

Ombersley & Doverdale Tennis Club

School Bank | Ombersley | Nr Droitwich | WR9 0DR | Coaching Enquiries: 07963 477949



ODTC Autumn Newsletter 2021

WELCOME

Welcome to our Newsletter! Please do take a moment to catch up on what is happening at your Club and if you have anything you wish to include in the next Newsletter, please get in touch!

Chairman's Report

Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and slowly returning to normal after the trials and tribulations of the last year or so. I'm pleased to report that the club is in a very healthy state with strong membership numbers and a solid financial position. We have enjoyed an increase in membership - something of a general phenomenon for tennis clubs during the pandemic - but also boosted by some fantastic work by our coach and his assistants in running a lot of great coaching courses and by the efforts of many of our regular members who turn up each week in numbers to make the social and mix in tennis vibrant and enjoyable.

We at last completed the clubhouse which I hope you are enjoying, and the clubhouse and grounds are now looking in great condition. We will return to hosting more social events as we all get more confident of returning to normal and the new clubhouse will be a great facility to help us do that.

For the future we will make regular contributions to our resurfacing account and we do have the option to take more land adjacent to the club on the school side as and when demand may permit. This is something the committee are keeping an eye on and will depend on the continued growth of the club.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter and look forward to seeing you all at the club.

Regards,

Martin Cook

Email: cookmartinc@ymail.com

Treasurer's Report

The following figures are the £s in the bank on 14th September 2021.

HSBC Current	£8,232.81
HSBC Deposit	£7,748.65
HSBC Rebuilding account	£38.33
Santander Sinking fund, (for future resurfacing)	£25,555.00

The building of the Club House is now finished. We shall buy another set of table and chairs to match the existing to allow for a larger group to sit

around, ie the committee or a post- match drink with the visiting team. The final building inspector's certificate has at last been delivered. Unfortunately, to get this, we have had to install a very expensive fire alarm system, which I hope will never be needed.

The OCT has promised to pay the second half of their generous gift of £12,000 towards the re-building of the club house, now that the building certificate has been issued.

We will be looking to build up £50,000.00 for resurfacing when the current surface is no longer fit for purpose. The courts are in very good condition, due in part to the bi-annual moss treatment. This costs £1,100 a year, but will hopefully prolong the life of the surface. I met a representative from Stourport Tennis club who had come to look at the courts with a view to purchasing Tiger Turf who thought they looked new. They are in fact 5 years old.

We are eligible to claim S106 money, now available, at the time of the selling of the first house on the Building development in Ombersley. This is £29,000. We have several years to claim the money. It has to be spent on a new project that meets the approval of the powers that issue the money.

The committee are looking at the possibility of a new court on the school side once the school have transferred their playground to the east side. It cannot be used for basic maintenance of the club.

Although we managed to complete the building of the new clubhouse without going into debt, we did not transfer any money to the sinking fund last year. We will be able to transfer £6,000.00 this year.

As you will all know by now, the, due to the lock-down period this year. Your subs are 50% of what they should have been, so this years accounts are going to look a bit sick. At the beginning of the

pandemic, together with many small village clubs, we received a grant of £10,000.00 from Wychavon DC, (from the government), to help clubs survive throughout the pandemic. This will in fact cover the missing subs this year. The rest of it has gone on the ball machine, the shed, the car park lamp, some extra ground maintenance around the car park, and around the club house and the new gate. We are nevertheless hopeful that with an increased membership base, things will return to normal next year.

Thank you all for your continuing support. We still need to attract and welcome new members to the club. There are many hours when the courts are not in use. It is a condition of the granting of planning permission for the club that it should be open to the public to book as visitors. It is hoped that the ease with which non-members can book a court and enter (having paid) through the new gate will increase our revenue, and hopefully this will lead to them becoming new members.

John Davies

Email: johnrdavies1@icloud.com

Secretary's Report

Since our last newsletter in September 2020 printed in the middle of lockdown, the Club has taken a giant leap forward in comparison. Gone are the covid restrictions enabling us to use the Club as intended, with the new clubhouse finally at the centre of life at the Club.

Covid changed all of our lives and we are still ever mindful that this freedom to play could easily be snatched away again. But in the meantime, we have been making the most of the freedom to play and the Club has never looked busier.

Throughout lockdown, the committee continued to run the Club always looking for ways to improve

facilities and to ensure that the club maintains its high standards ever mindful that we must comply with LTA regulations to comply with our registration.

Despite restrictions we have made real progress and have been able to implement a court booking system, which has now been integrated with the new gate access system, both of which are running well. For the majority of members, we have had nothing but positive feedback with everyone enjoying the ease with which they can book courts using the Booker App. However, for some this change has not come easily and they are finding it difficult to adjust to a new way of doing things, but despite this you continue to support the Committee in its drive to improve the Club and make sure it continues to prosper.

As ODTC Secretary, I have had to send out many emails as guidelines constantly changed and new restrictions were imposed or lifted. Through it all, as always, I have received nothing but support from our members, which has made all the work and difficult decisions that have had to be made along the way much easier to deal with.

I would personally like to thank you all for this support.

Of course, we are not out of the woods, but I know I can depend on you for your help as we all work together treading the fine line between safety and freedom to play.

Looking to the future, and with the safety of its members very much to the forefront, the Committee will continue to work towards re-establishing that warm and friendly environment that Ombersley is renowned for whilst at the same time providing opportunities for social and competitive play throughout the year.

I shall look forward to seeing you on court playing tennis, socially at future events or just in passing as you pitch up to play. Until then, I hope you all stay

fit and healthy for the months ahead and enjoy playing tennis at Ombersley!

Liz Brandon

Email ODTCsecretary@gmail.com

Membership Secretary's Report

Over the last 12 months we have continued to see a stream of new people join the club. Our reputation for being a friendly easy-going club is growing and it is lovely to see new people enjoying our lovely courts and brand-new club house.

Our membership currently stands at 231. This includes 30 under 10s who have been enjoying the summer tennis camps that Mike has been running. We have had many students join this summer taking advantage of our summer student offer and it's great to see people also coming along to our social sessions.

I have endeavoured to ensure that everyone is now up and running on ClubSpark. We are now using this to hold our database and as we go forward it will be core to the running of the club.

There are a few of our members who are yet to register. **If you are unsure of your status on the system, please contact me and I can help you get set up.**

You will (hopefully) have recently received an email from me concerning your renewal of membership on the 1st October. This renewal will be at half our normal subscription rate and take us through to the 31st March. We have held the fees at the same level as the last 3 years for this renewal. With the club having had to close for periods over the last 12 months due to COVID restrictions and the crediting of the fallow months to members we now would like to get the membership year back running from 1st April 2022. This ties in well with the Wimbledon ballot which we hope will take place next year and is very popular with members.

Thank you for all paying your subscriptions promptly and supporting the club by paying visitor fees as appropriate. If you know anyone else who would like to join, please give them my details.

Helen Buchanan

Email: odtcmembershipsecretary@gmail.com

Event Organizer's Report

Social Tournaments

We had a very positive start post lockdown, beginning with a French themed American Doubles Tournament on 23rd May followed by a Wimbledon themed tournament on 4th July. Both were enjoyed by those who took part with members enjoying croissants and pastries mid-morning for the French Tournament and strawberries and cream after the Wimbledon Tournament.

Cheese and Wine



On the 9th July we enjoyed a Cheese and Wine party which took place after the Friday 4-6pm social. It was so lovely to chill and enjoy some cheese and wine in a relaxed atmosphere.

She rallies



The She Rallies girls and ladies' event on Sunday 11th July was a huge success. Claire Parker and Maddie Rollit, having attended a training day hosted by Judy Murray's team on behalf of the club, worked tirelessly throughout the day to ensure that all those participants who came along to the club had a very enjoyable and fun day. We are pleased to say that after the event we had a great response with several juniors joining the coaching sessions and some joining the club as members. A huge thanks to Claire and Maddie for their efforts in organising this event.

DRENE BAKER COFFEE MORNING

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Drene who was a popular and much-loved member of the Club. We shall all miss her, but she will not be forgotten. Over £700 for Kemp Hospice was raised at the coffee morning, when her daughter thanked the Club for the friendship she received from members during her time at the Club.

Open Day

The Highlight of my year as Events Organiser was the Official Opening of the new Clubhouse. After having to postpone the opening of the new clubhouse a week before lockdown in 2020 we were able to do so on Saturday 24th July 2021. Happily, the weather was on our side so even though access to the building was restricted to 6 people we were able to enjoy the building thanks to being able to open the two sets of bi-fold doors which linked the outside to the interior.

Chris Gait gave a speech thanking everyone involved with the rebuilding of the clubhouse and asked three founding members of the club, Sandie Smart, Sue Hughes and Lynne Larnder to mark the occasion by cutting a ribbon strung across the door.

As always, the cake makers excelled, and everyone rallied on the day to ensure that the day was a great success.

Finally, we have a **Christmas Meal booked for Wednesday 1st December at the Crown and Sandys**. Everyone is welcome. Please email me to confirm attendance.

We look forward to a year of more super events and if anyone has any ideas for a social, I would be more than happy to have ideas.

Jan Bath

Email: jan.bath52@yahoo.co.uk



Coach's Report:

Holiday camps

In 2021 we have put a big emphasis on marketing the kids holiday camps, we felt like this would be a great way to introduce children to the club and to tennis.

With a fresh multi sports twist on the camps, we felt we could engage with a larger audience & increase the camps attendance. This, coupled with a bit of a kick start off the back of the lockdowns & people wanting to partake in available sporting activities, saw the camps run with great success. We were able to achieve record numbers across Easter and over the Summer, with over 450 bookings across 5 weeks in the summer holidays.



Due to the holiday camps success, we have been able to donate some of the profits to the club, as a thanks to the club and Committee for continued support of the coaching programme.

Moving forward, the holiday camps will be key to ensuring that our club and the sport of tennis can continue to grow.

Junior Programme

Following the success of the summer camps, the Junior programme has been thriving over the last

couple of terms. We have had the highest number of attendees for the last 4 years, with over 40 junior players committing to weekly coaching sessions. Since the easing of lockdown restrictions, we have also been able to implement our termly coaching model, which has meant more consistency for parents, players and coaches.

Not only is the junior programme busy, but we have also been able to enter 3 different junior tennis teams into the mini leagues, another great step forward which hasn't happened in a number of years.

The mini red (8U) team did themselves proud over the summer term, showing great sportsmanship in their matches and winning 2 out of 3 of their matches against local rival teams. The 12U team also did a great job, winning one of their fixtures and putting up tough competition in the others.

Adult Programme

The adult programme has gone from strength to strength over the Summer with each of the groups being regularly well attended. Between myself and Andy across all of the sessions, we will see over 40 adult players in group coaching over the week, with a number more if you include individual coaching sessions.

A key reason for coaching at the club is to be able to help introduce new players into the sport and to integrate of them into the fabric of the club, whether that be in the direction of club social sessions, or team tennis.

One of the things that has been particularly pleasing to see is that we have been able to assist players from entering the club and transitioning from the rusty rackets session to develop the skills and confidence required to play in club socials and even team fixtures.

Notable mentions

Theo Houston (12) competed in a number of singles and doubles events over the summer, often stepping up to compete in under 16 competitions to gain singles experience against older and stronger players.



The highlight of the summer came when he teamed up with fellow Ombersley player Macy Denney-Richards (who now trains full time in Spain!) and together they won all 4 of their under 14 mixed doubles matches at the County Closed at Manor Park to become the U14 mixed doubles county champions!



Having never played together before, they quickly formed into a strong team working hard for each other and playing some great tennis on their way to the title.

Macy was also successful in winning the U14 county girls title.

Theo also won two Grade 4 U14 doubles titles at Solihull and Rugby tennis clubs.

All the best,

Mike Langston - ODTTC Head Coach

Email: odtccoaching@gmail.com

COACHING SESSIONS

TUESDAYS

18:00 - 19:00 - Adult Team Players - contact Mike - 07963 477949

19:00 - 20:00 - Rusty Rackets members £6pp / non-members £7pp - contact Mike - 07963 477949

SATURDAYS

10:00 - 11:00 - Cardio Tennis – Members £6pp / non-members £7pp contact Mike - 07963 477949

Individual coaching is also available throughout the week by contacting Mike

Ladies' Captain's report – Natalie Cook

Ombersley ladies fielded two teams this summer season represented by 27 different players. The A team was in Division 5East and had a very successful season winning all their games and finishing top of the league. They will be promoted to 4East next summer. Well played and well done to all the players - Natalie Cook, Emma Hurst, Charlotte Hurst, Sarah Reading, Gail Hughes, Maddie Rollit, Claire Parker, Louise Hinett, Sue Hughes, Petra Silvester and Fiona Bates. The B team had more mixed fortunes, winning 2, losing 5 and conceding 1, (which unfortunately meant some penalty points) and will go into Div 7 East next season. The team fielded 17 players in total some of whom were new to team tennis and some who had played in the past and were returning to more competitive tennis. So well done to everyone who played - Caroline Mockford, Fiona Bates, Verity Buchanan, Natasha Morgan, Helen Buchanan, Shirley Lindsay, Jen Preedy, SallyAnn Beckett, Georgia Houston, Issy Rollit, Wendy O'Hara, Fran Crick, Oonagh McCluskey, Chris Reynolds and Teri Baron.

Natalie Cook – Ladies Captain

Email : cooknataliej@gmail.com

Men's Captain's Report

It's been a successful summer season for the Men's teams. We entered 2 teams in to the National Club League, which offers singles and doubles competition, fielding a very strong A team in Division 1 led by coach Mike Langston who swept all before them to qualify for the regional playoffs! The B team performed well in Division 3 finishing mid table.

Meanwhile in the H&W League we fielded 1 team in Division 8, a total of 17 players contributed to a highly successful campaign which culminated with

the team finishing top of the league by a 10 point margin and will be promoted to Division 7 next summer. Without doubt, the work put in by the players and coach Mike at Men's team training has lifted the team to a much more competitive level.

Mixed Team report

We ran 3 mixed teams over the summer and successfully completed all fixtures with a number of players new to competition enjoying their first matches. The A team missed out on promotion from Division 6 by the tightest of margins. With an equal number of points and an equal number of rubbers to Wall Heath B, we lost out on top spot by virtue of having lost 6-4 to them in our fixture! The B team finished top of Division 8 winning all of their matches and will be promoted to Division 7 next summer and the C team gave debuts to 5 new players who all did well and I hope they come back for more during the winter season where we will again run 3 teams.

I would encourage anybody who is thinking about getting involved in either Mens or Mixed tennis to get in touch with me as the winter league commences in October.

Paul Houston

Email: paulewardhouston@hotmail.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING

You can find the Club on the following social media sites:

Website:

ombersleytennisclub.co.uk

Facebook:

[Ombersley and Doverdale Tennis Club](#)

Instagram:

[Ombersleytennisclub](#)

Ombersley Village Website:

www.allaboutombersley.com

BOOK CLUB

Following the launch of the Book Club in April 2020 we have continued valiantly to hold our meetings on zoom throughout the intervening period. We had our first “in the flesh” meeting this August in the club house. It was great to sit around a table and enjoy a glass of wine. The discussion we had was very stimulating as we had just read *Girl* by Edna O’Brien. This is a book concerning the kidnapping and subsequent escape of a girl in Nigeria by Boko Haram.. Not an easy read but it did stimulate a lot of discussion, and topically also led us to discussing other books surrounding the plight of women in Afghanistan.

If you would like to join the Bookclub, everyone is welcome. It is pretty relaxed and if you are not able or don’t feel like reading the book for a given month that’s fine. The idea is to widen our choice of reading material and get together in a convivial way to discuss. For each meeting a different member chooses a book and we meet approximately every 6 weeks. If you would just like to be on the bookclub mailing list that is fine too.

We are currently reading *Sometimes I Lie* by Alice Feeney and our next meeting is on Monday 15th November 2021.

The books we have read in the last 6 months are
A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
Soldier Spy by Tom Marcus
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
Girl by Edna O’Brien
The Single Thread by Tracey Chevalier

Helen Buchanan

Email: odtcmembershipsecretary@gmail.com

CLUBSPARK BOOKING SYSTEM

A huge thank you to Helen who has painstakingly ensured that most members can access the booking

system despite the various anomalies and quirks that came with the booking system. There are still several members who are not properly registered and who may be having problems booking courts. If you are one of these people, please contact Helen who will help you or give you the contact information for getting in touch with the ClubSpark support desk.

Helen Buchanan

Email: odtcmembershipsecretary@gmail.com

GATE ACCESS SYSTEM

The gate access system has now been in operation since July and our thanks go to Andy Dagger who gave much of his time to making sure that the system was ready in time. We are very pleased with the feedback we are getting from members who have found it easy to book courts and access the courts using the keypad.

One of the real bonuses of the system is that it is now no longer necessary for a committee member to give up their own time to meet non-members to exchange a key so they can use the public court, something we were concerned about in terms of personal safety. Furthermore, as it is much easier for non-members to access the courts using the automated system, we expect that we will be able to increase pay & play income significantly by facilitating use of the courts at quiet periods when members aren’t playing. We are hopeful that with the increase in pay and play use, membership will increase when a pay and play tennis player converts to full membership.

Finally, as a committee we will be able to analyze the way in which the courts are being used and be in a much better position to plan for the future of the Club to ensure its viability and success.

We hope that members are on board with the change and welcome any feedback.

Liz Brandon

Email ODTCsecretary@gmail.com

COURTS

Parents, please remember that you are responsible for your children whilst on club premises.

Visitors to the Club are always very complimentary about the quality of the courts and, as part of the on-going court maintenance, all three courts were treated for moss in the Spring and John continues to keep a watchful eye on any problems arising. The Committee will continue to ensure the courts will be well maintained in the future

Security

If you are last to leave the Club and even if you haven't used the Clubhouse, we would be extremely grateful if you would check that the clubhouse door and courts are locked and that all lights are switched off.

WHATSAPP GROUPS & SOCIAL TENNIS

Team Groups

A coach attends each session, so members pay a coaching fee for all the following sessions:

'Mon eve Ladies Team Practice' – this is a coached session on Mondays from 6pm -7.30pm and is by invite only for those who play in the ODTc Ladies' teams. If you would like to be considered for the Ladies Team, please contact Natalie Cook the Ladies' Captain: 07415 386659 or Mike Langston, Head Coach: 07963 477949.

'ODTC Mixed Team coaching' – Tuesdays 6pm - 7pm and is by invite only for those who wish to play in the ODTc Mixed teams. If you would like to be considered for the team, please contact Paul Houston the Men's Captain: 07894 140743 or Mike Langston, Head Coach: 07963 477949.

'ODTC Men's Team Training' – this is a coached session on Wednesdays from 8pm – 9.30pm and is

by invite only for those who wish to play in the ODTc Men's teams. If you would like to be considered for the team please contact Paul Houston the Men's Captain: 07894 140743 or Mike Langston, Head Coach: 07963 477949.

Social Tennis Groups

'Can you play?' – for those who wish to find a player who can join them to make up a four. You can also use this if you fancy a game of tennis and want to see if there is anyone else available. Anyone can join the group.

'Tuesday ODD Tennis' – men's social evening open to all, Tuesdays from 8pm- 10pm or until everyone has had enough!

'Thursday Ladies Mix-in' – A Ladies social morning on Thursday mornings from 10am – 12pm, which usually includes a coffee and chat in the clubhouse. All ladies welcome.

'Thursday Eve Social Mix-in' – Thursdays 6pm – 8pm. All members welcome. These evenings have proved very popular and are a great way for new members, to meet others at the club so why don't you give it a go!

'Daytime Social Mix-in' – Fridays 4pm – 6pm. All members welcome! This is a relatively new group and is proving very popular and a great way of meeting other members at the club. From time to time depending on the weather we enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles or go to the pub to kickstart the weekend. Please come and join us if you are free.

POP-UP TENNIS

Pop-ups have been running for a couple of years now and have proved to be extremely successful. Thanks to everyone who hosted these each month

and thanks too to those who came along and took part in the tennis and stayed to enjoy the cakes and chat afterwards. They work particularly well for introducing new members to others at the Club. Riding on the success of the various club sessions scheduled each week, we hope to re-start the pop-up sessions soon so if anyone would like to host, please let me know.

Coaching Groups – coaching fees apply

‘ODTC Cardio’ – Wednesdays 6-7pm & Saturdays 10am- 11am.

Rusty Rackets – Tuesdays 7pm – 8pm

Please contact Mike Langston if you would like to join either or both of these Whatsapp groups: 07963 477949.

If you would like to be added or removed from any of the groups, please contact the relevant person.

If you wish to attend any of the sessions, please use the relevant WhatsApp group to message the group each time you play.

Liz Brandon

Email: ODTCsecretary@gmail.com

ODTC COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Ombersley School

The Club offered prizes for its Xmas auction last year and Mike and his team continue to work with the children by providing after school clubs and holiday camps.

We are looking forward to progress being made towards moving the existing school playground across to the other side of the school building thereby freeing up land for the creation of a larger school carpark. I think we will all breathe a sigh of relief when this happens. The school are hoping that they will be able to move the playground in Spring next year after the field has been prepared for use over Winter.

As and when the work has been done there will be a strip of land available for the Club to use and the Committee are considering the options and availability of funds for developing this area in the future.

Carpark

There are still incidents where parents/staff park their cars too close to the club gate making it difficult for members to pass safely on the slip road and we are in contact with the school about this issue.

The committee are constantly monitoring the situation and will continue to work with the school to ensure that a safe system is in place as time goes on. In the meantime, we thank you for your continued patience in timing your arrival at the club outside the school pick-up and drop-off times to help alleviate the situation.

School pick-up & drop-off times - timing your arrival/departure

Please avoid arriving or departing within 10 minutes either side of school starting and finishing times.

These are 08.30 - 08.45 in the morning, and 14.45 – 15.00 in the afternoon. Thank you.

Sytchampton School

The Club donated raffle prizes for its school Xmas Fair and Promises Auction and continue to offer the opportunity for the school to visit the club for coaching after school and during the holidays and look forward to supporting the school in the future.

Community

Defibrillator

We were pleased to install a defibrillator at the Club and over 12 members have already had training on how to use this. The code for the defibrillator is C159X. In the interest of security we are unable to display this next to the defibrillator, but members can find this on the noticeboard inside the clubhouse.

The defibrillator is registered on 'The Circuit' which is a nationwide network, which passes on the location of the nearest defibrillator in the case of an emergency.

Books for Prisoners

A huge thank you to our members and parishioners from Ombersley Church who donated books to the Children and Families Team at HMP Hewell. Here is an extract from the email received in response to our members generosity:

'Can you please pass on my huge gratitude to the Ombersley tennis club members. So many folk are dismissive of prisoners - if they can't do the crime don't do the time type comments. Its easy to forget that the children and partners also have to do the sentence as well - and they are the innocent parties in all this. The men need to keep that connection with their family - quite often it is what gets them through their sentence. Donating books is a relatively simple thing to

do, but the positive impact that this can have cannot be underestimated - plus the men actually realise there are people 'out there' who, through their kindness, make them realise they are not forgotten. You know all this...

Re folk living close and dropping off themselves, let me get in touch with Nicki and see what she says. Makes sense to me to arrange a drop-off - and again, a huge thank-you to the folk involved.

As for the lady prepared to buy books, what can I say.... she is a marvel...

THANK YOU!

Royal British Legion

In support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal Di Grove, on behalf of the Club, will lay a wreath at the memorial service on Sunday 14th November 2021.

AGM Tuesday 23rd November 19.00, 2021

If you enjoy playing at Ombersley and would like to get more involved with the decision making and running of the club, we have the annual AGM on Tuesday 23rd November when committee members are nominated and elected. If you would like to be considered to be a member of the committee, please let me know.

Liz Brandon

Email : ODTCsecretary@gmail.com

Finally, and most importantly, the Committee hope that you and your families stay Covid-free and continue to enjoy playing at Ombersley and look forward to seeing you on court.