

Ombersley & Doverdale Tennis Club

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



ODTC Autumn Newsletter 2022

Welcome to the ODTC 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, or indeed, if you would like to help to be part of the editing team, please get in touch.

Chairman's Report

Martin Cook

Martin will deliver his report at the AGM on Tuesday 29th November.

Email: cookmartinc@ymail.com

Treasurer's Report

If you would like to hear about the financial health of the Club, John will give an overview of the accounts at the AGM on Tuesday 29th November. Everyone is welcome to join us.

John Davies

Email: johnrdavies1@icloud.com

Membership Secretary's Report Helen will deliver her report at the AGM on Tuesday 29th November.

Helen Buchanan

Email: odtcmembershipsecretary@gmail.com

Secretary's Report

Due to family commitments, this will be my last newsletter for the Club as I shall be stepping down at the AGM in November. For this reason, please forgive me if I take the opportunity to reflect on the last 5 years working on the Committee.

It seems a long time ago now, but when I first came on to the committee the clubhouse had recently burnt down, we were using a mobile home on the carpark for shelter, and membership was extremely low. Mike was our only part-time coach and the LTA had imposed even more criteria on clubs for them to register so that members could play in LTA tournaments. Moral was low and members were worried about the future of the club. But with recently re-surfaced courts, those who were riding the storm with us, were able to continue to play and find some comfort in the friendships formed on court.

What a difference 5 years and a committee pulling together with the support of its members makes.

All pertinent policies and criteria are in place, and we are totally compliant with LTA regulations. Nothing like stating the obvious but...we have a clubhouse to be proud of, an automatic gate system which effectively pays for itself as more fee-paying non-members are able to access the courts, and most recently, new LED lighting, which has come at just the right time in light of the current economic and energy crisis.

For me at the heart of any club is the people who use it. It's they who give the club its identity and who, as at Ombersley, create a warm and friendly environment, which encourages people to join. So much so that I am very pleased to say that we now have over 170 members at the Club. A far cry from the figures back in 2017.

But it isn't just the members that give a warm reception to visitors at the club. We are extremely lucky at Ombersley to have Mike and Andy on the coaching team, who, week by week, month after month, give encouragement to members and non-members alike. On behalf of the club, I thank you both, but on a more personal level, I would like to thank Mike who, over the past 5 years, has never failed to lend an ear and offer support and encouragement during some difficult times. It's been a pleasure to work with you Mike.

And so, looking to the future. Thanks to John's careful management of the Club's finances, the future financial health of the club is assured. We already have plans passed for the building of 2 new courts and will look to create a sound business case to build at least one of these two courts within the next couple of years. If needed I hope to stay involved with this process.

And finally... ODTc is looking for a new Secretary!

I would say that I've thoroughly enjoyed my time working for the Club, and it has been rewarding in so many ways. I have loved meeting so many new

people and dealing with so many interesting problems along the way, so much so that I wish I had the energy and time to continue. Thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way.

If you are considering volunteering for the secretary role and you'd like a bit of a job description, here goes...

The applicant needs to be ready to turn a hand to whatever crops up, have oodles of patience, a good sense of humour and a huge dose of diplomacy. For anyone considering taking on the role, I'd like them to know that I will offer my full support and help them along the way, particularly during the first year.

I am looking forward to playing more tennis so will see you all on court. Until then, I hope you stay fit and healthy for the months ahead and enjoy playing tennis at Ombersley!

Liz Brandon

Email ODTCsecretary@gmail.com

Event Organizer's Report

The first social event this year was held on Tuesday 7th June. This was a mix in ladies tournament in memory of our long standing member Drene Baker who sadly passed away in 2021. It is intended that we hold this annually and the winner be awarded the Drene Baker Cup. This year the winner was Verity Buchanan.

On Friday 15th July we held our second annual Cheese and Wine Evening, immediately following social tennis at 6pm. 12 members were present and the evening was very much enjoyed with copious amounts of both cheese and wine consumed.

The final social event of this year will be the Christmas Meal on Wednesday 7th December at

7pm in The Orangery at the Crown and Sandys, Ombersley. We hope for the same fantastic turnout that we had in 2021. This is such a great chance to relax, chat to members and enjoy the always reliable Christmas menu at this popular restaurant. I will be sending out an e-mail with the menu very soon, so please do try to join us for the evening.

Jan Bath

Email jan.bath52@yahoo.co.uk

BOOK CLUB

If you'd like to join the ODTc Book Club, please contact Helen.

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 a few 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

We are very pleased with the feedback we are getting from members who find it easy to book 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.

It is now much easier for players to access the courts using the automated system, and there has been an increase in the pay & play income from non-members who are using the courts at quiet periods when members aren't playing. We are hopeful that membership will increase as pay and play tennis players convert to full membership.

Finally, the automated system allows us 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.

If you have any queries or comments to make about the system, please feel free to contact me. We always welcome feedback.

Liz Brandon

Email ODTcsecretary@gmail.com

COURTS

Visitors to the Club are always very complimentary about the quality of our courts. As part of on-going court maintenance, all three courts are treated for moss at least twice a year, with John continuing to keep a watchful eye on any problems arising. The Committee are committed to ensure that this level of attention will be maintained in the future.

CLUBHOUSE

A huge thanks to Oonagh and Chris who have volunteered to keep the clubhouse in order and make sure everything is up to date and in working order. Please help them by clearing up after yourselves so that others may enjoy a clean and tidy clubhouse.

SECURITY

Will every member, please help us to maintain the security of the club, by making sure that as you leave, and even if you haven't used the Clubhouse, you check the clubhouse door and courts are locked and that all lights and heaters are switched off.

Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

All lost property will only be kept for 3 months after which it will be sent to a charity shop. This is to avoid the buildup of clothing cluttering the clubhouse. Members will be emailed to check lost property before anything is sent.

MARKETING AND 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

If anyone has an interest in running the Facebook or Instagram accounts please let us know.

ODTC COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Ombersley School

Mike and his team continue to work with the children by providing after school clubs and holiday camps through school holidays.

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.

When the school has completed the work, the Club will then be in a position to develop the land to create 2 new courts, for which we already have planning permission.

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 regularly 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.

Ombersley 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 continues to support the school with donations towards fund-raising activities. We 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.** Please make a note of this in case of an emergency.

In the interest of security, we are unable to display the code 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 to those in need in the case of an emergency.

WHATSAPP GROUPS & SOCIAL TENNIS

SOCIAL TENNIS GROUPS

All members are free to join the groups below so please let us know if you would like your number to be added to any of the WhatsApp Groups.

'MONDAY LADIES MIX-IN'

Monday mornings from 10am – 12pm

A Ladies social morning which usually includes a coffee and chat in the clubhouse. All ladies welcome.

'TUESDAY ODD TENNIS'

Tuesdays from 8pm- 9.30pm

A men's social evening open to all, which regularly ends with a trip to the pub.

'THURSDAY EVENING 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 great way of meeting other members at the club. Please come and join us if you are free.

'CAN YOU PLAY?'

Used 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 to see if there is anyone else available.

'POP-UP TENNIS'

We are hoping to restart the Pop-up tennis which has proved to be extremely successful in the past. Thanks to everyone who hosted these and thanks too to those who came along to take 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. if anyone would like to host one of these sessions, please let me know.

ODTC COACHING GROUPS

These are run by our coaches, so all members pay a coaching fee.

TEAM COACHING

'Mon Eve Ladies Team Practice'

Mondays from 7.00pm – 8.30pm.

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 Coaching'

Tuesdays 6pm -7pm

This session is open to all members, whether you play for the team or not. If, however, you would like to be considered for the Ombersley Mixed Team, please contact Paul Houston the Men's Captain: 07894 140743 or Mike Langston, Head Coach: 07963 477949.

'ODTC Men's Team Training'

Wednesdays from 8pm – 9.30pm.

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.

The following groups coaching groups are open to members and non-members – non-members pay an additional fee which the club receives.

'Rusty Rackets'

Tuesdays 7-8pm

Coaching session open to beginners and improvers and open to everyone.

'Cardio Tennis'

Wednesdays 6-7pm
Thursdays 9-10am
Saturdays 10-11am

All cardio sessions are open to members and non-members – non-members pay an additional fee which the Club receives.

JUNIOR COACHING

During junior coaching the coaching team always strive to make sure that there is always one court available for members to use.

Mondays	4-5pm	4-6yrs
Mondays	5-6pm	6-10yrs
Mondays	6-7pm	10yrs +
Tuesdays	5-6pm	10yrs +
Tuesdays	6-7pm	11yrs + girls
Thursdays	5-6pm	10yrs +
Saturdays	10-11am	8U

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

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

COACHING REPORT

Tennis & multi sports holiday camps

After the success of the 2021 holiday camps, we were keen to keep realistic expectations for 2022's camps. We were really pleased to see a very similar level of interest and attendance across all of the holidays and half terms in 2022 when comparing to the previous year.

The Multi sports element of the camps means that children who don't play tennis are able to come and have an introduction to our club and to try tennis in an informal, no pressure setting. Whilst the children who can play the game get to do so, as well as having a variety of other sports to develop their all round skills.

Off the back of running the holiday camps this year, we've been able to encourage more players who previously hadn't played tennis, to come down to our weekly sessions and try the sport in a more structured way.

Junior Programme

Building from last years programme of 40 players attending weekly coaching sessions, we have been able to encourage 20 more children to take up the sport at the club & now have around 60 players attending weekly coaching.

We are pleased to say that not only have the numbers gone up, but the overall standard of tennis being played has gone up as well, with lots of children developing skills to play the game.

As the players skill level and confidence has gone up we've been able to enter more teams than last year, with a total of 5 teams being entered into the LTA national winter junior leagues, ageing from 6 – 11 years.

Whilst maintaining strong links with Ombersley first school, we've also been able to provide a regular after school club for differing ages as well as some

P.E. Lessons over at the club to support the children with their general physical development and adding our own specialist tennis insights.

We're keen to mention that as many as 5 junior players have now been selected to attend regular county training sessions at varying ages from 7 – 13 years old.

From the junior perspective the club is in a great place moving forward, we look forward to seeing how all of the players progress over the coming months and years at the club.

Adult Programme

The adult programme at the club is doing as well as ever, with Cardio tennis remaining a big hit with 3 sessions running weekly, with the highest numbers to boot. We're fortunate to now be able to offer a session for everyone at the club, from a beginner/intermediate level session in rusty rackets to a more advanced session with the mixed club coaching on a Tuesday and now a ladies and a men's team training running on a weekly basis for our team players.

We'll see around 50 players per week across all these sessions which is up from last year, showing how active a club we are becoming. Working in tandem with the social sessions on and off court that the club arrange, we are a club that has a lot to offer for any prospective member.

Notable mentions

Theo Houston, aged 13, competed in a number of singles and doubles events over the summer, having his best success at the county closed event in the U16 mixed doubles, making the finals of the event with his partner. Combined with recently making it into the 18U county development squad, Theo has had a great year.

Jacob Vincent, Gethin Gould and Ben Perkins, all aged 9, had their LTA graded tournament debuts this year, with Ben managing to make his way to the final of a recent 10U grade 5 event as well as making it into the 10U county training squad. All of the boys are showing great promise & continue to commit themselves to a sport that they love! Jamie Cartwright, age 7 & Elouise Gibbs, aged 8 were invited and attended the 8U county training sessions this year after being selected at the county open day in Malvern earlier in the year.



From the adults programme a mention must go to Jen Preedy, Teri Baron & Paul Barley. Each one of them have, in a relatively short space of time, gone from the 'Rusty rackets' group, to being a regular team player – a credit to their hard work and persistence!

AGM Tuesday 29th November 7pm

If you enjoy playing at Ombersley and would like to get more involved with the decision making and running of the club, our next **AGM is on Tuesday 29th November at 7pm.** At this meeting committee members are nominated and elected. If you wish to be considered to join the committee in any of the roles, please let me know.

Liz Brandon

Email : ODTCsecretary@gmail.com



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