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NEWSLETTER No 19 – AUTUMN 2023



Competitors at our September US Open style tournament

# 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, Kobe, Jonathan and Erin our Licensed and DBS accredited LTA 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.

Our clubhouse proposals continue unabated, so very well done to our club members for raising almost £9,000 towards our fund in the last financial year, which is a brilliant effort. We have now raised almost 60k towards our clubhouse, which is an amazing effort for such a small club, and without much external help so far! Keep up the good work!

Last but not least, thank you to those of you who have paid your membership fee for 2023/24. As you appreciate, this is our core income that the Club survives on to pay the bills. If you have overlooked payment, Blake has sent out a recent reminder, so I urge you to pay your membership fee asap please!

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# Awards night Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 6pm – 9pm Oswestry Cricket Club

Many thanks go to our amazing Parent Group for putting our Awards night together for you and your children. They have worked really hard over the last three months, so please show your appreciation by attending! An amazing number of raffle prizes have been donated so please look out for the raffle tickets, so you don't miss out! Kelly Clarke from Border Gymnastics is our Guest of Honour so sure she will add to the proceedings!

### Alfie Edwards continues his success at County level!



Last month one of our members Alfie Edwards – see photo above (our Play your way to Wimbledon club winner) took part in the annual Shropshire Championships held in Shrewsbury. He had a very successful campaign winning the 14&under singles championship and then played up an age group and won the 16&under singles as well!!! Keep up the good work, Alfie!

# Blake and Kobe Tennisathon Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October in aid of our much needed Clubhouse



Very well done to Blake and Kobe and everyone involved in our latest effort to raise funding towards our Clubhouse, which saw a tremendous £1400 achieved from the various elements of it. Blake has written about their day in his report later on in the newsletter.

## Maisie Anderson success at OTC Finals day in September



What an incredible tennis tournament at Oswestry Tennis Club it turned out to be for Maisie. The social tournament in the morning including a few OTT players, saw Maisie and Carol Slater as the outright winners. The afternoon started off with the ladies singles final. Incredible tennis was played by Maisie and Jess Hann, a former OTT member both battling in the rain with Maisie eventually coming out on top. Maisie then played in the mixed doubles final with Richard Hann against Jess Hann and Adam. All played amazingly well but it was Maisie and Richard who won the title. Very well done Maisie!!

## New posts and net for MUGA in early September – a big THANKYOU TO Jonathan Abbots



The old posts had unfortunately become damaged in all the continuous movement on and off the MUGA with the wheels becoming damaged, and trying to move them using a trolley /lifting them on to it was not a viable option in the long term. A new solution had to be found to enable the posts and net to be moved on and off the MUGA with little effort involved. I am pleased to say that working in a 50:50 partnership with Oswestry Town Council, we have acquired a "Vermont Self-Weighted Mobile Tennis Posts & Net" that you see above.

The posts arrived in 11 boxes as you can see in the above photo, so many thanks go to Jonathan Abbotts who applied himself to putting them all together. The new posts are so much better than their predecessors, and will make our lives and the park keepers so much easier than before.

### Rusty rackets update



Our Rusty Rackets sessions are on a Thursday morning and run from 9.30am to 10.30am.

Overseen by me following Ben's departure last year, we now have 13 players on our books who attend on a "pay as you" go basis, so we have a lot of fun on court, and a little competition, I can assure you!

No session would be complete though if not followed up by a visit to Old School House Restaurant where we now have a table specially booked out for us for a cup of coffee and late breakfast!

Anyone interested in joining us, please contact me!

### Well done to Heidi O'Mahony and our Parents Group again!



Our Parents Group got together to raise funds towards our Clubhouse by having a stall in Bailey Street in August, and they raised a very credible £112 on the day towards our Clubhouse Fund from member donations!

Heidi from the Mini Reds made her own T shirts and bracelets to sell, so well done Heidi for your initiative!

# Tennis2You – Blake Strefford

We have had a busy winter term so far. The weather is definitely getting colder but its great to see the children still enjoying their tennis even when the weather isn't being kind to us. As long as it stays dry, and we don't get rain we will be able to play. Now the weather is getting colder please ensure your children come with appropriate clothing for the weather.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> team challenge of the year. We had 15 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.

On 15<sup>th</sup> October Kobe and myself and Kobe took on our Tennisathon challenge in aid of the club house. We played doubles for 10 hours taking on 40 people in that time. We did over 37,000 steps and started under the floodlights at 6am and finished in the lovely sunshine at 4pm. Somehow we managed to have 0 loses in the 10hours! More importantly we raised over £1,450 for the clubhouse fund. A big thank you to everyone that supported us through the day from all those people that challenged us to people who came down to buy raffle ticket and support us finishing the challenge at 4pm. Thanks also to the parent group for helping on the day.

Have an amazing half term and I look forward to seeing all the children back on court next week (week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> November) I would just like to finish off with a BIG thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Many thanks Blake Strefford Head coach Oswestry Team Tennis, Director Tennis2You LTD

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