



DAVENPORT LAWN TENNIS CLUB

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DAVENPORT LAWN TENNIS CLUB 1909 - 2009



Membership

At the moment we have more than 80 senior playing members and more than 100 juniors. We have 6 teams in the NEC Summer league (4 men's and 2 ladies') and 3 mixed teams in the Winter League.

Our juniors have gone from strength to strength. Initially, youngsters had no structured tennis and, because of this, parents gave up their time to run teams. This started with Doreen Schofield in the early 1980s. Pat Azoulay ran the juniors for a while but gave up when she took on the role of club captain in 1985. Sue Hitchens then took over with the help of Alan and Maggie Nabb. It was Maggie who started the famous tuck shop on Saturday mornings.

Then Alan Heath ran the junior section with Alan Nabb for a while and short tennis was on offer with the help of Tim Heath.



Now we have a professional coach for both juniors and seniors, Hanna Wilson, who, together with David Sykes and Adam Jones, looks after the junior teams. Last year we had 3 mixed teams (U18, U15, U13) and 3 boy's teams (U18, U15, U13) in the local league.

Davenport Lawn tennis Club has come a long way in 100 years and has developed beyond anything the original founders envisaged in 1909. We pride ourselves in being a friendly, welcoming, well managed club and look forward, with the support of our members, to the next 100years.

DAVENPORT LAWN TENNIS CLUB

1909—2009



Taken from the Stockport Advertiser Friday June 25th 1909

The Mayor of Stockport, (Councillor J. Fernley, J.P.) as President of the Woods Moor Tennis Club (pictured below), opened the recently established Woods Moor Tennis Club's new ground and pavilion on Saturday, in the presence of numerous members and friends. There are two tennis courts on the site, and a handsome pavilion, capable of seating sixty or more persons, where special facilities are afforded for serving afternoon tea and other light refreshments. It is painted olive green, and set off with baskets of flowers suspending from the eaves in front of the structure. Before and after the inaugural ceremony sweet music was discoursed by the band of the Stockport Boys' Industrial School, and as the meteorological conditions were favourable for outdoor recreation, a very pleasant afternoon was spent by the members and their guests.



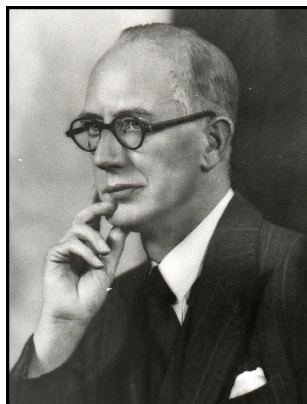
A member called Mr. P. Yates playing on grass in 1913. The houses on the left are Crossfield Grove and those on the right are Ferndale Avenue.

The land on which the club now stands was part of a farm, owned by a Mr. John Read, who sold it to Mrs. Victoria Cressy in 1905. Her widower, Mr Alfred Cressy, agreed, in June 1909, to lease the land for the playing of tennis to members of the then named Woodsmoor LTC for £17-8-6 per year.

During the first world war the club had difficulty in keeping alive but was sustained by its President, Mr. Pragnall. There were originally 2 grass courts, eventually extended to 6, and a small wooden pavilion.

In 1939 there were 80 playing members but the war began taking men and ladies until, by the Autumn of 1941, there were only 10 playing adults and 6 juniors. Although the landlord granted a moratorium with regard to the rent, it was decided to wind up the club. However, the following January the members rescinded the resolution to close the club and a new committee was formed under the presidency of Mr. Stanley Beddow. The club remained in existence, though dormant, during the war.

Stanley Beddow
President 1942-1958



After 60 years of involvement with the committee of DLTC, Harold Bagshaw began a new tradition. On 1st June 2000, to celebrate his 80th birthday, he organised a Glorious 1st June American Tournament for all members. This has become an annual celebration of Harold's birthday and will continue to be part of our tennis calendar in the years to come.



Sadly, Harold died in 2005 and his wife, Nadine, commissioned a clock in his memory. He had always said the club should have a visible clock for match play. We now have such a clock. The committee also decided to name the bar The Bagshaw Lounge to honour Harold's memory.



Recent years have seen much refurbishment. The kitchen has a brand new cooker to cope with any amount of catering functions and the bar lounge has had a makeover. We have a flat screen TV, new furniture and blinds but have kept the racquets on display.



1998 saw our efforts directed towards the bar and main lounge. Again, our members gave their time, effort and skill to help refurbish the inside of the clubhouse.



This is a song written for a social evening in the late '20s

There was a club they called Woodsmoor
 Where tennis was played in days of yore,
 The ladies wore their dresses so long
 The game they played was like ping pong.

Now in that club there were four grass courts
 When skirts were worn, there were no shorts,
 And they could only show their toes,
 Now you can see their knees in rows.

The ladies played behind the baseline
 To come up and volley was a crime
 The men jumped about and missed at the net
 And the girls took all that they didn't get!



Into the fields behind and over the stile
 They lost their balls and searched for a while,
 They wandered through the grass so tall
 And quite forgot they had lost a ball.

The matches they played were friendly sets,
 There was no league tennis and no-one was vexed,

The games were peaceful and serene,
 And nobody ever created a scene.

In time they got their courts of shale,
 To play good tennis they could not fail
 So they looked for some strong clubs to play
 And joined the league without delay.



To Davenport they changed their name
 To win the cup their little game
 This they have four times achieved
 They've beaten all the clubs in the League!

In 1942, Mr Cressy, the landlord, died. Mr. Beddow at once bought the ground for £400 and leased it to the club, rent free, until twelve months after the end of war.

In 1946 a public meeting was held where the President gave account of how the Committee had maintained the club during the war and former members and locals were asked if they wanted the club to reopen. The result was an immediate membership of 33 and by the end of 1946 the Club had 29 juniors, 62 seniors and 35 honorary members. One of the members, Mr. Norman Jagger, actually trimmed the grass by hand before the club reopened thus restoring the courts to their former glory. A decision was taken to change the grass courts to shale and to have a croquet lawn.

Social events were organised to raise funds and during 1946 the third shale court was relaid professionally and members removed the turf and top soil from a fourth court in readiness for shale.



A Social Evening in the 1940s

During 1947 the fourth court was laid, electricity installed in the pavilion and a new water supply connected. To raise money for a new pavilion numerous fund raising events took place until the target figure of £2000 was in sight. Members pledged loans of £630 and the new pavilion was completed in 1954.



Inside the old pavilion



Its demolition!

The total cost of the project was £123,000. We were given £42,000 from the Sports Council Lottery fund, £15,000 from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts and we obtained a loan, fully repaid by 2006, of £40,000 from the LTA. The remainder came from fund raising events organised by members.

Work began by the end of September. We were able to sell the technotile court to a private buyer who was going to use it for a tennis court in his garden.



Stuart Smith parcels up the old court

The courts were opened unofficially in February 1997.



The new facilities were officially opened in October 1997 by MP Ann Coffey. A representative of the Lottery presented our President, Carol Yates, with a cheque for £42,000.

In 1995 the idea of new courts was suggested since the court specialists we had consulted no longer carried out repairs on shale courts. Members also liked the idea of playing tennis all year round so we applied for permission to replace all courts with an all weather artificial grass surface and to install floodlights on courts 1, 2 and 3.



Members would not need to carry out emergency repairs on courts after rain if all weather courts were laid!

In 1996 permission to carry out the proposed alterations was granted and on 28th September 1996 the last tournament was played on the shale courts.



The final tournament on shale September 28th 1996

By 1955 Woodsmoor LTC had changed its name to Davenport LTC and was one of the founder members of the North East Cheshire League, represented by H.E. Bagshaw and H.B. Bagshaw. Also in this year the club formed Friends of DLTC. This was a group of members who subscribed a monthly amount until 1959 when enough funds had been raised to buy the land on which the club stood. They raised £400! Mr Beddow agreed to sell the land to the club for the original price he paid in 1943.



Walking across the croquet lawn to the pavilion

The pavilion in the 1950s



In 1964 the club applied for planning permission to extend the bar. This was granted and the committee mortgaged the club for £1048 to fund the building. The bar was opened on 10th January 1965.

On this evening the following drinks were bought!



23 sherries

14 gin and orange

29 ½ pints beer

1 shandy

1 cider



1993 NECL Men's Div 3 winners & Ladies' Div 4 winners

In 1966 members funded alterations to the changing rooms and the installation of central heating by offering interest free loans.



Finals' Day
1968



1994 saw the advent of regular quiz nights, with the help of two resident quizmasters, David Murray and Roger Broughton. We still have quiz nights with Mary Harris and Doug Flower as quizmasters.



Volunteers again came to the rescue and cleared the tree which fell onto the shale courts.



Presentation to The President,
Harold Bagshaw,
to commemorate 50 years of committee
work at DLTC
AGM 1989

Work continued to improve the clubhouse and facilities. At the beginning of 1992 a new pump house was built to provide an automatic watering system to the 3 shale courts.. At this time volunteers from our members refitted the kitchen.



Outside, a technotile surface was laid on the fourth court.



Finally, after many appeals, we were given permission to install floodlights on the fourth court . With the help of member volunteers, the work was completed and the court opened for play in November.



Men's First Team Late 1960s



Then in 1970 the car park was built on what had been tennis courts. The courts were realigned and the croquet lawn disappeared! This, again, was funded by interest free loans from members of the club.

H.E. Bagshaw

In 1975 the 200 Club was formed. This was another way members-
raised money for their club then in 1976 the 4th court was resur-
faced with a concrete all weather hard court at a cost of £4600.

Finally, in 1986, approval was granted for the extension to the main
pavilion. The members had been consulted. Not all were in favour
but most were happy for this to go ahead.



President's Day 1987

Work in progress Summer 1987



The new pavilion was opened by
Harold Bagshaw, the club's Presi-
dent, on 28th November 1987.

The New Pavilion



Our club members have always worked hard to raise money to im-
prove facilities.



Jumble Sale



Barbecue



Cheese and Wine



Christmas Fair

Also, in 1988, we began to hire the clubhouse to others. We now
have weekly bridge and yoga classes and local people, and mem-
bers, hold parties in the pavilion and bar.



Murray Humbles, Marjorie
Turner, Harold Bagshaw,
Alan Nabb and Joe Nixon.

Five Presidents attend a
dance at the club in 1988.