

# Oswestry Team Tennis



[www.oswestryteamtennis.co.uk](http://www.oswestryteamtennis.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER No 18 – SUMMER 2023



**Blake in his youth!!**



**Our most recent Tournament**



**Blake and Sherry**

### Introduction

If this is your first club newsletter, then you have a very warm welcome to Oswestry Team Tennis, better known as OTT. I do hope you and your child enjoy being a member and having the amazing opportunity to play and enjoy tennis at such an early age. Many thanks must go yet again to Blake and Kobe our Licensed LTA and DBS accredited coaches from Tennis2You and their helpers who oversee our coaching programme and play such an important part in helping our club member's progress on and off court.

Congratulations go to Blake on his recent engagement to Sherry. I am sure we are all delighted to hear this important piece of news, and wish them the very best for the future! Blake's regular report from Tennis2You is shown a bit further on in our newsletter.

Please note this is my final last email from this email address to members, and in future I will be using  
**CliveK\_Oswestryteamtennis@outlook.com**

It has been a busy spring and early summer for our club and me with quite a lot going on! Below is a flavour of key fundraising events that have or will happen! Thank you very much to our Parent Group for continuing their good work off court and if anyone reading this would be interested in joining the Group, please put yourself forward, and we will be very grateful for new blood! It is very informal but we do like to get things done, and make things happen!

Last but not least and very importantly, our Membership Fees for 2023/24 from September to next August will be due at the end of August, so please look out for the request from our Treasurer Helen Shiel for payment!

### Clubhouse update

Progress with finalising our 25 years Heads of Term agreement which enables us to apply for serious external funding has been slow but we are getting there soon! Many thanks go to Gavin Porritt and DPA Ltd for their continued support in moving the project development forwards. We continue to provide fundraising opportunities to increase our Clubhouse Fund this summer, and below are our latest fundraising efforts. I anticipate that we will have raised a fantastic additional £9,000 by the end of September which is our year end for accounting purposes to reach £56,000, less professional expenses of 4k to date. We obviously need to keep this momentum going throughout 2023/24 **so please think about what you can do to help us on the way!**

## Heidi working hard for our clubhouse fund!



Great to have eight year old Heidi O'Mahony from our Mini Reds on board as a fundraiser for our Clubhouse Fund with her T shirts and bracelets for sale, and what initiative! Look out for them at our next tournament or club gathering!

Well done Heidi and thank you!!

Maybe your child or you have an idea to raise funds for our clubhouse, which could help us?!

## My sponsored walk- raised £2000 to date!



Well, I completed my 12 day walk over 172 miles with the last two days starting early at 6am to avoid the heat and humidity. Day One, I walked from Poachers near Chirk via Offa's Dyke and on to Llanymynech around 20 miles for just over 10 hours with more ups and downs than across in hot and humid conditions which were less than ideal! Day 2 started well with Mike McKenna – Parish Paths Partnership joining me at the tennis club at 6am to walk 13 miles of Oswalds trail with the intention of arriving at our own "Wimbledon tournament" around 3pm, but given that the tournament had to be cancelled and we sadly had to abandon at Brogyntyn Lodge with the rain hammering down accompanied with thunder and lightning. Many thanks go to Mike Harding – our ex Park keeper and great

supporter of OTT for being my water station on both days on the Racecourse and for taking me back to my car from Llanymynech to Poachers, and to Blake for being our saviour on the Saturday afternoon as our taxi back to the tennis club, to be able to drive home in the floods!

A big **THANKYOU** then to all of you who have donated to my Just Giving page to raise £2000 plus including gift aid. I am of course delighted with the response which is double what I thought I could achieve, so a great boost for the club, me and our finances!

## Borderland Rotary presentation on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Donation of £300



Following my first external grant application, we were delighted to receive this donation towards our clubhouse project from Borderland Rotary on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April on our courts at the very precise time of 9.55am as per Blake's instructions! Whilst there is a long way to go, this success sends out a strong message of local community support for what we will achieve.

## 100 Club

This will be introduced in the autumn with 50% of funds used as prize money. This initiative will help to raise funds for the daily running of our club. Please support this initiative which will be overseen by Helen Shiel, our Treasurer so thank you for undertaking this.

## Social fundraising events etc for the Autumn

In addition to our tournaments, our Parent Group is busy sorting out Volleywood 2, an indoor event in November to bring everyone together and present our annual Awards. Please look out for our announcement, and hope you will be able to take part. We have also been offered a regular stall free of charge at the market on Saturdays to sell "bric a brac" etc, whilst Blake and Kobe are undertaking a 12 hour tennis marathon in aid of our Clubhouse in October.

Watch this space!!

## Sporting Challenge 2023

This is my final year running this online quiz. It has been great fun and we have had good external support but sadly not from club members. I have now run it for seven years and whilst it has raised around £1700 towards our clubhouse, it takes a lot of my time and I do need to prioritise my time to be more effective for club fundraising, so it has to go. This year, we have 28 entries vying for being the final champion, so we shall see the outcome in December! Currently halfway through the Challenge questions, Resurrection Twins lead on 63 points, closely followed by the arch rivals Ben and Harry on 61 points with Harry Haralmbous in third place just one point further behind.

### Elijah Abbots going rather well!!



Delighted to hear that Elijah represented Shropshire U10 boys in the County Cup over two days in May, this is a great achievement for him and OTT! Very well done and keep up the good work! Elijah has only been playing in the last two years so to reach this standard in such a short time is fantastic.

On the weekend Elijah won 1 of his singles matches and performed well in 2 more singles matches as well as 3 doubles matches. It was held at the Shrewsbury club and Shropshire played in a group against Hereford and Worcester, Staffordshire and Warwickshire. He was asked to join up with training squad in January and trains at least once a month with a group made up of boys and girls of the same age group. This is the first time Elijah has been selected to play for Shropshire so the club should be very proud of what Elijah has achieved.

### Our Maisie Anderson update – Maisie wrote:-



“On the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> June I completed my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition in Glyn Ceiriog. The first day I walked 7 miles and the second day I walked 8 miles. During the 2 days we had to camp, cook and learn to read maps and tolerate the thunder, lightning and rain. Blake from Oswestry Team Tennis (OTT) has been my assessor for my Volunteering and Physical sections of Dof E. I have now completed everything I need to do to achieve this award.

I started playing tennis at Oswestry Tennis Club (OTC) last year and am now a member of their club as well as OTT. I have been enjoying playing doubles with the adults in the club. I have entered myself in for the summer tournaments in the categories of Ladies Singles, Mixed Doubles and Ladies Doubles. Only completed 1 mixed doubles so far in which we won! I have just entered to be part of a league team. So far I have completed one match, with another due next week. I have also been entered to be part of a mixed doubles league team. I'm looking forward to playing a lot of tennis

over the summer!!”

## Wimbledon 2023

I hope you found time to watch some of the tennis that was on offer. The games I watched were truly amazing especially the wheelchair doubles involving Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid, let alone the Men's Final between Alcaraz and Djokovic. Those of you who were lucky enough to go to Wimbledon through the club ballot, please identify yourselves to me! I am regrettably only aware of one family so far and we normally have up to six families going. I am concerned that our ticket allocation has been reduced without our knowledge, and want to find out a little more from the LTA in time for 2024.





This was yet another successful Oswestry Community Games for OTT involvement with us taking our usual position in the field. Led by Blake and Kobe, we again had a lot of customers and a number have subsequently joined our club which is good news for all of us! Thank you very much to parents/juniors who helped out at the start to build the infrastructure etc.

### **Tennis2You – Blake Strefford**

Wow what a busy summer term we have had from open day to tournaments and a full 12 weeks of coaching in some lovely weather (for a change). I hope your children have enjoyed playing tennis this term I know myself and Kobe have enjoyed coaching your children and seeing their improvement over the 12 weeks.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May we ran our second ever free open day, and we had a really great day seeing new faces playing tennis some for the first time. We have also welcomed some new players into our coaching sessions that sign up on the open day and it's been great seeing them enjoying their tennis over the last 6 weeks.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June we took part in the Oswestry community games and we set up our mini nets on the grass in the middle of the park (not quite Wimbledon). We let people just come and have a go at tennis and enjoy playing a new sport it was great to see our nets full all days and young and old enjoying playing tennis.

We held our second team challenge of the year on the 17<sup>th</sup> June we had 21 players and we split them into 3 teams. There was some amazing tennis on show, and everyone enjoyed competing and playing in a team and winning points for their team. A big well done to everyone that took part. We have 2 more LTA team challenges to run this year so please look out for the emails with all the details.

We are running a tennis programme over the summer holidays on Tuesday 1st & 8th & 15th August, Wednesday 2nd & 9th & 16th August, Thursday 3rd & 10th & 17th August. All sessions are 4:30 – 6pm at Oswestry Team Tennis. This is open to all age groups each session is for 90 minutes and will be full of fun activities and games. Each session is £9.50. Please email us to book a place [tennis2you.ltd@gmail.com](mailto:tennis2you.ltd@gmail.com)

During the summer holidays if you would like to bring your child down to our courts to play tennis then please go to the park keepers and show them your membership card and they will be more than happy to let you onto the courts. As long as there is no coaching taking place. I'm always happy to see children down at the courts outside their lessons playing against family members and maybe even teaching them a thing or two.

Have an amazing summer holiday and as always, I would just like to finish off with a BIG thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Blake Strefford - Head coach Oswestry Team Tennis, Director Tennis2You LTD

### **Competition / Event confirmed dates for your diary**

Blake is running his usual Summer holiday courses, so please support him and book in accordingly!

- US Open style tournament – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- Blake and Kobe 10 hour Tennis Marathon – Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Monster Smash tournament – Saturday 21st October
- Volleywood 2 – date to be confirmed in November

Have a great Summer and please don't forget to take your tennis racket with you, wherever you are going!

Clive Knight – Chairman/Trustee

22.07.2023