM).

June. Doe provide some quotations for new courts (2 artificial grass @ £24,600 + VAT) and various quotes for washing or resurfacing existing courts.

2001 AGM (February):

- *Several American tournaments had been run in 2000.*
- *There had been another "all in one day" club finals tournament (no details available).*
- *Women's friendly matches had not taken place due to shortage of players.*
- *Court resurfacing was being investigated.*
- *Damage was caused to a property backing on to the courts, by two unsupervised juniors. Their family has paid for the repair.*
- *Coaching took place in 2000, free to juniors. In future a charge may need to be levied.*
- *New lawn mower purchased.*
- *Reports (again) of apathy amongst club members, which may lead to danger of third court being lost.*

April – Courts 1 & 2 resurfaced & colour sprayed by Chiltern Sports. (c£10,000?).

IFCC point out that they were not given prior notice and mention the inconvenience of contractor's vehicles and damage to the concrete pathway. They allude to a possible conflict with their future development plans for the site.

May – Change to rules of club to bring us in line with Charity Commission conditions for the CA: All prospective members must join CA before seeking membership of tennis club. Membership to run from January to December to be consistent with CA.

July – CA advise us of plans to redevelop the land and relocate the Club.

Planning application prepared by CA Autumn 2001 – it appeared to some to contain factual inaccuracies, especially in connection with the tennis club.

CA meeting September 2001 votes in favour of the plans, which now go forward to BBC.

Tom Hugh co-opted onto Committee.

Organised by Tom Hugh, club enter the SW Essex Floodlit League, playing Drummond, Theydon Bois, Aldersbrook, Pacers & Epping.

Players include Tom Hugh, John Pugh, Kevin Cory, John Bright, Alison Norrington, Sue Cory, Claire Feehily, Brenda Dewar, Elizabeth Seville, Andrée Hammond.

2002 AGM (January):

- *Last year's court resurfacing (cost £10,000) was deemed a great success and money well-spent.*
- *Membership greatly increased to "over 100".*
- *Solicitor's advice had been sought on redevelopment plans. Petition suggested. Meetings held with Cllr Gottesman at BBC.*
- *Possibility discussed (with other clubs and Colin Clay at ECLTA) of a "partnership" with other local clubs whereby clubs could use each other's facilities – e.g. Ingatestone could have access to floodlighting in winter.*
- *Saturday coaching with Tom Hugh had improved standard of juniors.*
- *No quiz night last year due to lack of support.*

Suzanne Emond, Carolyn Searle & Kevin Cory elected to the Committee.

March – Petition arranged in High Street against relocation of club. (606 signatories).

April – BBC advise Planning Application withdrawn. CA submits revised planning application for new bowls clubhouse which would extend to the sidelines of Tennis Court 1.

May – Quiz Night in Margaretting Village Hall.

Club enters Brentwood & District League (BDL) – Men enter (and win) Division 5. Mixed enter Division 3.

Teams also enter Essex County LTA knock-out cup (EC). Men lose in first round away to Rayleigh (team Tom Hugh, Graham Spencer, Charles Wager, John Bright).

Tom Hugh & John Bright reach semi-finals of 01/02 Essex LTA Winter County men's doubles over-35 event (assisted by at least one walkover on the way!), losing 6-0 6-1.

Summer knockout championships resume:

Men's Singles Final (MS) – Philip Rogers beats Tom Hugh

Women's Singles (WS) – Alison Norrington bts Sue Rogers

Men's Doubles (MD) – Maxwell Tanner & Philip Rogers bt Tom Hugh & Bernard Gormley

Women's Doubles (WD) – Helen Spencer & Ellen Gormley bt Suzanne Emond & Brenda Dewar (substituting for Elizabeth Seville)

Mixed Doubles (MX) – Dot Thornton & Kevin Cory bt Tom Hugh & Brenda Dewar

Under 14s (U14) – James Dale bt Sam Clarke

September – New planning application approved by BBC. Alternative site for tennis club (Seymour Field) discussed.

November – Rolf Blum had made an excellent box for visitors' fees. Carolyn Searle to consider becoming Treasurer.

Ellen Gormley, Alison Norrington, Gráinne Stephenson, John Bright seen in 2002:



2003 AGM (January):

- Tennis club looked likely to be relocated.
- Credit given to Tom Hugh and Rolf Blum for recommencing summer tournaments in 2002, and for Tom in introducing the club to Brentwood & District League.
- Following solicitors' advice, it was reported that the club's "notice to quit" period was one year, the same as the period of rent.
- Andree Hammond and Sally Austin to retire from Committee.
- In event of moving to a new location, Rolf Blum advised that 50% of funding could come from "Sport England". LTA could give a loan, not a grant. A joint initiative with local schools was another possibility, but this might mean the courts being multi-functional – i.e. used for other sports. Tom Hugh suggested a "life-membership" scheme – say £1,000.

Alison Norrington elected to the Committee.

July – Robbery takes place at clubhouse of personal belongings of Joan Pateman by unknown visitor.

Men's First Team, skippered by Tom Hugh, wins Div 4 BDL by 17 points, winning 12 matches out of 14 and is promoted. Men's Second Team joins Division 5 and come 3rd out of 8. Women enter Division 4 and come 4th of 6. Mixed 5th of 8.

Championships:

MS - Philip Rogers bt Kevin Cory (semi-final), walks over the absent Charles Wager in final

WS - Alison Norrington bt Sue Rogers

MD - Kevin & Mark Cory bt Tom Hugh & Richard Emond

WD - Alison Norrington & Alison Rogers bt Ellen Gormley & Nita Grainge

MX – Tom Hugh & Suzanne Emond bt John Bright & Nita Grainge

U14 - James Dale bt Sam Clarke

New event –“The Chairman's Cup” for 50 over mixed doubles (O50) – Andrew & Sue Rogers bt Rolf Blum & Nita Grainge

John Bright, Suzanne Emond, "Honey", Kevin Cory, Philip Andrew & Alison Rogers, Rolf Blum, Nita & Andy Grainge, Mark Cory, Tom Hugh, Sue Rogers, Florence Emond, Gráinne Stephenson, Alison Norrington



Successful quiz night.

October – it was reported that over 1,000 tennis balls had been used this year to date.

2004

AGM (January):

- *Chairman reported on successful quiz night (November) last year.*
- *Joan Pateman to step down as Secretary but continue on Committee. Tom Hugh to leave Committee due to pressure of work.*
- *Membership reached 143 last year (37 new members). Average membership over last 20 years had been 170. The record year was 1982 with 257 Members.*
- *Coaching continued with Tom Hugh, succeeded by Kevin Cory.*
- *American tournaments were well-attended and successful in 2003.*
- *As last year, no definite news on possible relocation of club.*
- *Robert Ryan to join Committee.*

Due to rising costs, for 2004, the club will only provide tennis balls for Club tournaments including Americans and league matches.

June. Meeting with Chair of IFCC. Proposals to develop land behind Bell Mead and to relocate IFTC to Seymour Field. In meantime IFTC wish to proceed to resurface Court 3.

BDL - Men's First Team 6th out of 8 Div 3. Women 3rd out of 6 Div 4. Mixed 6th out of 8 Div 3. Men's Seconds 5th out of 6 Div 5. No promotions.

Championships:

MS – Kevin Cory bt Charles Wager

WS – Alison Norrington bt Sue Rogers

MD – Mark Curling & David Butt bt Luke Norrington & Mark Cory

WD – Alison Norrington & Gillian Alford bt Helen Spencer & Hazel Reilly
MX – Gráinne Stephenson & Kevin Cory bt Helen Spencer & James Dale
U14 – Luke Norrington bt Jed Fennings
O50 – Nita Grainge & Andrew Rogers bt Elizabeth Seville & Andrew Grainge

2005

AGM (January):

- *Third court had been resurfaced during year by Doe (£6,618).*
- *Following ruling by Government inspector, it appeared the club would remain on current site at least “until completion of Council audit to determine availability of urban leisure recreational sport areas in the village”.*
- *Charles Wager to take over coaching from Kevin Cory who had left for university.*
- *Joan Pateman and Rolf Blum (Chair) to stand down from Committee after several years’ hard work.*
- *2004 membership up to 132.*
- *Club agrees new constitution, with year-end changed to October / November.*
- *Subscriptions to rise by 10% to cover rise in LTA subscriptions and CA rental.*
- *Floodlighting “to be investigated”.*

Robert Ryan becomes Club Chair.

Men’s First Team (Charles Wager, Kevin Cory, Mark Cory, John Bright) win first round of EC away to Buckhurst Hill 3-1, but lose in next round to Redbridge 1-3 (same four players except David Butt played instead of Kevin Cory).

BDL - Men’s First Team only defeated once and wins Division 3. Women’s Team promoted from Division 4 in a close second place. Mixed Team come third and move up from old Division 3 of 3, to new Division 3 of 4. Men’s Seconds 5th of 8.

Championships:

MS – Philip Rogers bt Kevin Cory
WS – Helen Spencer bt Alison Norrington
MD – David Cory & Richard Emond bt Edward Emond & Luke Norrington
WD – Alison Norrington & Jo Cory bt Gillian Alford & Gráinne Stephenson
MX – John Bright & Mandy Butt bt David Cory & Gráinne Stephenson
U14 – Luke Norrington bt Edward Emond
O50 – Andrew Grainge & Gillian Alford bt John Galvin & Nita Grainge

Six American Tournaments held April – September. Results incomplete, but based on three events James Dale had a considerable (21 point) lead in Men’s event, Helen Spencer a 6-point lead in the Women’s.

“Old v young” triathlon event – tennis, cricket, football, arranged by Mark Cory. “Old” are victorious.

Application to join Stock Winter League rejected, lack of floodlights cited as reason.

The proposed redevelopment of Bellmead in the village could affect IFTC in that the IFCC would want to use the present site for additional car parking. Members urged to attend the IFCC AGM on 17th November.

AGM (November):

- *Thanks to Charles Wager for coaching which he will continue until February. New coach sought.*
- *Alison Norrington to leave Committee*
- *Carolyn Searle and Robert Ryan to meet CA Treasurer in December to clarify rental methodology and how charitable status might influence this, and to explore possibility of getting more “security of tenure”*
- *Accounts cover only nine months, reflecting change of AGM date*
- *Fencing needs replacing*
- *Last quiz night was postponed*
- *Spring-clean session proposed*
- *Possibility of new “honours board” to include the new era of tournament winners from 2002*
- *Floodlighting to be further investigated (again)*
- *Need to rigorously collect guest fees*
- *Reminder of all to wear shoe tags*
- *Reduced fee for late joiners to be explored*

- *One court to be used Saturday mornings for League competitions*
- *Junior captain / representative sought*

2006 Women's Second Team formed, and joins Division 4 BDL.

February – Andrew Rogers joins Committee. Robert Ryan had departed from Committee to work overseas.

EC – Men's and Women's Teams deemed to be eliminated, although details of matches had not been provided to IFTC Match Secretary by ECLTA.

April – Club have a spring-clean and horticultural maintenance day. Courts relined, but not 100% satisfactory.

May – Membership stands at 87 (44 adults 43 juniors). Jo Cory agrees to join Committee.

June – Martin Davis takes over coaching duties (replacing Charles Wager, who had left for world travels).

July – former Committee member Sally Austin, and children, killed in car crash in Spain.

July – Club representatives meet with Mr S Fox, Chairman of CA to discuss the future of tennis club and working together with the CA.

Courts relined (again). Four new clubhouse chairs purchased. New nets and net bands.

In BDL, Men's 1 finish 7th out of 9 in Division 2 (of 5). Men's Second Team wins 9 out of 14 matches & finish 3rd out of 9 in Division 5. Women's First Team withdraws from Division 3 after four matches. The new Women's Second Team finish 3rd in Division 4.

Mixed Team come 5th out of 6 in Division 3.

For 2007 Men's 1 will be in new Division 3 (of 6), Men's 2 in new Division 5 (of 6), Women in Division 3 (of 4), Mixed in Division 4 (of 4).

Championships held over two weekends in September:

MS – Charles Wager bt Phillip Rogers

WS – Helen Spencer bt Alison Rogers

MD – Mark Cory & Edward Emond bt David Cory & Richard Emond

WD – Helen Spencer & Jo Cory bt Deborah Rogers & Suzanne Emond

MX – John Bright & Mandy Butt bt Richard Emond & Helen Spencer

U18 – James Dale bt James Dolan

O50 – Nita & Andrew Grainge bt Ellen Gormley & John Galvin

Ellen & John; Gráinne Stephenson, Charles; Philip & Charles; Helen & Jo;





John & Mandy; Philip, Nita, Andy, David Butt, David & Sue Cory, Florence & Suzanne Emond, Gráinne, James Dale, James Dolan, Emilie & Carolyn Searle, Charles, Mark & Edward; John B; Richard & David;



September – Membership stands at 109. Proposed to double visitors' fees in 2007 to £2.

Second annual "Old v young" triathlon event – tennis, rounders, football. Match drawn. Barbecue follows.

October – Friendly under-18 home & away matches arranged with Bentley Tennis Club for the "(Martin) Davis Cup"! Ingatestone, represented by James Dale, James Dolan, Edward Emond & Jamie Butt win narrowly on a final tiebreak.

October – Club representatives meet with Bowls Club to discuss possibility of a new, shared, clubhouse. Positive common objectives decided. Funding options start to be investigated with ECLTA & relevant Bowls Associations. Both clubs seek longer-term security of tenure to assist in getting funding.

Fencing needs repair. Club committee still lacks a chair, since departure of Robert Ryan in 2005. Proposed increase in subscriptions for 2007.

November - A further application made to join Stock Winter League, with offer to play home matches at weekends to avoid the "lack of floodlights problem". Again rejected, as would apparently involve a "major change" to the league rules - position may (or indeed may not) be reconsidered at League AGM July 2007.

Membership stands at just over 100.

Ingatestone enter the ECLTA Winter Cup Competitions – the Winter Women's Veterans and Winter Mixed Cup. 1/8 Final Matches 18 & 19 November. Women (Nita Grainge, Ellen Gormley, Mandy Butt, Suzanne Emond, Gráinne Stephenson, Sue Rogers) lose 3-0 to Whitehall (Chingford). The Mixed Team (Sue Rogers, Mandy Butt, John Bright, Kevin Cory, Helen Spencer, Mark Cory) win 2-1 v Grove (Saffron Walden) and march on to the County Quarter-Finals in January to play away to the favourites Westcliff Hard.

November - Friendly women's match at Bentley Tennis Club. 4-4 draw. Return match early 2007.

AGM (November):

- *Update on possible new shared clubhouse – funding needed but this likely to be dependent on getting a lease on our land of at least 21 years. Similar obstacles to getting floodlights.*
- *Membership fees to rise to meet increased running costs / future expenditure*
- *Student membership category to be introduced for 2007*
- *Membership at 109 one of the lowest totals in last 30 years. Suzanne Emond produced useful graph of membership by year by juniors/seniors from 1977. At our peak we had 257 members.*
- *Possible fundraising initiatives discussed*

2007

January - Mixed Team (Charles Wager, Mark Cory, John Bright, Gilly Alford, Nita Grainge, Suzanne Emond) lose 3-0 to a strong team, holders and top seeds (and ultimate champions) Westcliff Hard, in Quarter-Final of ECLTA Winter Mixed Cup.

Update of club entry on Parish Council website.

Coaching due to recommence on 10th February.

Fundraising: Quiz night planned for 20th April. Consideration to be given to sharing a "100 club" with Bowls Club.

Under-18 team to enter Chelmsford Junior League – 8 fixtures April to August.

Visitor fees to rise from £1 to £3, with a maximum of 3 visits per guest.

March – Ingatestone v Bentley women, return friendly match. (Ing team: Mandy Butt, Suzanne Emond, Gráinne Stephenson, Sue Rogers; Bentley: Jacqui Silverstone, Pam Webster, Ros D'arcy, Yvonne Grant). Result: 4-4 draw as was first leg last November. To determine winners a one-set decider played comprising one player from each pair – Bentley PW&RD beat MB&SR 6-2)

Moss removal treatment commences. Quotes being obtained for new fencing and other facility maintenance.

"Spring clean" day planned for last Sunday of March.

Rent demanded from CA £1,500 for 2007, having risen from £900 in 04/05.

CA advised of Japanese Knotweed problem on their land, adjacent to courts.

April – CA revisits the old question of tennis club being relocated elsewhere.

Tom Hugh returns as weekend coach in place of Martin Davis.

In last-16 of EC, Men's Team (John Bright Kevin Cory Charles Wager Philip Rogers) beat Division 1 Team Billericay II 2-2 (5-4 on sets won). Women's Team give walkover to Lexden Squash.

Under-18s (team same as last October) start their league season with a 7-1 defeat at Brentwood Hard. Score doesn't reflect the closeness of some of the sets.

Successful Quiz Night held on 20th April. Winning table was the "Rogers & Gottesmanns" who pipped the Emond/Searle team by 8 points, scoring 98 out of 135. Participants from Bentley and Brentwood Hard Tennis clubs welcomed. Profit of £300 made.

May – In QF of EC, Men's Team (John Bright Mark Cory Charles Wager Philip Rogers) lose 3-1 at home to (eventual finalists) Harlow II.

CA submits three planning applications: 1) to turn courts into car park, 2) to relocate tennis club to Fairfield, 3) to relocate tennis club to Seymour Field. Parish Council meeting unanimously opposes the application.

Tennis Club represented at CA "Table-Top" sale.

June – Survey of members to ascertain preferred times and rules for social play produces low response rate. Committee to attempt to define and re-launch social play.

Meeting with ECLTA, attended by some of Committee and members of CA, to discuss way forward.

July – Numbers at monthly American tournament boosted by 14 guests from Ongar tennis club. Ongar were to reciprocate by inviting us to various events of their own (*but never did! Ed*).

August - Under 18s complete season, having played 4 lost 4 (sets won-lost 5-27) with 4 matches cancelled. Third annual “Old v Young” Triathlon. The “Young” were victorious. Post-event barbecue.

September – Championships:

MS – Charles Wager bt Kevin Cory

WS – Helen Spencer bt Mandy Butt

MD – John Bright & Edward Emond bt James Dale & Robert Grant

WD – Helen Spencer & Deborah Gottesmann bt Gráinne Stephenson & Suzanne Emond

MX – John Bright & Deborah Gottesmann bt James Dale & Ellen Gormley

U18 – James Dale bt Edward Emond

O50 – Ellen Gormley & John Bright bt Sue Rogers & David Cory

October

Andrew Rogers retires from the Committee.

Committee to devise coaching and membership strategies.

“Social play” policy drafted and to be presented to AGM. Play times proposed as Saturday afternoons, Sunday morning and afternoons, and Tuesday evenings (BST only).

More moss removal treatment to be carried out.

In BDL, Men’s 1 finish 3rd out of 7 in Division 3 (of 6). Men’s Second Team finish 3rd out of 8 in Division 5 and scrape promotion into Division 4! Women finish 6th out of 7 in Division 3(of 4) and are relegated. Mixed Team come a close 2nd in Division 4 and are promoted.

November

Following a suggestion by club Treasurer Carolyn Searle, an American Tournament with a “Pink clothing” theme is held, in aid of cancer research charity. £72 raised. Some exotic costumes on display.

John Bright & Ellen Gormley; Rob Grant, David Cory, Sue Rogers, Kevin Cory, Sue Cory, Kelvin Ackerley, Gráinne Stephenson, Luke & Deb Gottesmann, John B, Philip Rogers, Mark Cory, John Galvin, Andy Grainge, Jo Cory, Helen Spencer, Ellen G; Philip R & Mark C; Helen, Gráinne & John G;



New perimeter fencing erected by South East Sports.

Teams entered into Men's and Women's Essex County Winter Veterans' Leagues for the first time. Matches to be played between November and March. (In their first two matches, in November, Men – David Butt, John Bright, David Cory, Andrew Grainge, lose 3-1 at Grove (Cfd), followed by a 2-2 draw at Epping)

No entries to Essex Winter Cups this year.

CA planning applications (see May) are withdrawn.

CA AGM. Some changes in the leadership of the CA, which may assist the tennis and bowling clubs in their aspirations for securing a lease of their respective premises, which in turn may help funding for future development.

AGM (November):

- *Newsletter relaunched. Aim for it to be twice yearly.*
- *Philip Rogers and Edward Emond join Committee.*
- *Update on membership strategy, coaching, social play proposals, events/matches in 2007*
- *Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Natalie Cannon, Nathan Keevil, Tom Cannon, Charlie Tweed.*
- *Surplus for 2007 £2,311, compared to £507 in 2006. But £3,055 spent on new fencing will appear in 2008 accounts. Club assets £14,500. Need for some modest rises in membership fees for 2008, as possible future rent rises from CA.*
- *96 members – 49 adults, 42 kids, 5 students. (21 family groups). 27% of members were new for 2008.*
- *Updated "club history" circulated.*

December

Much-loved club mascot Honey the dog passed away. Her ever-friendly tail-wagging support will be missed.

2008

January

Ingatestone women lose their first two Essex Veterans' matches, 4-0 away to David Lloyd Southend and 4-0 away to Thorpe Bay.

Mid-January social tennis, Indian meal & quiz day! The tennis team are victorious in the quiz.

Moss removal and court cleaning carried out for Courts 1 & 2.

February

Men lose 3-1 away to Cranbrook Castle in Essex Winter Vets. Women lose 4-0 away to DL Basildon.

Tennis Club supports CA quiz night.

March

Women lose 3-1 home to Hutton & Shenfield, and 4-0 to Next Generation in Essex Winter Vets.

The men lose 2-1 to Southend.

Saturday morning coaching resumes. Edward Emond & Jamie Butt as Tennis Assistants.

Ingatestone enter a mixed doubles team for 2008 season in Chelmsford & District Lawn Tennis Federation (CDLTF).

May

George Stockford becomes Head Coach. A range of new coaching sessions are planned.

Tennis Club aiming to achieve "Clubmark" status.

June

Club have table at CA Open Day. Club invites participants to compete against the "Lobster" ball machine.

Development of a club website is explored by Edward Emond.

Summer

Door-to-door leaflet distribution to publicise Club. Helps to recruit new members.

Summer coaching camp and mini-tennis proves very popular.

Site meeting with CA and Pine drive residents to investigate vegetation / knotweed in strip of land next to courts.

Jo Cory retires from the Committee.

August

Fourth annual "Old v Young" Triathlon. The "Young" were victorious, and lead series 2-1.

Post-event barbecue, with chef Andrew Rogers.

September – Championships:

MS – David Butt bt Mark Cory

WS – Angela Borowski bt Deborah Gottesmann
 MD – John Bright & Luke Gottesmann bt James Dale & William Emond
 WD – Suzanne Emond & Deborah Gottesmann bt Gráinne Stephenson & Martina Bohn
 MX – Angela Borowski & Edward Emond bt David Butt & Martina Bohn
 U18 – Edward Emond bt Jamie Butt
 U14 – David Bohn bt William Blake
 O50 – Ellen Gormley & John Bright bt Suzanne Emond & David Cory

SE DG JKB AB LG EE DB DB



LTA “Clubmark” application submitted, co-ordinated by acting Chair John Galvin. Includes coaching strategy, Committee workplan, Health & Safety policy and Risk Assessment, Child Protection Policy etc.

In BDL, a much-depleted Men’s 1 finish 7th out of 7 in Division 3 (of 6). Men’s Second Team finish 6th out of 8 in Division 4 and should just avoid relegation by 2 or 3 points. Women finish 4th out of 6 in Division 4. Mixed Team come 5th out of 7 teams in Division 3 and should just avoid relegation by one point.

Overall, a poor season, and a need to consider a reduction in men’s teams from two to one, or maybe even none.

But better news for our mixed team in our first season in the CDLTF. Ing win 11 out of 14 matches, and draw 2 and win the league by 5 points from Grove IV. Promotion to Division 3 looms.

Second annual “pink” American tournament. £62 raised.

Brett, John G, Sue David & Jo C, Rob G, Luke G, Alison R, Henry J, Mark C, Nita G, Percy J, Deb G, Dragana B, Gráinne S, Florence E, Sue R, John B, Ellen G, Edward E; Mark C!



AGM (November):

- 3rd edition of newsletter issued.
- John Galvin established as chair of club (had previously been “acting”).
- Update on Clubmark application. Coaching going well, mini-tennis developing.
- Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Florence Minns, Percy Jennings, Henry Jennings, William Blake.
- Slight loss in 2008 £355, compared to £2,311 profit in 2007. Profit on coaching, but £4k spent on fencing & court maintenance. Club assets £15,411.
- 110 members – slightly up on 2007.

Florence, Angela, Henry, David, Percy & William



2009

January

Quotation obtained for a new "honours board", but cost prohibitive at over £1,800.

February

Club signs up to a partnership with Anglo-American School, allowing school pupils to use tennis facilities.



Ing women finish bottom of Division 3c in Essex winter vets 08/09, but win more sets than in the equivalent league in the previous year.

Philip Rogers stands down from Committee as he is setting up home in Clapham, S London.

April

A new initiative - we enter an under-14 team in Chelmsford Junior League. Six matches April-June. We win one match, draw one and lose four, but overall win 17 sets and lose 31. A good experience. Well played to David Bohn, Will Blake, Henry Jennings, Josh Ravenscroft, Stephen Styles, Sam Purkiss and Chandika Jayasekera.

June

Courts 1 & 2 rebonded and repainted.

July

After several years of trying, we are accepted into the Stock Floodlit Winter League (SFWL) for 09/10 (despite not having floodlights!). We arrange to play most of our home matches in daylight hours at weekends, with the remainder being played in midweek evenings at opponent's clubs. Matches start in October.

August

Fifth annual "Old v Young" Event organised by Mark Cory.

The Old win the tennis, narrowly lose the football, but triumph in the rounders (after several recounts and stewards' enquiries!)

Andy G, Jo C, John G, Mark & David C, Sue R, Sue C, Andrew R, Adam S, Edward E, David B, Helen S, James D, Jamie B, Gráinne S, Bobby B, Rob G, John B; (seated) Matt R, Henry J, Mandy B, Nita G, Sam R;



September – Championships:

Most events took place on 6th September. Mixed doubles and 50+ on 13th September; Women's doubles on 7th & 23rd September.

MS – James Dale bt Edward Emond

WS – Helen Spencer bt Gráinne Stephenson

MD – Edward Emond & Luke Gottesmann bt Mark Cory & Matt Ravenscroft

WD – Mandy Butt & Martina Bohn bt Gráinne Stephenson & Ellen Gormley

MX – Sue Rogers & John Bright bt Fiona Cooper & Mark Cory

U18 – Sam Purkiss bt Edward Emond

U14 – Sam Purkiss bt Danny Moore

50+ mixed – Sue Rogers & John Bright bt Sue Cory & David Cory

Helen; Edward Luke Matt & Mark; James; Sam





Plans to further develop junior tennis, to include a possible junior club evening, junior forum, code of conduct, junior captain etc.

Edward Emond's last Committee meeting for a while, as he is off to academia.

Plans for a club "talent night" to raise funds.

Some minor 'health & safety' incidents / accidents recently: one member had close encounter with bramble bushes – bushes to be cut back; accidental breaking of window in club hut door – repaired promptly at minimal cost.

October

In BDL, the Men's team have a reasonably good season and finish 3rd (of 8) in Division 4 (of 6). The mixed team finish bottom in Division 3 and will be relegated. No Women's team entered this year.

Following their winning of Division 4 in 2008, the mixed team in the CDLTF win 8 out of 12 matches (and are unbeaten at home), to finish 2nd in the table and gain promotion to Division 2. We enter a Women's team for the first time and they have quite a good season finishing 3rd and being close to promotion.

November

Annual trophy to be introduced for each year's top performer in American tournaments. (A monthly winner's trophy had already been introduced in 2008).

Some maintenance jobs identified, including provision of paving slabs in front of hut (*finally achieved in 2020! – Ed*), repairs to holes in rear fence and possible cutting back of brambles.

Committee seeking more fundraising initiatives and volunteers to help in designated tasks.

3rd annual "pink" American tournament. £83 raised. David Butt wins event. Overall American winner for 2009 Henry Jennings. Top female Nita Grainge.

Nita & Andy G, Gráinne S, Suzanne E, Percy J, Richard E, Juliet P, James M, David C, Jamie K, Sue C, Henry J, Mark C, Danny M, John B;



AGM (November):

- 5th edition of "Networker" newsletter issued.
- Membership target of 120 for 2009 exceeded. Now 138. Aim for 150+ in 2010.
- Aim for a balance in court usage (e.g. coaching, social, matches) in peak summer periods
- Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Emily Sullivan, Jamie Kinch, Matt Ravenscroft, David Clarke. Trophies presented to tournament and American winners. All presented by guest celebrity, Leader of Parish Council Dr. Chris Dale, who also stressed the support of the Council for the tennis club.
- No smoking within curtilage of club, effective from 01-01-10.
- CA financial position precarious. New "user group" management committee formed to help improve situation. First meeting 25 Nov. John Galvin & Mark Cory from tennis club are on committee. CA are considering rise in rent for tennis club from £1,500 to £3,600. Tennis Club to continue to endeavour to ensure all adult members sign up to CA.
- Small profit (£305), year ending 30-09-09. Club assets £15,716. More contingency funds needed for future court resurfacing.
- Chair relected. Rest of Committee continue.
- Format of annual tournament, especially doubles events to be reviewed.

December

Problem of flooding of entrance path and Court 1 to be added to list of maintenance jobs to be done.
Xmas "junior fun day" 19th December.

2010

March

Ingatestone men win Stock Floodlit Winter League (SFWL) Division 7. Women and Mixed Teams finish a strong 3rd in their Division 5s. Men are promoted to Div. 6 as champions. Women move up to Division 4 of 5. Mixed leagues are restructured – our team move up to the new Div 5 of 6.

28th March – club spring cleaning day.

Fees to be levied for summer club tournament - £3 adults £1 kids, to cover all events entered.
Similarly, fees for American tournaments to be £3/£1 this year.

April

Tennis club members attend Quiz Night at CA in aid of cystic fibrosis charity. The top 3 teams all featured tennis club folk, with the Spiby family table overall winners.

July

Tennis Club has stall at the annual village horticultural show.
Essex LTA visit for an initial "Clubmark" inspection – lots of positive vibes.
Successful 3-week Summer Tennis Camp for kids.
Chair of Tennis Club, John Galvin, is now secretary of CA under its new regime.

August

The oldies win the 6th Annual Old v Young event, and lead series 3-2.

September

Championships:

Most events took place on 5th September. Women's singles on 12th September. Mixed doubles on 10th October.

MS – David Butt bt David Kinch.

WS – Helen Spencer bt Vicky Robinson

MD – Mark Cory & Matt Ravenscroft bt David Kinch & Andy Grainge

WD – Gráinne Stephenson & Sue Rogers bt Mandy Butt & Alison Rogers

MX – David Butt & Ellen Gormley bt David Kinch & Suzanne Emond

U18 – Sam Purkiss bt Henry Jennings

U14 – Matt Ravenscroft bt Henry Jennings

50+ mixed – Nita Grainge & John Bright bt Liz Wyatt & David Kinch

Sue & Gráinne



David



Henry & Sam



October

Summer League matches: In BDL the men finish mid-table in Division 4; In CDLTF the women finish mid-table in Division 3; The Mixed team only win 2 matches and seem destined to fall back from Div 2 to Div 3 for next year; Under-14 boys' team win one and lose 3 of the 4 matches played;

Hal Kannor starts adult coaching sessions on Saturday afternoons.

November

4th annual "pink" charity American tournament. Record attendance of 32 players and record receipts of £148!

Gráinne S, John G, Suzanne E;

Mandy B, Helen S, Jasper J, Charlotte J, Ken S, John G, Nita G, Will J, Gráinne S, Percy J, Dave C, Dave K, Jamie K, Jane S, Ellen G, Joseph S, Sue C, Nicole D, Sue R, Sam B, Eve L*, Mark C, Danny M, Nick L*, Henry J, John B, James M. (*quests from Mountnessing TC)



AGM (November):

- Membership down to 109 after 2 years of growth
- Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Alex & James Ravenscroft, Natalia Paoli-Burke, Charlie Tweed. Trophies presented to tournament and American winners by guest celebrity, Lilian Hunter Chair of CA.
- Profit (£4049), year ending 30-09-10. Club assets c£20,000.
- Chair relected. Rest of Committee continue.
- New luxury toilet seat installed in clubhouse.

2011

February

Consideration to be given to devising a system to ensure an adequate supply of ex-match balls for social play.

March

Hal Kannon (below) to take over head coaching duties from Easter. George Stockford thanked for his contribution.



New net tape on Court 3.

Mice infestation in clubhouse dealt with.

Our second season in the SFWL. The men do well but end up 4th, 9 points short of promotion from Div6. The women survive in Division 4, 5 points above the relegation zone. The mixed team win Division 5 and are promoted for the second season running.

April

New club "hotmail" email address is being established.

A big goal for 2011 is to set up a website.

June

Club holds an "Open Day" on 5th June which is very well-attended. BBQ, speed gun and coaching sessions.

July

Tennis Club have a stall at the annual Horticultural Show. Despite a rainy start there is a good turnout and a guest appearance by a John McEnroe impersonator (aka Ed Emond).

Rob Ellis of Essex LTA visits to discuss progress on our attaining Clubmark accreditation.

Concerns about behaviour and mess left on club premises by some junior members and their guests, esp. during summer holidays. The club rule that juniors cannot bring guests without a senior member's consent is reiterated and situation continues to be monitored.

Consideration being given to adding a 2nd men's league team in 2012.

August

The youngsters win the 7th Annual Old v Young event, thus making the overall tally 3 wins each with one draw.

Drainage ditch dug by Mark Cory & Ed Emond to reduce flooding problems on pathway and the courts.

September

Championships:

Five events took place on 11th September, with the Women's singles following a few weeks after, and the mixed final on 13th November. The 50+ event was delayed, as one finalist had been working away, but it was finally concluded some 7 months later, in April 2012!

MS – Sam Purkiss bt David Bohn.

WS – Vicky Robinson bt Sue Rogers.

MD – Mark Cory & Matt Ravenscroft bt Josh Ravenscroft & John Bright.

WD – Ellen Gormley & Suzanne Emond bt Charlotte Jefferies & Sue Rogers.

MX – Liz Wyatt & Dave Kinch bt Ellen Gormley & William Blake.

U18 – Sam Purkiss bt David Bohn.

U14 – Matt Ravenscroft bt Sam Bromiley.

50+ mixed – Liz Wyatt & John Bright bt Angie Murphy & David Kinch



Dave & Liz



Hal & Matt



Sam



Suzanne & Ellen

October

Results received for summer league matches. The men suffer only 2 narrow defeats out of 12 matches and are unbeaten at home, winning Division 4 of the BDL and thus promoted for 2012. In the CDLTF the women again do well winning 6 and drawing 4 out of 14 matches and ending up with 76 sets won overall. This would have been good enough for promotion in most years and indeed we were in 2nd place until overtaken right at the season's end, finishing 5th. The mixed team had been relegated in 2010 but with 6 wins and 4 draws finish in 3rd place in Div 3 with a chance of bouncing back up again. The 14 & under boys had a good summer, winning 2 and losing 2 matches, finishing 4th in their division which mainly comprised much bigger clubs with larger squads.

7 American tournaments took place on Sundays from April to September. The leading man was John Galvin on 77 points, just pipping 2010 champion Andrew Grainge who gained 75 points. The leading female and overall winner is Nita Grainge who in a dramatic dénouement reached 79 points. The "American Cup" therefore goes to Nita, which means we've had 7 different winners in the last 7 years.

The 5th annual "Pink" charity event on 23rd October was blessed with fine sunny weather and the usual colourful costumes. 23 players raised £120 for the charity.

Photo shows: Mandy B, Harry T, James K, Matt R, Danny M, Percy J, Henry J, Josh R (concealed), David B, Ellen G, Mark C, Nita G, John G, Juliet P, Gráinne S, Liz W, Peter W, John B



AGM (November):

- Membership up to 123
- Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Isabel Roberts, Ben Price, Florence Minns, James Kinch. Trophies presented to tournament winners by Head Coach Hal Kannor.
- Acknowledgment of the success of Hal as new Head Coach, assisted by his brother Ralph. Thanks given to Jamie Butt & Harry Anthony who had previously run Saturday morning coaching sessions.
- Profit (£4977), year ending 30-09-11. Club assets £24,742.
- New constitution based on LTA template proposed and agreed.
- Consideration being given to starting the club's membership year in April again, rather than January.
- Chair relected. Rest of Committee continue.

Court 3 cleaned and moss problem tackled. All 3 centre "wells" replaced.



Florence, James, Hal, Ben & Isabel

2012

January

A winter singles ladder is created. 29 members participate. The intention is for the top 4 to have a round-robin play-off.

February

Burst pipe in clubhouse, necessitating remedial plumbing works.

April

New membership year to start from April. No fees required for period from Jan-Mar.

A new internal wall is fitted in the clubhouse, and painted in a nice magnolia hue. Many thanks to Peter Wyatt, David Butt, John Galvin and the army of helpers.

Community Association carry out works to remove tree roots and re-lay walkway beside the courts.

Our third season in the SFWL. The men do very well, winning Division 6 with 98.5 points out of a maximum possible 112. The highest points total by an Ingatestone side in the "modern era" (i.e. since we recommenced league play in 2002). The women clinch 2nd place and promotion from Division 4. The mixed team, having won Division 5 last year find life a bit tougher in Division 4 and return whence they came!

May

27th May sees the second annual Open Day take place.

July

The Club have a stall again at the Horticultural Show. As in 2011, the event is rain-affected.

Pupils from the local Anglo-European School (AES) start work on developing a website for the club.

August

No "Old v Young" event this year.

September

Championships:

Five events took place on 16th September, with the Women's singles following a few weeks after. Two events were walkovers.

MS – David Bohn bt William Blake (walkover)

WS – Helen Spencer bt Phoebe Ronn

MD – Percy Jennings & David Bohn bt Henry Jennings and Samuel Bromiley (having won 1st set, and deemed to have won 2nd set due to player absence)

WD – Phoebe Ronn & Liz Wyatt bt Suzanne Emond & Nita Grainge

MX – Nicole Desbêtes & David Butt bt Nita Grainge & Percy Jennings

U18 – David Bohn bt William Blake (walkover)

U14 – Matt Ravenscroft bt Sam Bromiley.

50+ mixed – Nicole Desbêtes & John Bright bt Liz Wyatt & Richard Emond



Phoebe & Liz; Nicole, (Chair) and John; Helen & Phoebe

October

The 6th annual charity “Pink” American tournament saw 20 competitors and a number of spectators, despite light drizzle maintaining through most of the afternoon. £100 raised. Excellent catering and flag-making by Liz & Peter Wyatt. In the overall American rankings for 2012, John Galvin (club Chair and recent M.B.E!) came top with 83 games won, Liz Wyatt second on 79 – but things were not decided until their final set on this last Sunday.



Mandy, Will, Richard, Suzanne, Mark, Nita, Liz, Patrick, Peter, Barry, Gráinne, David, James, Kevin, Peter, Ellen, John G, Andrew, Charlotte, John B; Runner-up & champion: Liz & John

Results received for summer league matches: Ingatestone men just about survived in Brentwood Division 3 for another season, but it was close. Ing women improved by one place to finish 4th in Chelmsford Div 3. Ing mixed again finished 3rd in Chelmsford Div 3, missing promotion by only one and a half points (one more set won v Marconi and we would have been promoted, not them). Ing 16 & unders finished in a creditable 3rd place in Chelmsford Junior League.

November

Due to the reversion to a membership year running from April to March, next AGM is scheduled for 7th February 2013.

Repair & maintenance works to be scheduled, including fixing of basin in WC, replacing broken window, insulating pipework and other plumbing matters. Other works needed include repairs to some of the fencing and finding a solution to the occasional flooding of the entrance path and part of Court 1 whenever we get heavy rain (which was quite often in summer 2012!).

Discussions to be (re)started with the Bowling Club re the way forward for any plans to build a new, joint, clubhouse – a topic that has been on the agenda for at least 36 years...

Committee have drafted a Code of Conduct, based on the Essex LTA model, for dissemination to members.

A meeting to be held with AES (see July) to discuss progress on the website.

At this time club funds stand at around £25,000. However, a large portion of this will be needed for court rebonding / painting / resurfacing within the next few years.

December

During the cold weather, the water supply to the club house will be turned off to try and avoid the problems experienced last winter with burst pipes.

2013

January

Representatives of the tennis club meet with the bowling club for initial discussions about a project to replace the tennis club hut and part of the bowling club buildings, such a project to be led by the Community Association. Both clubs in favour of taking things forward.

February

Quotes obtained to deal with court cleaning and moss removal.

Club committee considering the introduction of a "100 Club" as a method of fundraising.

AGM (February):

- *Membership down from 123 to 111 in 2012*
- *2013 fees to be frozen at previous year's levels*
- *Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Reggie Edwards, Jemima Ling, David Clarke, Adam Fuller, Jessica Bayes. Trophies presented to tournament winners by Head Coach Hal Kannor.*
- *Treasurer's report – there was a fall in income of £330 compared with the previous year. Mainly due to fall in membership numbers. Expenditure increased due to LTA affiliation fees and Community Club.*
- *Chair re-elected. Rest of Committee continue.*

March

Court cleaning carried out. Rebonding and repainting of Court 3 to take place shortly. Windbreak screens to be purchased with aid of a small grant from Brentwood Council.

Various clubhouse repairs to be carried out in the near future:

Lagging all pipes £35

Glass in kitchen window £40

Fixing sink to wall £25

Decking repairs £25

New flooring + repair to main clubhouse floor £125

May

In SFWL men win Division 5 by some 25 points and mixed team win their Div 5. Women's team can't quite hang on in a strong Div 3 and are relegated.

Water leak on land adjacent to tennis and bowling club to be remedied by water company.

June

Court 3 rebonded and repainted.

New wash basin, kindly donated by club member Kevin Wheeler, to be fitted in WC.

Car park resurfaced.

July

New flooring laid in clubhouse.

Tennis club again represented at annual Horticultural Show.

September

Championships:

Six events took place on 15th September. The under-18s was delayed by a week. The 50+ final did not happen until 21st April 2014, because of one or more long-term injuries.

MS – David Bohn bt John Bright 7-5 2-6 8-6

WS – Phoebe Ronn bt Liz Wyatt 6-2 1-6 6-2

MD – David Bohn & John Galvin bt Andrew Jefferies & Matt Ravenscroft 6-2 3-6 6-2

WD – Teresa Ravenscroft & Liz Wyatt bt Juliet Pithers & Nita Grainge 6-0 6-1

MX – Helen Spencer & Kevin Wheeler bt Charlotte Jefferies & John Bright 7-5 7-5

U18 – David Bohn bt Henry Jennings 6-7 6-0 6-2

U14 – Percy Jennings bt James Kinch 6-0 6-0

50+ mixed – Ellen Gormley & John Bright bt Nicole Desbêtes & Dave Kinch 6-4 6-3

October

The 7th Annual Pink American Tournament took place with 19 players and also some spectators. Peter Wheeler won the annual American Cup, and Mandy Butt took the prize for “Pinkest Person”.



1. Barry, Nita, Dave K, Mike, Aoife, Isabel, John G, Suzanne, Claire, Ellen, Charlotte, Mandy, Dave B.
2. ...and Kevin, Peter Wh, Jimmy, Liz, Peter Wy
3. Champion Peter
4. Chic Charlotte

Results received for summer league matches: Ingatestone men did well in Brentwood Division 3 finishing 4th, winning 7 out of 14 matches. Ing women again improved by one place to finish 3rd in Chelmsford Div 3 and only just missing out on one of the two automatic promotion slots. Ing mixed won Chelmsford Div 3, and are eligible for promotion (but they may elect to stay in their current division!). In Chelmsford Junior League the 18 & unders came 4th.

Committee 30th October:

Current membership 114 – slightly over half of these being juniors.

Brentwood Council grant for windbreaks still awaited (see March).

No bill levied yet re water leak (see May).

Approximately 6 adult members are understood to have yet to renew their Community Association membership.

Quote has been obtained for replacement of rear fence on the Pine Drive side. Consideration also being given to clearing vegetation in the narrow strip of land behind said fence and the installation of a gate at its end, in consultation with residents and IFCA.

Tuesday afternoon winter indoor mini-tennis to be one group only for now, as the hall is a not quite big enough for the older juniors. Low numbers at Saturday morning over-11s group. Consideration to be given to who might be an assistant coach to Hal from next summer as the current incumbent, David Bohn, is set to go away to University.

Solutions being sought to the problem of repeated flooding near the entrance, and which often extends to Court 1 in wet weather. Discussions to take place with Bowling Club. Consideration to be given to obtaining a pump. A long-term solution may come as & when new clubhouse development takes place. (In this regard, a meeting to take place with a surveyor re preparation of provisional plans).

A few recent incidents of the court gates and/or clubhouse door being found unlocked, and still concerns about rubbish being left on the premises and, at times, bad language.

Frames to be purchased in order that the certificates for the league teams' recent successes may be displayed in the clubhouse. (Duly purchased and installed December 2013).

Website development to be progressed, with a developer to be nominated imminently.

2014

January

Meeting with Bowling Club & a surveyor re preparing a provisional feasibility design for new clubhouse(s).

February

In common with many tennis clubs in Essex, IFTC agree to bestow honorary membership on Clive Rippon who has been LTA Essex County Secretary for 40 years.

AGM:

- *Chair reported on: water leak; concerns re rubbish & food waste left on the premises; reminder that adult members must join the Community Association; to be more initiatives with local schools to try and get more children along to coaching and mini-tennis; notable successes by our team in local leagues; website developing was progressing well; new fencing & weed removal on Pine Drive side coming soon; flooding / drainage problems near entrance still need a solution; surveyor is drawing up plans for a new clubhouse; a "100 club" to be established – Charlotte Jefferies to manage it; the Committee need more volunteers to assist on a range of tasks;*
- *Membership numbers up to 114 (from 111 in 2012/13).*
- *2014/15 fees to be increased slightly from previous year's levels.*
- *Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Emily Sutton, Damon Williamson, Callum Williamson, George Dacey. Trophies presented to tournament winners by Lilian Hunter of IFCA.*
- *The Treasurer, Carolyn Searle, is standing down after 11 years in the post.*
- *Chair relected. Rest of Committee continue.*

April

Works carried out to clear vegetation and renew fencing on Pine Drive side of all courts. Club members also have a "blitzkrieg day" to clear other weeds and rubbish.

Replacement locking device installed on visitors' fee box in clubhouse.

In the SWFL 2013/14 season, Ingatestone men win 14 out of 14 matches in Division 4 and are promoted for the 4th time since 2010. This is believed to be the first time an Ingy team have gone through a league season winning every match. The mixed team also does well, winning 6 and drawing 3 of their 12 matches and securing promotion to their Division 3.

May

Further fencing works & installation of a gate to increase security behind the Pine Drive side of the courts.

Tennis club website goes live! ingatestonetennis.org.uk.

June

This year's Open Day took place on Sunday 8th June. Fine, sunny weather produced an excellent turnout, with visitors enjoying free coaching, a barbecue, some friendly sets and the chance to test their service against the speed gun.

The fastest serves recorded were as follows:

MEN

Hal Kannor - 86 m.p.h.

Jimmy Innes - 78 m.p.h.

David Butt - 77 m.p.h.

Kevin Wheeler - 63 m.p.h.

John Galvin - 59 m.p.h.

WOMEN

Clare Wheeler 56 m.p.h.

Liz Wyatt 54 m.p.h.

JUNIOR MALES

David Clarke 57 m.p.h.

Luke McGee 56 m.p.h.

Peter Wheeler 50 m.p.h.

JUNIOR FEMALES

Olivia Wheeler 33 m.p.h.

In the friendly round-robin sets of tennis, the highest scorers were David Clarke & John Galvin with 11 games won, Suzanne Emond with 9, Hal Kannor & Mark Cory with 8, David Butt & Neil Taggart with 6, Graham Bailes, Andrew Jefferies & Mandy Butt with 5.

July

On Saturday 19th July we had our usual stand at the annual Ingatestone & Fryerning Horticultural Summer Show. It was a warm & sunny day with the attractions including a sheepdog & duck display, punch & judy, country dancing, children's sports and a visit by the local member of parliament. The tennis club had 48 entries to its "guess the number of balls" competition. Congratulations to Archie Jennings, who estimated 112 balls, only one away from the actual total of 113. Archie wins a giant football-sized tennis ball.

A surveyor, David Walker, visits in connection with drawing up plans for a new clubhouse. In the meantime, there are proposals from Charlotte Jefferies to redecorate and "glam-up" the existing clubhouse.

Members are not totally impressed with a newly-constructed gate and entrance to the Bowling Club next door, nor with the occasional smokers from same lurking next to our courts when we are playing. These issues to be discussed with our neighbours.

Consideration is being given for provision of a defibrillator as a shared community facility, possibly to be located within IFCA.

August

Charlotte Jefferies and her team of helpers repaint the exterior of the clubhouse in a nice green hue. Other odd jobs are tackled, and interior decorations follow a week or two later. We were very generously given help by local businesses, including lovely fabric for the benches from Shadrack and Wallace upholsterers, Vicky at Oaktree Gallery kindly framed some prints and Bryan Mills has done some carpentry for us. The rest of the revamp is largely composed of donations of items either on their way to or rescued from the tip! This includes some shelves, a Barbecue, lampshades and a large canvas painting.

The American Tournament on Sunday 31st August saw a huge turnout with 28 players, numerous other guests plus a barbecue. There was an official re-opening of the refurbished clubhouse, with a photographer in attendance from the local newspaper. Huge thanks to Charlotte and her team of helpers. On the website, some photos can be seen on pages 2&3 of the Gallery, and a button gives access to the local newspaper article and group photo. There is also a letter of praise from the local MP., the Right Honourable Eric Pickles.

September

Meeting with the Bowling Club 13th September to review and refine the plans for a new pavilion.

Championships:

Six events took place on 14th September. After some discussion, it was decided to delay the women's doubles & 50+ finals, because of a family illness affecting a finalist in both events.

MS – Samuel Bromiley bt John Bright 4-6 6-4 6-3

WS – Liz Wyatt bt Teresa Ravenscroft 6-3 6-3

MD – John Bright & John Galvin bt Jimmy Innes & Shane Anthony 6-3 6-3

WD – Charlotte Jefferies & Nita Grainge bt Juliet Pithers & Liz Wyatt 6-3 6-4 (played 07-06-15, delayed due to players' absence, injury & illness)

MX – Clare Wheeler & John Bright bt Charlotte Jefferies & Dave Kinch 1-6 6-3 6-4

U18 – Samuel Bromiley bt Jake Coulson 6-1 6-0

U14 – Peter Wheeler bt William Jefferies 2-5 5-1 7-5

50+ mixed – Nita Grainge & John Bright bt Gráinne Stephenson & Dave Kinch 7-6 6-4 (played 26-10-14)

Also this year, Hal held a special red ball and orange ball mini-tennis event for children of 7 & under and 8 & 9 respectively. This went very well. For the red ball we had 7 players between 5-7yrs old. Lots of close matches and some great rallies considering the ages of those involved. The final was between Hayden Bonnington and Reggie Edwards. In the end Reggie was too powerful despite Hayden's efforts and won 10-4.

For the orange ball we had 6 players aged 7-9. Some really good tennis was played by all and the final was between Jemima Ling and Reggie Edwards. It was a very long match with some massive forehands being hit. Jemima eventually won 12-10 5-7 7-5. (Tie breaks to 7).

Some debate is taking place concerning the policy of some local clubs to introduce a floodlighting fee when Ingatestone play home matches away. The proposed costs range from £5 at the lower end of the scale to £36 in the case of one club!

Charlotte J is proposing the establishment of a book & DVD "swopshop" in the clubhouse.

October

This year's Pink American charity event took place on 19th October. It was a pleasant sunny autumnal day. 21 players contested 24 sets, and a dozen or so family & friends came along to watch the fun. Special thanks to the caterers for their splendid pink offerings. £133 was raised on the day (our second highest total ever), including £30 from this year's innovation The Pink Sweepstake. This was won by Ray who most generously decided to forgo his £15 prize and donate it to the charity. Some photos are on the club website now, and should be on the charity's website in due course - wearitpink.org. Nita Grainge was awarded the prize for being the "pinkest person"! Winners on the day were Luke McGee with 20 games won, and Nicole Desbêtes on 18. Luke gets the monthly cup to hold until the next event on 26th April 2015. We've totalled up the aggregate scores from the summer's events - the overall champion, and the first person to successfully defend their title is Peter Wheeler with a score of 92. And congratulations to the top female, Jean Holland, on 82.

Results received for summer league matches. We were not as successful as last year – a reduction in the number of players being available to play was the key factor.

Men's 1 cling on in Division 3 of Brentwood League, having avoided relegation by 3 points. 5th place compared to 4th last year, but with barely half the number of points we achieved in 2013.

Men's 2 finish 7th out of 8 in their first season in Division 6 of Brentwood League.

Women finish 5th in Division 3 of Chelmsford League, a solid mid-table position, but down from 3rd last year.

(Mountnessing win the division by a street and are promoted with Chelmsfordians 2).

Mixed team are 4th in Div 3 of Chelmsford League, avoiding relegation by 7 points. (Southminster win the division and are promoted with Wickford who come up on the rails in the last few weeks to pip Danbury by one point).

Not all of the 18 & under junior matches are completed.

November

On the question of the "floodlight tax" being imposed by some other local clubs (see above), IFTC have decided to pay reasonable charges (up to around £10/£12) but to concede any matches which involve higher charges.

Quotations are being obtained for moss treatment.

Confirmation received of our local authority grant for a new noticeboard, a netting screen for the fence adjoining the car park and for works to clear the adjacent gully and to lay shingle therein.

Club membership stands at 95, of which 45 are seniors and 50 juniors. 61 male, 34 female.

December

For next summer's league matches, it has been decided to enter one men's team (of 6 players) in the Chelmsford League (CDLTF) and, after 13 seasons, to withdraw our two teams for now from the Brentwood League (BDLTA). David Butt to be captain.

A new captain for the summer mixed team is sought. The Match Secretary will keep an eye on things in the meantime.

2015

January

Contractors have been selected to carry out moss treatment works. Works commenced 24th January and were completed in February.

7th January – With great sadness, the death was announced of longstanding club member, former women's captain and six times club doubles champion Ellen Gormley (1952-2015). A central figure in the club over the last two decades and indeed in local community life. The funeral took place on Friday 23rd January 2015, at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Fryerning, followed by a gathering at the Ivy Hill Hotel. Several hundred mourners attended and the church was bursting at the seams. There were some 17 IFTC members there, including all of the Committee, and 4 former members, plus at least 13 from Mountnessing TC. The Club provided flowers in the shape of a tennis racket, and we aim to pay some tributes to her at the AGM. For those who would like to make a charitable donation, the family has set up a page for

Sarcoma UK. Please follow this link: www.justgiving.co.uk/ellengormley. As at February 2015, contributions had reached £2,412.72. Photos of Ellen can be found on the club's website gallery.

AGM (11th February):

- *Chair reported on highlights, such as the successful Open Day in 2014, the launch of the impressive website, the clubhouse makeover and the grant of £1,600 from the local Council which will be used to purchase windbreaks, a new noticeboard and hard landscaping improvements adjacent to the car park.*
- *The chair is acting as Treasurer pro tem. He reported on a loss of £1,434 in the last yearly accounting period; this was mainly as a result of a fall in income from membership and coaching, increased expenditure on court maintenance including new rear fencing plus the costs associated with an underground water leak.*
- *There were 95 members in 2014/15 – fairly evenly split between adults and juniors.*
- *2015/16 fees to remain the same as for 14/15.*
- *Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Daisy Edwards, Hector Ling, Max Morgan, Harry Saddleton.*
- *Charlotte Jefferies and Nicole Desbêtes were formally added to the Committee. The Chair and the existing Committee would continue.*
- *A tribute was made to Ellen – her husband Bernard, daughter Sara and son Leon were in attendance and presented trophies to the club tournament winners. There was also a nice photographic display featuring Ellen over her years at the club.*

March

A new social tennis session was introduced – 2pm on Thursday afternoons. In its initial weeks there was a good attendance, but numbers have fallen somewhat in April.

April

Results have come in for the SFWL winter season 2015/15. We were not terribly successful in this campaign.

The Men's I team, having risen from Division 7 to Division 3 over the last five seasons, (not unexpectedly) struggled with a lack of players and tough competition for most of the season, and finished bottom of Division 3 with only one win. Seven of the fourteen matches were unplayed or conceded.

The Men's II team fared slightly better in Division 6, winning 2 matches and ending up one from bottom.

Both teams are likely to be relegated.

For next season we need to decide whether we can sustain two men's teams.

The Mixed team played one match only before it was decided not to proceed in the league for that season.

The Tuesday evening social tennis resumed now that the lighter evenings have arrived. Up to 20 players have been attending.

The club has applied to join a new, informal, daytime midweek "seniors" league. We will have a mixed doubles team and play against a number of other clubs in the Chelmsford area – probably on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

The summer league matches commenced, with one men's team, one women's and one mixed – all in the CDLTF.

On 26th April the first of the traditional 7 annual "American" tournaments took place. There were 16 participants and a fair few visitors and spectators. The various colourful bunting was brought out of hibernation.

May

Spring cleaning / painting days are scheduled for 26th May & 7th June, including "shingling" of the gully area next to the car park. This year's Open Day provisionally set for 28th June.

The club has obtained a mobile phone as a contact number for enquiries – number 07486-126673.

Discussions take place with the Bowling Club which reconfirm the existence of the no smoking zone along the pathway behind the tennis courts.

The club devises a "tennis quiz" paper which will go on sale throughout the summer at £1 a sheet, with a prize of £25 for the winner.

June

Spring cleaning & maintenance works took place on 7th June, including repainting of the decking in front of the clubhouse. Thanks to the "phantom painter" Peter Wyatt.

The annual Open Day takes place, on 28th June. A good turnout for the morning coaching and mini-tennis, the speed gun challenge and barbecue, despite some light rain in the middle of the day. 20 players then took part in the American event in the afternoon. A presentation is made to Head Coach Hal Kannor, and award of honorary club membership, following his announcement that he will not be able to continue with Saturday coaching due to family and other commitments. New coaching arrangements are to be announced shortly.

The top speed gun score was achieved by Jimmy Innes with 87mph plus several other scores exceeding 70. Will Jefferies clocked up 71, Charlie C 59, Ben Roche 53 & John Galvin 52.

New windbreaks are fitted along the side of court 3 next to the car park.

July

The club has its usual stand at the I&F Horticultural Summer Show

August

New Head Coach is appointed – Nicholas Hilder.

The club obtains a new scoreboard from China via ebay.

September

We obtain a secondhand umpire's chair via ebay and a bit of haggling. Many thanks to Dave Kinch for driving to Tenterden to pick it up.

Notices are put up outside the courts to discourage the use of bicycles, trikes, scooters and similar vehicles within the precincts of the courts!

The club championships took place, with one final on the 12th and the rest on 13th September.

MS – James Edwards bt Samuel Bromiley 6-2 7-5

WS – Rachel Edwards bt Sue Rogers 6-0 6-0

MD – David Kinch & Jimmy Innes bt James Edwards & John Galvin 3-6 7-6(6) 6-1

WD – Cecily Massey & Rachel Edwards bt Liz Wyatt & Charlotte Jefferies 4-6 6-4 6-2

MX – Charlotte Jefferies & James Edwards bt Nicole Desbêtes & Samuel Bromiley 6-4 6-3

U18 – Samuel Bromiley bt Peter Wheeler 6-0 6-0

U14 – Luke McGee bt Peter Wheeler 6-4 6-4

50+ mixed – Cecily Massey & David Kinch bt Nicole Desbêtes & John Bright 6-2 6-4

A Members' Survey is carried out. 17 responses are received, with a majority keen for Sunday morning activities such as "Cardio Tennis", tactical sessions and social play.

27 September - plans on display for the possible new clubhouse - we welcome comments from members.

October

11 October - new Sunday morning Cardio Tennis & Doubles Tactics sessions commence.

18 October - The 9th Annual Pink American tournament raised £141.74 for the breast cancer charity. At the event we remembered our late friend Ellen, and were delighted to see her family in attendance as we placed a framed photo in the clubhouse. Her husband Bernard presented the prizes and kindly donated two bottles of wine to the overall winners. The prize for the pinkest person went to David Kinch, who as far as we could establish did not have a single non-pink item of clothing on.

The overall American champion for 2015 was Kevin Wheeler with 99 games won, followed by Nita Grainge on 90, Will Jefferies on 89 and Liz Wyatt (the winner on the day) on 86.

Congratulations to Kevin, Nita, Clare Wheeler, Ben Roche and John Galvin who participated in all 7 events this year.

21 October – Inspection of club premises by the Water Board.

Nick arranges a racket testing and equipment morning on 24th October, hosted by Original Sports of Leigh-on-Sea. Adults and juniors can try out the latest rackets, browse clothing and other accessories and benefit from a free racket gripping service.

A new coaching initiative - a half-term junior camp on 26, 28 & 30 October.

Results are received for the summer's Chelmsford league matches.

The men finish 3rd, despite winning more matches than any other team in their division. They are only 4 points short of promotion.

The women finish 5th, the same as last year, a good achievement when one considers the players who have been lost to the side or relatively unavailable this summer.

The mixed team were in a very close division, with only 5 points separating the promotion and relegation zones.

Ingatestone avoid relegation by a mere half a point.

All 3 of our teams should stay in the same divisions for Summer 2016.

A curious discovery when we were getting the tournament trophies engraved. We discover that the winners' names engraved on the mixed doubles cup for the years 1986-1994 are different from the winners shown on the club honours board and in our archives. Further research is carried out. We discover that the names on the cup for this period actually relate to a separate autumn / winter mixed event which took place in that period. At some stage in the late 1990s the winter mixed cup became used for the main summer mixed tournament. An explanatory note has been added to the statistical historical archive.

November

1 November - Entries close for the club quiz paper, which we had been running since Spring. The winner, with a splendid 24 correct out of 25 is Cecily Massey.

High winds cause the new windbreaks to damage the fencing and fence posts between Court 3 and the car park. Assessment of the remedial works needed is being carried out.

A survey of members to be carried out to gauge the level of support for possible future club developments.

Plans to hold a Quiz Night as part of general fundraising initiatives.

Discussions on obtaining club branded clothing, especially for juniors and the coaching staff.

December

19th – Xmas coaching special. After the “holiday period”, coaching due to resume Saturday 16th and Tuesday 19th January.

20th – Nick hosts an external junior mini-tennis tournament. In the younger group Hayden Bonnington won against Daisy Edwards. In the older group Jemima Ling triumphed in a close 3-set battle against Reggie Edwards.

2016

9 January - We aimed to re-launch the Singles Ladder, with a handicap system to make it more of a "level playing field". All members invited to enter. But things are placed on hold due to insufficient interest.

9 January - Members' Survey is issued, in order to obtain comments on the possible future development of facilities like a new clubhouse and/or floodlighting. Some lengthy and articulate replies were received with most respondents favouring the prioritisation of floodlighting. The Committee unanimously agree to progress things.

A new formula is agreed for membership fees in respect of new members joining part way through a year. Those joining in October to December to pay 50% of the full rate; those joining January to March to pay 25%.

7 February. Nick holds a free trial session of “Touch Tennis” for members & non-members. (Touch Tennis is a simplified alternative to the mainstream game, which allows skilful play to flourish at the expense of power-hitting. Played on a reduced-size court with foam balls and shorter rackets, Touch Tennis' regulations aim to foster long, intense rallies, clever angle play and an energetic experience).

AGM (10th February):

- *The Chair reported on another successful Open Day, the excellent work from our previous coach Hal and new coach Nick's many initiatives and the ongoing commitment of assistant coaches Sam B & Will J., the continued development of the website & other social media usage, the grant-funded windbreaks and landscaping improvements & other enhancements, including the purchase of an umpire's chair & a basic scoreboard. Unfortunately the windbreaks created some problems in strong autumn winds and remedial works are required. Tribute was paid to the help provided in recent years (odd jobs, "phantom" gardening etc!) from Peter Wyatt, and it was noted that Peter & Liz would be moving away from the area in about 3 months' time.*
- *The Chair has been acting as Treasurer, with some help from our former Treasurer Carolyn Searle. Membership subscriptions down somewhat; coaching income up significantly but so is coaching expenditure; operational surplus of £1,622. Overall assets £28,654 as at September 2015 – this is healthy but insufficient to cover proposed developments.*
- *A 5% rise in membership fees is anticipated for 2016/17, and some increase in coaching fees, which had been frozen for the last two years.*
- *A very slight fall (4%) in the number of members this year to 91(47 seniors, 44 juniors)- the lowest total since records began, (although details are missing for a few years).*
- *Junior awards to members of coaching groups: Lexi McCallum, Hayden Bonnington, Ben Roche & Will Jefferies.*
- *This year there were no presentation of trophies to the tournament winners – in view of the long 5 –month gap between the finals' weekend and the AGM it had been decided it was better to present the cups immediately after the finals in September, otherwise the winners would only get to hold their trophy for just over half of the year.*
- *The Chair, Secretary and the existing Committee were unanimously re-elected.*
- *The Chair discussed possible future developments at the club. A consultation exercise had revealed that a majority of members favoured prioritising floodlighting, so this matter will be further progressed. At least two club members are keen to assist in the project.*
- *The question of drainage and flooding was discussed and one or two possible solutions came up, although it was noted that things had not been so bad this winter.*

Week commencing 22 February - Fencing works take place to remedy wind damage. A new club board and windbreak were installed in the second week of March.

March

Club members are issued with a procedure for rubbish disposal and keeping the premises clean and tidy.

Easter weekend coaching featured an Easter Egg hunt.

More strong winds cause some damage to the new fence posts, causing one to snap. Further remedial works to come in the week commencing 18th April.

April

Results come in for the SFWL. Ingatestone teams enjoy a good season. The men in Division 6 finish third, only 3 points short of promotion, while both the women's and mixed teams win their respective Division 5s with a bit to spare and move onwards and upwards. Overall Ingy teams win 20 and draw 3 out of 29 matches – a very high success rate. More details can be found in the "Records & Statistics" section.

May

22nd May saw a farewell presentation by the Club Chair John Galvin to two of our most regular and enthusiastic members, Liz & Peter Wyatt, who are moving out of the area to the bucolic charms of the Suffolk / Norfolk borders. They'll be much-missed, but we're sure they'll pop in and see us from time-to-time.

August

A new net is fitted to Court 1, the old one having seen better days.

September

The club championships took place, with one final on the 10th September, six on the 11th, and one delayed until the 17th.

MS – James Edwards bt Samuel Bromiley: 6-4 7-6(6)

WS – Rachel Edwards bt Teresa Ravenscroft: 6-2 6-1

MD – James Edwards & Richard Emond bt Kevin Wheeler & John Bright 6-4 6-4
WD – Rachel Edwards & Krassimira Jeliazkova-Jones bt Melissa White & Teresa Ravenscroft: 6-3 3-6 6-4
MX – Krassimira Jeliazkova-Jones & James Edwards bt Jean Holland & Samuel Bromiley
U18 – Samuel Bromiley bt William Jefferies: 6-1 6-0
U14 – Reggie Edwards bt Peter Wheeler: 4-1 4-0
50+ mixed – Krassimira Jeliazkova-Jones & John Bright bt Nicole Desbêtes & David Kinch 6-4 6-4

James & Krassimira join the exclusive club of those who have won three titles in one season.

On the 25th September the monthly American tournament was combined with a “fun day”, including a barbecue and “speed of serve” contest. Nick Hilder clocked the fastest serve, matching Jimmy Innes’s 87mph at last year’s open day. James Edwards & Robert Elsdon were not far behind, also exceeding 80mph.

October

20 players took part in the 10th annual “wear It Pink” Charity American tournament. Clare Wheeler and Kevin Wheeler were the highest scorers on the day. Chair John Galvin was nominated the “Pinkest Person”. Jean Holland won the “pink object wall” competition and generously donated her winnings to the charity. This was the 7th and last American event for 2016. Nick Hilder won the cup for the highest aggregate – 105 games won over the season – an all-time record.

Results are received for the summer’s Chelmsford league matches.

The men, in their 6-a-side league, finish top of Division 4, with only one defeat all summer, and are promoted, with Marconi II.

The women finish 5th for the third year running, but some 40 points adrift of the top teams.

Once again, the mixed team was in a very close division, with not that many points separating the promotion and relegation zones. We finish third, 2.5 short of promotion, 5 clear of relegation. Our total of 41 points is remarkably similar to the previous two seasons where we totalled 40.5 and 39.5.

Ingatestone win the CDLTF seniors’ Midweek Daytime League. Grove needed 7 points from their last match to overtake us but managed zero.

In the Brentwood League, Ingatestone men’s finish a strong 4th with 65 sets won in 14 matches.

November

Cecily Massey is co-opted as a new member of the club committee.

A revised version of the club’s Code of Conduct is produced.

Nicole Desbêtes & David Butt notify of their intention to stand down from the committee.

It is agreed to plant some climbing shrubs by the fence in the north-east corner.

An end-of-season club curry evening took place on the 30th November, with 21 members attending.

December

Brentwood Council have provided guidance on matters to be considered within any formal application which might be made re planning permission for floodlighting; the tennis club will be seeking professional advice in this regard.

The weekend of 17/18 December sees some seasonal coaching sessions, complete with snow machine.

2017

January

Jacinta Whitfield is proposed as a new member of the Committee.

There is to be some re-jigging of individual committee members’ roles.

An updated Health & Safety document is to be published shortly.

The old stock of club T-shirts & sweatshirts is on offer to members at a knock-down price.

It was reported that PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) of electrical items in the clubhouse had recently taken place by Andrew Jefferies.

February

A sub-committee is to meet to progress matters relating to floodlighting.

The club applies to enter the LTA Aegon Team Tennis competitions for Summer 2017, with an 8&under mini-tennis team and a men's team. (The men's team did well, coming in a strong 2nd place; The 8 & Under team won one match out of 4, but improved with every match).

Co-op Community Card Scheme

The tennis club has signed up to the Co-op card scheme, and Charlotte Jefferies has cards for any member who would like one. If you shop in any Co-op branch, including Quadrant in Chelmsford, for every pound spent the club gets points which can be cashed for fundraising activities. Co-op even donates 50% on top.

"Hurricane Doris" causes some damage to fencing. Some remedial repairs were carried out on 25th February, with more substantial ones to follow.

AGM (1st March):

- *The Chair reported on what was a typical year in many ways. We reached 99 members, and were urged to try and recruit more. There were 2 or 3 enjoyable curry nights and two league titles to celebrate.*
- *Nick had continued on the coaching front "unabated" – helped by Samuel Bromiley & Will Jefferies. A new initiative for 2017 would be an entry in the LTA's Aegon Team Tennis event, with an 8 & Under team as well as a men's team.*
- *New fencing had been erected, but had suffered from two phases of wind damage, most recently caused by "Doris". Two new nets had been purchased.*
- *On the committee front it was confirmed that Nicole Desbêtes & David Butt were stepping down, and Suzanne Emond was relinquishing secretarial duties (although remaining as membership sec.) in favour of Charlotte Jefferies. Mandy Butt was to oversee mini-tennis bookings. Cecily Massey had joined the committee, and it was confirmed at the AGM that Jacinta Whitfield would also join.*
- *Charlotte had introduced a clubhouse maintenance rota, and Krassimira Jeliazkova-Jones and Sue Bonnington added their name to the schedule of volunteers. Charlotte also talked about the Co-op scheme as described above. Charlotte, with Richard Emond, had plans to carry out horticultural improvements.*
- *The Chair gave an update on floodlighting. One or two neighbours were objecting, but plans were in progress with a pre-application approach to the Council bringing a quite positive officer response. A working party had been set up, an LTA "tennis club activator" would meet us soon, and we would be talking to other local clubs about their experiences. The Chair was also working closely with the IFCA re funding sources. In response to members' questions, it was noted that installation of lights might affect the type of court surface we have. Ideally, we would seek lights for all 3 courts, but at £10,000+ per court we had to see how the finances panned out. The aim was for planning permission to be submitted later this year.*
- *Junior medal winners were Anya Stevart, Cameron Turner-Bowes, Odhrán Whitfield & Hattie Himsworth.*
- *We had a reasonable excess of income over expenditure, but some £3,000+ had been needed for fencing works. Coaching income was up quite a lot, but so was coaching expenditure. Funds in the bank were now in the region of £30,000.*
- *A higher-than-average number of members attended, and many enjoyed the food & drink on offer and the opportunity to socialise.*

April

Results come in for the SFWL. Ingatestone men win Division 6 and are promoted. Having been promoted in the previous season, the women's team struggles a bit this time around and are 6th out of 7 and due to be relegated back whence they came. The mixed team has a good season in their new, higher, division and finish joint 2nd only 2 points behind the league winners. They may just miss out on promotion as the team they are tied with achieved more wins.

Overall (including "unplayed matches") Ingy teams win 17 draw 6 out of 38 matches. More details can be found in the "Records & Statistics" section.

Congratulations to Sue Rogers, her daughter Alison, & Sara Kelly (daughter of Ellen Gormley) for completing the London Marathon on 23rd April and raising many £000s for their charities (Sense & Sarcoma UK).

June

Nick holds a successful junior tournament for under-8s and under-10s on June 17th.

July / August

Nick has a successful time on the British Tennis Tour:
Strathgryffe – he reaches the 5th-8th Playoff Final
Billericay – he loses in the semi-final to the eventual winner
Penarth – he loses in the semi-final to the eventual winner, then wins the 3rd place final
Frinton – loses in the last 16 to the eventual winner
Connaught - he loses in the semi-final to the eventual winner

September

IFTC have been shortlisted for a £500 grant from Skipton Building Society under their "Grassroots Giving" scheme. Voting takes place online or in branches throughout September.

The club championships took place on 10th September:

MS – Samuel Bromiley bt Stephen Carter 6-4 6-2
WS – Rachel Edwards bt Teresa Ravenscroft 6-2 6-1
MD – Will Jefferies & Samuel Bromiley bt Daniel Himsworth & James Edwards 6-0 6-2
WD – Clare Wheeler & Rachel Edwards bt Teresa Ravenscroft & Jean Holland 6-1 6-2
MX – Clare Wheeler & James Edwards bt Rachel Edwards & Stephen Carter 7-6 6-3
U18 – Will Jefferies bt Reggie Edwards 2-6 6-1 7-5
U14 – Reggie Edwards bt Hayden Bonnington 6-2 6-2
50+ mixed – Nicole Desbêtes & John Bright bt Nita Grainge & Kevin Wheeler 6-2 6-3

October

The "Singles Ladder" is re-launched. 24 players were taking part (as at December 2017).

The Brentwood League results were received. Ingatestone men had a record-breaking season, winning all 14 matches to achieve a club record points total of 100.5 out of a possible maximum of 112. They are promoted to Division 5 for 2018.

22nd October. The 11th annual "Wear it Pink" charity day took place. £105 was raised for the charity in aid of breast cancer research. £1,186 has now been raised since the event started in 2007.

The "Pinkest Person" prize went to "cowgirl" Clare Wheeler. The overall American champion for 2017 was Will Jefferies.

November

Results are received for the summer's Chelmsford league matches.

The men, in their 6-a-side league, finish second in Division 3, just one point behind champions Chelmsfordians II, suffering only one defeat all summer, and were promoted for the second year running.

The women finish a good third, after three years of coming 5th.

The mixed Division 3 was again quite closely contested. Despite the unavailability all season of our four strongest players we finished in a comfortable third position, 8.5 points short of promotion, but 14 clear of relegation. Our points total of 43.5 was our highest for four years.

In the CDLTF seniors' Midweek Daytime League, Ingatestone mixed were affected by the absence of several players, but came a strong third, only three points behind the winners. In fact, going into the last match they still had a chance of claiming the title they won in 2016.

We also entered a women's team in this midweek league, but they finished 7th and bottom, not helped by a spate of injuries, accidents, illness and absences.

7th November: Following a public vote, IFTC have won a £500 grant from Skipton Building Society under their "Grassroots Giving" scheme. The award will be used to provide tennis shirts for our junior players.

With regard to the floodlighting project, following a topographical survey and assessment of lighting spillage by the prospective contractors, a planning application is to be drafted for submission to the local authority.

Phase 1 of moss killing & court washing is carried out by contractors.

December

In an attempt to deal with longstanding drainage problems affecting Court 1 and the entrance path area, it has been agreed that the IFCA will fund the installation of a sump pump. An underground outlet pipe will run to the drain outside the clubhouse WC.

A club night out at Nirvana restaurant on 20th December.

2018

January

Trees alongside the entrance pathway from the car park are cut back in early January. It is hoped that this will help reduce the amount of debris on the courts, dampness and moss growth.

Phase 2 of moss killing & court washing.

February

AGM (7th February)

- *Membership continued to rise, and had now reached 117.*
- *Coaching continued to be popular, especially in the younger age groups. The 11-18 age range was still under-represented. Adult coaching had a new lease of life by the introduction of a new structured and focussed programme. Thanks to coaching assistants Samuel Bromiley (who had departed to Australia) and Will Jefferies who was now preparing for university.*
- *Repairs and maintenance saw less expenditure, at least until late in the year. All the nets have now been replaced; there were some limited fencing repairs, major moss removal and court cleaning plus the need to replace felt roofing to the clubhouse which had been lost in high winds. The trees surrounding the courts have been cut back by the IFCA, who also agreed to pay for the installation of a sump pump which it is hoped will cure the flooding problem. Courts 1 & 2 will need resurfacing in the next 2 or 3 years.*
- *The Chair gave an update on floodlighting. We were now almost ready to submit (through IFCA) a formal application for planning permission to the local authority*
- *The Chair confirmed he is now standing down after around 10 years in the role, but would remain on the Committee for at least one more year to oversee the floodlighting project, act as club rep to the IFCA and to handover financial management to a new Treasurer.*
- *Junior medal winners were Matilda Himsworth, Iona Whitfield, Joseph Taylor-Widgery, Bella Carr.*
- *We again had a reasonable excess of income over expenditure (£2,409). Funds in the bank were now £32,336.*

This year the club aims to enter 10 teams in various summer competitions – probably a record number: a men's team in BDLTA, men's, mixed and women's in CDLTF, mixed and women in CDLTF midweek seniors and 4 teams in the LTA Team Tennis events (under 8, 9, 10 & men). (In fact, by April this had become 8 teams rather than 10, as there were not enough players to sustain a senior women's team, and under ECLTA rules the 10 & unders had to be jettisoned after conceding their first match).

March

A planning application for floodlighting is submitted to Brentwood Council. Their determination is expected by early May.

Drainage works take place, including the installation of a pump, with the hope that these will ameliorate or indeed eliminate the longstanding problems of flooding in the entrance path and Court 1 area.

April

The results are announced for the SFWL. The men's team comes 3rd, in a tight mid-table position, having achieved 4 wins and 2 draws out of twelve matches, plus some average points for a snowed-off match. The mixed team achieves a safe mid-table 4th position, and was not so far off a promotion place once again. The women's team became short of players, so abandoned participation after two matches.

June

3rd June sees a club spring cleaning and grounds maintenance day.

9th June – the club participates in the "Strawberry Fayre" at the local junior school.

13th June – a club social evening at Nirvana, which also celebrated the 10-year tenure of John Galvin as club Chair.

Repairs are carried out to the pathway leading from the car park to the tennis and bowling clubs.

July

7th July – Plumbing works carried out. We now have a new loo, basin & floor, plus a good water supply in the kitchen.

8th July – A successful and well-attended Open Day. Visitors enjoyed coaching, cardio tennis, a BBQ, speed of serve competition, ball machine drills, a raffle and a fun doubles tournament to round off the day.

The fastest servers were: Dave Kinch (88mph) Nick Hilder (87) Shaun McGee (82). On the female front Jacinta clocked up 58, Krassie 51 and Heather 46. The top two youngsters were Hayden (61) and Odhran (55).

17th July – Brentwood Council reject the proposal for floodlighting at the tennis club.

September

4th & 5th September – Repairs are carried out to the rear of the car park.

The club championship finals took place on 8th & 9th September:

MS – Samuel Bromiley bt Reggie Edwards 6-2 6-1

WS – Rachel Edwards bt Helen Spencer 6-0 6-3

MD – Peter Wheeler & Samuel Bromiley bt Phil Lloyd & Ivo Jones 6-4 6-3

WD – Daisy Edwards & Rachel Edwards bt Gráinne Stephenson & Kate Sutton 6-4 6-0

MX – Daisy Edwards & Samuel Bromiley bt Nicole Desbêtes & James Edwards 6-2 6-4

U18 – Reggie Edwards bt Will Jefferies 6-4 6-4

U14 – Daisy Edwards bt Hayden Bonnington 7-6 6-2

50+ mixed – Clare Wheeler & John Bright bt Nicole Desbêtes & Dave Kinch 6-3 5-7 6-4

In the two new junior events:

10&under – Thomas Taylor-Widgery bt Daisy Edwards 4-2 5-4

8&Under - Frankie Edwards bt Anya Stevart 10-3

October

21st Oct – The 12th annual charity Pink tournament took place. The amount raised (£220) broke all previous records by a mile, aided by a generous donation of £50 from Grove TC's match secretary.

The "Pinkest Person" award went to Liz Wyatt. The overall American champion for the summer was Clare Wheeler.

November

The Brentwood League results were received. Our men's team did well in Division V, finishing third, and just squeaked into the promotion zone. League champions were Hutton V, with Writtle II second.

In the Chelmsford Seniors' Daytime Midweek League, Ingatestone achieved a record points total of 35, and are champions, winning the league by 4 points from Forrester Park. It was our second win in this event in the last 3 years.

December

Chelmsford & District LTF summer results are received.

Ingatestone men finish third in a very close Division II, only 5.5 points away from the second promotion slot, and indeed only 7.5 points above the relegation zone. Interestingly, the two promoted teams (Grove II and Chelmsfordians II) were ones whom we beat four times out of four, while the relegated teams (Danbury II and Hamptons I) beat us three times out of three.

Ingatestone women finished in a comfortable mid-table third place in their Div 4, and the mixed team in a similarly secure 4th place in Div 3.

5th December – A Juniors' Xmas meal is held at "The Lounge" in the High Street.

2019

February

AGM (28th February)

- *Membership continued to rise, and had now reached 127 – the highest since 2010 (although some way short of the all-time record of 257 back in 1982). 57% of members are juniors. Subscription fees will rise very slightly this coming year.*
- *Coaching: Following attendance at the "Strawberry Fayre", a coaching link has been set up with Ing Junior School with morning sessions to take place. Junior members attended an Xmas dinner at The Lounge. Mini-tennis saw a rise in Red Ball numbers but a dip in Tots. More older juniors had been attending following the session being broadened to encompass fitness training. The new 5-hour holiday camps with multi-sports had been very successful.*
- *The Open Day in July had enjoyed good weather.*
- *The club again welcomed pupils from the AES from April to July.*
- *The T-shirts had been purchased with the Skipton Building Society grant.*

- *The clubhouse will need substantial repairs in the near future, but we will first await the outcome of the floodlighting appeal – see below. The loo had been replaced last summer. The IFCA had repaired the concrete path and installed the drainage pump. The pump had been a considerable success with no flooding experienced since.*
- *Update on floodlighting: Despite the Council officials recommending approval, the Planning Committee rejected the application in July. The IFCA and the IFTC Committee felt that they had disregarded their officers' advice and misrepresented the application. An appeal was made to the planning Inspectorate in December 2018.*
- *Mandy Butt is stepping down, after many years on the Committee.*
- *Junior medal winners were Hetti Snell, Daisy George, Rosie George, Evan Bonnington.*
- *The Treasurer reported a strong financial year with a surplus of £2,618 (compared to £2,409 in the previous year). Income was £23,231, mainly from coaching & membership subscriptions; Expenditure was £20,613, with increased spending on coaching, repairs & maintenance and one-off professional fees associated with the floodlighting project. Funds in the bank were now £34,954. £3,600 was moved from our current account to a higher-interest savings account.*

April

The results come in for the SFWL 18/19.

Ingatestone men only win one match, but manage to avoid relegation, to retain their place in Division 4. The mixed team finish in a solid 4th position, having won 6 matches, drawn 2 and lost 4.

The summer leagues commence, with men, women, mixed and senior teams participating in the Chelmsford (CDLTF) leagues. For this season our men's team has withdrawn from the Brentwood (BDLTA) league, due to there being a few key absences from the squad, plus the lack of a captain.

May

On 12th May we hold a successful "Adults & Kids" mini-tennis event. The winning pair were Suzanne Emond & Odhrán Whitfield.

17th May - Last year the IFCA applied on our behalf for planning permission to install floodlighting on the courts. Last July Brentwood Council refused to grant permission on the grounds of the adverse impact that would result to local residents. The IFCA exercised its right to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against the Council's refusal based on the fact that Council officials had recommended that permission be granted subject to certain conditions (which we had accepted) and because of the many inaccurate statements made by Councillors at the planning decision hearing. The IFCA has now been notified by the Planning Inspectorate that the appeal has been rejected, again on the grounds of the detriment to the nearest residents. We and the IFCA accept this decision and have no further plans in respect of floodlighting for the foreseeable future. We will examine the options for alternative improvements to the facilities at the Club, such as a new Clubhouse and/or resurfacing the courts.

19th May – Club members Neil Bromiley & John Bright win the LTA Grade 3 40 & over doubles event at Grove LTC in Chelmsford, losing only 5 games in total at the semi-final and final stages.

June

Repairs are carried out to the higher fencing to the rear of Court 3.

8th June – We hold a very special exhibition day, featuring top GB professional Marcus Willis (who memorably played Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2016). The day included coaching for the junior performance squad, a "Q&A" session, ball signing, an exhibition set of singles v IFTC's own Nick Hilder, doubles masterclasses, BBQ, raffle and a spot-the-ball competition. Photos of the day can be found in the club website gallery. Marcus hopes to return to us in 2020.

July

Several club members participated in the Essex Open at Billericay Tennis Club. Daisy Edwards won the 10 & under singles and doubles, and reached the final of the 12 & under doubles. John Bright won the 50 & over singles. Nick Hilder reached the QF of the Open Singles and the SF of the doubles. Frankie Edwards came 3rd in the 8 & under event. Reggie Edwards reached the last 16 of the 12 & under singles & the final of the doubles. Thomas Taylor-Widgery took part in the 10 & under singles and doubles.

September

The annual club championships took place on 7th & 8th September.

Men's Singles: Samuel Bromiley bt James Edwards 26 63 75

Women's Singles: Rachel Edwards bt Masha Jones 64 62

Men's Doubles: Samuel Bromiley & Nicola D'Orazio bt James Edwards & Richard Emond 62 61

Women's Doubles: Daisy Edwards & Clare Wheeler bt Teresa Ravenscroft & Masha Jones 36 64 61

Mixed Doubles: Clare Wheeler & James Edwards bt Gráinne Stephenson & Samuel Bromiley 26 63 64

50+ Mixed: Gráinne Stephenson & John Bright bt Clare Wheeler & Neil Bromiley 64 64

Under 18s: Thomas Taylor-Widgery bt Ivo Jones 75 61

Under 14s: Hector Ling bt Thomas Taylor-Widgery 62 61

10 & Under: Hector Ling bt Thomas Taylor-Widgery 41 42

8 & Under: Evan Bonnington bt Eliza Ling 10-3

October

20th Oct – The 13th annual charity Pink tournament took place. The amount raised exceeded £150 with a few more donations yet to come in. The winner on the day was Peter Wyatt. The “Pinkest Person” award went to Clare Wheeler. The “Pink Flamingo” game was won by Nolan Dupuy. The overall American champion for the summer was John Bright.

Chelmsford League results are received for summer 2019.

It was our most successful season ever, with 70% of matches won – 28 out of 40.

The men's team came 2nd in the very tough Division 2 and thus qualify for promotion to the even stronger Division 1 in 2020 – the first time ever that an Ingatestone team have reached the top division.

The women won 8 matches out of 12 in a strong season, but missed out on the 2nd promotion position by three and a half points.

Our mixed team narrowly claimed 2nd place and are eligible for promotion to Division 2, where they feature for the first time in a decade.

December

Moss treatment and court cleaning works are completed on 6th December.

8th December - The tennis club offers free mini-tennis coaching as part of the IFCA & Rotary Club Xmas Market.

2020

February

Strong winds damage court fencing. Emergency repairs carried out.

March

The worldwide coronavirus epidemic affects many tennis activities (and much else). Group coaching, the AGM, Quiz Night, the first American tournament and all summer league matches are cancelled. The IFCA Community Centre closes its doors for now.

The SFWL for 2019/20 is called to a halt, with unplayed matches being subject to an average points calculation. Ingatestone men finish bottom of Division 4; our mixed team are 5th in Division 4, in lower mid-table.

June

Restricted social play and coaching resumes, with a court booking system and social distancing and other procedures in operation.

July

Works are carried out to lay paving slabs in the area to the front of the clubhouse, realign the pathway and carry out some returfing, to try and alleviate the muddiness that occurs in wet weather. Many thanks to the manual labourers – Richard Emond, Neil Bromiley, Jasper Jefferies & Will Jefferies.

October

Head Coach Nick Hilder announces his departure from the club after 5 years of much achievement.

The 14th annual “pink” American tournament took place on 11th October – the only American we were able to hold in 2020. An excellent attendance with 27 players plus spectators. It was good to have some participants from other local clubs (Mountnessing & Hamptons). The money raised was our highest total ever at £300. Charlotte Jefferies was the pinkest person. The sweepstake games were won by Emma Jefferson and Kathryn Field. The winner of most games on the day was Eva Delgado-Pelarda.

December

Tennis suffers a nationwide lockdown once again.

2021

March

Tennis courts are due to reopen on 29th March. Easter coaching camps are planned, plus a resumption of other coaching and mini-tennis.

League tennis is to resume, in a somewhat truncated format, later in the year.

The club has acquired some temporary portable rechargeable lighting to facilitate coaching and play in afternoons & evenings at darker times of the year. (No planning permission is required for these).

April

Courts 1 & 2 are resurfaced with a type of artificial grass called “Tiger Turf”. Court 3 has weed and moss treatment.

Club member Kathryn Field generously donates a Tennis Rebounder practice frame to the club.

May

An American tournament is arranged for 2nd May to “open” the new courts.

July

Court 3 has a respray, and now displays green and purple colours.

September

The annual club championships took place on 11th and 12th September.

Men's Singles: Thomas Taylor-Widgery bt John Bright 62 61

Women's Singles: Teresa Ravenscroft bt Jessica Bonnett 26 63 63

Men's Doubles: Will Jefferies & Adrian Bonnett bt Noel Moloney & Chris Hindle 64 75

Women's Doubles: Charlotte Jefferies & Teresa Ravenscroft bt Suzanne Emond & Jessica Bonnett 62 46 76(12)

Mixed Doubles: Cecily Massey & Steve Jarrett bt Suzanne Emond & John Bright 46 63 75

50+ Mixed: Nicole Desbetes & John Bright bt Jessica Bonnett & Richard Emond 61 16 61

We are delighted to have obtained sponsorship from:

Turner & George - Meat Merchants of London

Abigail's Delicatessen of Ingatestone

Walkers People & Property of Ingatestone

Their valued support has made a sizeable contribution towards the LTA loan for our new courts.

October

The 15th annual “Pink” charity tournament took place on a mild and quite sunny afternoon.

18 players took part – the winner on the day was Cecily Massey. Alan Murray won the pinkest person prize and also the pink sweepstake competition. Charlotte Jefferies won the “how many watermelons?” game.

Money raised £240.

The overall American champion for the year was Clifford Gbeckor-Kove.

2021 was our 13th season in the Chelmsford League.

The men found themselves in Division 1 for the first time ever. The standard of the opponents was very high, but some sets were won for us by the father & son combination of James & Reggie Edwards. Only 6 matches were scheduled. We almost certainly finished bottom of the league, but the final league tables have yet to appear. In any event, there was to be no promotion or relegation in 2021.

The women in Division 4, captained by Nicole Desbêtes, had 5 matches to play and won 2, drew 1 and lost 2. Again, no final league tables have materialised and there was no promotion or relegation at stake.

The mixed team in Division 3 of 4, under Gráinne Stephenson, only played 3 matches, the other 2 being cancelled by their opponents. They won 1 and lost 2.

The women's and mixed teams are continuing in the CDLTF in 2022. The men have elected to return to the other local league (Brentwood & District), where they previously participated from 2002 to 2018.

In the daytime midweek Chelmsford Seniors' League, it was our sixth season. We had won it 3 times previously but this time we finished second, some way behind the champions Forrester Park.

2022

April

Most membership fees are staying at the same or close to last year's basic rates, although there is to be no early bird / covid reduction this year.

A members' survey has taken place to help the club plan its future. 24 members respond.

A spruce-up day is planned for 24 April.

The AGM is set for 10 May, and will include a demonstration of the recently-installed defibrillator.

This year is our 50th anniversary on this site (and the club itself will be 130 years old), so we're planning a special event on 22 May.

An updated coaching chart of coaching activities has been prepared and disseminated to members.

Our original website has ended and we are now to be found exclusively at clubspark.lta.org.uk/IngatestoneFryerningTennisClub

The results came in for the SFWL season 2021/22.

Our men's team, playing in Division 6, did quite well, winning 7 of their 14 matches and being close to the promotion zone until the last few weeks of the season. In the end they finished in 4th place behind Bentley II, Ongar and Chelmsfordians III. They were unbeaten at home until the last match of the season (although that was actually a home match played away, so we could claim we were invincible on "home soil"). 44 sets were won at home and only 12 lost.

The mixed team won 3 and drew 2 of their 14 matches, and finished in 6th place above Writtle II and Hutton IV, and escaped relegation.

May

AGM (10th May)

- *Members were welcomed back to our first in-person AGM since 2019, due to the covid lockdown of 2020 and early 2021.*
- *The AGM report described the improvements to the club – the 2 new court surfaces 1&2, and the repainting of Court 3; the defibrillator; the 10 new portable floodlights; the new paving; the rebounder; the horticultural works by Neil Bromiley. Future projects include potentially a new clubhouse, subject to fundraising.*
- *The 2020 quiz night had had to be cancelled, but we recently held a successful wine-tasting evening. Our partnership with the Co-op continues, and there were still some cards available for members.*
- *Membership fluctuated during the pandemic – 127 in 2019, 82 in 2020, then back to 131 in 2021/22, but junior numbers were now low. Most fees stayed the same this year, but without an early bird concession.*
- *Josh Ratnage had replaced Nick Hilder as Head Coach.*

- *Charlotte Jefferies, Grainne Stephenson, Jacinta Whitfield and Phil Lloyd were stepping down from the committee, to be replaced by Jessica Bonnett, Neil Bromiley, Steve Jarrett and Adrian Bonnett.*
- *The Treasurer presented the accounts, which were approved, subject to independent audit to come. Despite the major capital expenditure in 2021, the club remains in a healthy financial position with £6,607 in the current account and £18,680.90 in the savings account.*
- *Suzanne Emond gave a demonstration of the defibrillator.*

May 22nd – We held a very successful anniversary / open day, marking 50 years in our current location (and 130 years as a club). A junior mini-tennis event was held, and junior medals were presented to the 4 best achievers in the last year (Keanna Fernando, Isla Hindle, Taylor Jarrett & Georgiana Major). A round-robin “American style” event took place throughout the afternoon, and a speed of service contest. The fastest legitimate serves were Josh Ratnage with 94 mph, Todd Ratnage 90mph, Adrian Bonnett 81mph, Chris Hindle 73mph.

It was great to welcome back many club legends from earlier times:

Joan Pateman (club secretary 1998-2003);

Pauline Watson (former club member);

Joe Watson (club secretary 1991);

Neil Macalister (match secretary 1986-1996);

Pauline Went (former club member and widow of former Chair);

Jean Heath (at least 7 singles titles - a club record - and 3 doubles titles between 1976 and 1993. Club Chair 1984-88);

Alison Norrington (singles champion 2002 2003 2004, women's doubles champion 2003 2004 2005, club secretary 2004-05 and regular league match player);

Simon Wills (4 times singles champion 1982 1986 1990 1991, plus 3 doubles titles 1989 1992 (MD) 1992 (MXD));

Liz Seville (club member and league match player);

Mark Cory (4 times men's doubles champion 2003 2006 2010 2011 and regular league match player);

Olga Quirke (regular club player);

Apologies were received from Mike Bysouth, Mick & Chris Marion, Hazel & Malcolm Argent. We were sorry to learn that Ron Went, former Chair & Treasurer and long-time member Robert Charleston, had passed away in recent years.

June

Near neighbours Mountnessing Tennis Club invited us to a social tennis evening on 10th June. A good turnout of some 22 people with lots of tennis, food and drink until past 11pm. Many thanks to MTC!

September

The annual club championships took place on 10th and 11th September, and enjoyed sunny weather and a large gathering of spectators.

Men's Singles: Thomas Taylor-Widgery bt Adrian Bonnett 60 61

Women's Singles: Teresa Ravenscroft bt Emily Sutton 64 16 63

Men's Doubles: Steve Jarrett & Taylor Jarrett bt Peter Spencer & Andrew Jefferies 75 63

Women's Doubles: Charlotte Jefferies & Jessica Bonnett bt Grainne Stephenson & Emily Sutton 62 64

Mixed Doubles: Charlotte Jefferies & Steve Jarrett bt Grainne Stephenson & Neil Bromiley 63 75

50+ Mixed: Charlotte Jefferies & John Bright bt Nicole Desbetes & Adrian Bonnett 75 64

Charlotte joins a select group of players who have won 3 Ingatestone titles in one year.

October

The 16th annual “Pink” charity event took place in quite sunny and mild conditions with some 16 players and a number of spectators, plus canine visitors Sasha and Bruce.

£221.00 has been collected for the charity this year.

The tennis winner on the day was Jo Redding of Mountnessing TC. The pinkest person was Janine Brecknell.

The overall American champion across the three events this year was John Bright.

In the daytime midweek Chelmsford Seniors' League, it was our seventh season, and we won the title for the 4th time, pipping close rivals Forrester Park by a few points. We won 5 matches and lost 1 (narrowly).

2023

January

The remaining results for the 2022 summer leagues are published.

A most successful season for IFTC - we played 33 matches, winning 26 drawing 3 and losing just 4.

The men, on their return to the Brentwood & District League won 9 matches out of 10, and *appeared* to have won Division 6 just pipping their close rivals Bentley II. However, 6 months after the season's end, and some 4 months after the deadline to submit results, Bentley claimed that one of their results was missing and this was accepted by the League Secretary and a majority at the AGM, meaning that they ended up with 2 points more than Ingatestone. Both teams were promoted.

In the CDLTF, our women won 7 drew 1 lost 1, to win Division 4 by 5 points and gain promotion. Our mixed team won 5 drew 2 and lost 1 to top Division 3 by 4.5 points. Both sides are eligible for promotion to the next division up.

March

The AGM took place on 1st March.

- *The Club Secretary welcomed members, and reviewed the last year, mentioning the anniversary event in May 2022, the 16% drop in membership to 110 members, the change to an online membership application process and the successful amalgamation of adult tennis club membership with the Community Association fee.*
- *Some new coaching sessions had been added in the year, and the coaching team expanded to include Janine Brecknell's sessions and assistance from Emily Sutton. Online booking for coaching was working well.*
- *Three sponsors' boards are now in use, from which we receive £1,500 a year.*
- *Future plans include new fencing, an LED floodlight system called "Tweener" and a new clubhouse.*
- *The Treasurer's report advised of a healthy balance of £31,643.*
- *The Match Secretary reviewed league results and club tournaments.*
- *Suzanne Emond, who is retiring from the committee after 20+ years, was thanked for all her work.*
- *Some very minor changes to the club constitution were approved.*

April

Double success in the Winter League (SFWL). Our men top Division 6, winning 12 matches out of 14, and are promoted. Our mixed team win 8 matches out of 12 in Division 4 and are champions.

May

The summer leagues start, with our three promoted teams in action. But initial results are not promising – the standard of opponents being more testing than last summer.

Our Head Coach Josh Ratnage, who has been with us since 2019, has moved on to pastures new with our best wishes. We welcome a new, experienced, Head Coach - Andy Dowsett. Andy will be assisted at specific sessions by Adam Jessett. Janine Brecknell continues her popular midweek group sessions.

August

On 6th August we had a successful first-ever yoga session, organized by member Nicky Harper.

Fees for guests to be changed for the first time since 2007. Will now be £6 per visit rather than £3, but with up to 10 visits allowed to any adult member's guest in any year.

There is to be a small change to the fee structure for public "pay & play" usage of Court 3.

The committee revisited the question of whether to levy match fees on league match players, but decided to retain the current policy of no fees.

In the summer league, the men's team are doing very well after a slow start, and have now won 8 and drawn 1 of 11 matches played so far. The mixed team are faring less well, with only one win, and may face relegation. The women's team are holding their own in a closely-contested division. The seniors' team are doing well with 4 comprehensive wins and one defeat.

Winter league fixtures for the 23/24 have been arranged. Most away matches are in the pre-Xmas period, with home fixtures in January – March. Winter women's captain to be Teresa Ravenscroft. Mixed captain to be Andy Luxford.

It is agreed to introduce a second men's team into the summer leagues for 2024. The current team to continue in the Brentwood League. A new team to be introduced into the lowest division of the Chelmsford League. A captain to be sought.

Works for new fencing and LED "tweener" floodlighting system due to commence in late September / early October. In the meantime, minor repairs are being carried out to two of the ten portable floodlights.

A "Golf Day" is planned for 9th September.

The annual "pink" charity American Tournament is set to start at 10am rather than the usual 12 noon. Morning events have proved to be popular this year.

An attempt is being made to fill the vacant post of Club Chair.

September

The annual club championships took place on 10th September, and enjoyed very warm and sunny weather and the largest number of spectators in living memory. Special guest visitor was local resident and former Olympic athlete, Fatima Whitbread.

Men's Singles: Thomas Taylor-Widgery bt Adrian Bonnett 60 61

Women's Singles: Jessica Bonnett bt Teresa Ravenscroft 64 26 61

Men's Doubles: Phil Lloyd & Taylor Jarrett bt Nicola D'Orazio & Luke Butler 64 63

Women's Doubles: Cecily Massey & Nita Grainge bt Kelly Mitchell & Julia Reynolds 62 75

Mixed Doubles: Charlotte Jefferies & Andy Luxford bt Grainne Stephenson & Peter Spencer 75 64

50+ Mixed: Charlotte Jefferies & John Bright bt Nita Grainge & Peter Spencer 61 63

October

The 17th annual "Pink" charity event took place in very sunny conditions, with a huge turnout of 29 players.

£300 has provisionally been collected for the charity this year, which equals our best-ever year.

There were three joint winners on the day – Clifford, Alan & Neil. The pinkest person was Alan.

The overall American champion across all 4 events this year was Neil.

In the CDLTF leagues, it was another pretty good season. Our women's and mixed teams had been promoted in 2022, so competition was always going to be tougher this year. The women were in a very close league with only 12 points separating the top and bottom teams. They won 5, drew 2 and lost 3. A draw in their final game would actually have made them champions, but it was not to be. The mixed team won 1 and drew 2 out of 10 matches, but survived the threat of relegation. In the midweek seniors' competition, Ingatestone were champions for the 5th time in the last 7 years.

On 17th October, the new LED "tweener" lighting system was installed for courts 1 & 2, and these should enable the club to play more tennis on the darker evenings of the year.

New windbreak screens have been installed.

November

A leaf-blower has been obtained, and some solar lighting on the pathway.

The Brentwood League results came in, and it seems that Ingatestone have won men's Division 5 and are promoted.

2024

February

The death was announced of club legend Deirdre Kemble – a club champion in the 1980s and 1990s at least 6 and 10 times respectively in singles and doubles.

March

The AGM took place on 19th March.

- *The Club Secretary welcomed members, and reviewed the last year. Membership had risen to 125 (88 adults and 37 juniors) – helped by the active promotion of the half-year and quarter-year reduced rates and the effect of the new Head Coach in encouraging new members. Membership fees to rise by approximately 10% for 24/25.*

- *The amalgamation of adult tennis club membership with the Community Association fee had been a success.*
- *Kelly Mitchell had done good work developing our presence on Instagram, Facebook and other media, and producing regular newsletters.*
- *Chris Hindle's report described the project for new fencing, and the LED floodlight "Tweener" system, completed in October 2023. The portable floodlights to be put up for sale.*
- *David Butt's report covered the new Singles Ladder – over 50 matches had now been played, and semi-final and final play-offs were coming in April.*
- *The Treasurer's report gave details of financial aspects. Surplus of around £10,000 after allowing for the major expenditure of October 2003 (see full report on website).*
- *The Match Secretary reviewed league results and club tournaments (see full report on website).*
- *Neil Bromiley's report gave an update on matters horticultural.*
- *Potential future plans included the refurbishment of Court 3 and the renovation or replacement of the clubhouse.*
- *Peter Spencer is to become club secretary and Jessica Bonnett club chair. The remainder of the committee is Adrian Bonnett (Treasurer), Chris Hindle, Neil Bromiley, Cecily Massey (Membership Secretary), John Bright, Steve Jarrett, Kelly Mitchell (full details on website).*
- *Some very minor changes to the club constitution were approved – relating to visitors' fees. Visitors to now be allowed to have up to 10 visits a year.*

April

A very thorough spring-cleaning weekend at the club on 6th & 7th April.

In the Winter League 2023/24, Ingatestone men have a very good season in Division 5, winning 11 matches out of 14 (75 sets out of 112), but frustratingly look like missing out on promotion by just one point. The women came second in Division 5 and comfortably won promotion. The mixed team go back down to Division 4 after only winning one match.