



Oswestry Team Tennis



www.oswestryteamtennis.co.uk

NEWSLETTER No 23 – CHRISTMAS 2024



Awards night

Hi everyone, and a big WELCOME to our new OTT members. Hope you enjoy being part of our extended family.

Not sure where this year has gone, but we are now less than three weeks away from 2025, so there we go.

Our Awards Night three weeks ago was a huge success and the photo above is of our youngsters. Our Parent group again put the evening together. They are very much the engine room of the club, and without their input, this evening would not have happened. My sincere thanks go to them for the work they undertook in putting the evening together as well as their ongoing support throughout the year.

Club Membership for 2024/25 - a big THANK YOU to all of you who have renewed your membership and many thanks to Jon Abbot for undertaking this piece of work in his new role as Club Membership Secretary. It is not an easy job I can assure you, so well done Jon and THANK YOU!

Maisie Anderson has recently been appointed to the position of Junior Representative, so congratulations. She attended her first Parent Group meeting last week, so thank you Maisie and hope you enjoy taking on this important role for our club.

My Sunday afternoon sessions on court from 3pm to 5pm have not exactly been a huge success with just eight of us participating on a regular basis including adults Gavin McDonald and Craig Davies, so thank you for supporting the tennis opportunity and me. The session is FREE, it is open to all, so hoping we will get a better turn out in 2025. We will promote it to you in January so please look out for it, and sign up.

Finally many thanks must go to our Parent Group and to Blake and his team for keeping us all busy on and off court all year round. If anyone would like to join the Parent Group and help our Club move forward, please get in touch with me.

Our Annual Awards Night – Saturday 23rd November



Alfie Edwards – Achievement,



Awards Night Audience



Olivia Christian – Enjoyment

Our club members and supporters were again back at Oswestry Cricket Club to stage its Annual Awards night and what a fun night it again proved to be!

We enjoyed a sell out audience of over 100 people of all ages; Blake Strefford our Head and Tennis2You Coach was MC for the night, whilst Kelly Clarke was again our Guest of Honour and led the bingo sessions perfectly. Blake with Kobe Jones – Assistant Coach and Mike Isherwood - Town Mayor were on hand to present the annual awards to the various juniors and older ones.

Congratulations to our Parents' Group – Ruth Sperring, Helen Shiel, Bronwen Jenks, Alison Hopkins, and Claire Anderson who over the last four months worked very hard to put the evening together and promote it to our members and sponsors. Around £900 was raised towards our much needed clubhouse so thank you to everyone who was there, and supported our evening.

At the end, Ruth Sperring thanked everyone for their attendance, Oswestry Cricket Club for their hospitality, and Jennifer Bridger for providing the catering, and closed the very successful evening.

A big thank you goes to all our sponsors for supporting our Awards evening with their donations and raffle prizes.

Most improved Girl Alys MacDonald, Most Improved Boy Seb Hamilton
Commitment Older Evie North, Commitment younger Luca Nurse,
Enjoyment older Ollie Gibson, Enjoyment Young Olivia Christian,
The Robinson Spirit Cup older Kyle McGuckin, Team Spirit younger Zhi Hy Hao
Achievement younger Maisie Anderson, Achievement older Alfie Edwards
Endeavour older Isla Rothera , Endeavour younger Phoebe Field

Rusty Rackets Christmas Lunch at School House Restaurant



Last Thursday after tennis, we went to our regular restaurant, School House and enjoyed a really good Christmas lunch not forgetting the company!

Really recommend the food and the hospitality there.

Thank you Rusty Rackets for your ongoing support on and off court in so many ways, especially when I have not been able to play tennis properly for the last year now with my tennis arm problem.

Clubhouse Update



Carron Boulton representing Oswestry Lions who awarded us £10,000 at the club on Saturday 14th December.

Since gaining planning permission in late August to demolish the workshop and replace with a modular building, grant applications have gone in to all seven local grant aiding organisations known to me, and delighted to report that we had a 100% success record. This has added £17,000 to our Fund which now stands at £87,000, just £16,000 short of our target of £103,000, so we are getting very close!

Oswestry Lions £10,000
Oswestry Town Council - £5,000
Oswestry Sports Forum - £500
Charlotte Harter Foundation - £500
Mary Hignett Bequest Fund - £500
Stans Superstore – NISA - £500
Mary Hignett Bequest Fund - £500

Sadly the application for 20k that I spoke about at our Awards night so enthusiastically was rejected with no reasons given, so I am now embarked in putting together a Sport England Movement Fund application for 15k. As I wrote in my Autumn newsletter, we want to target local companies so :-

Do you know of any local organisations, or do you work for a company that we could apply to for financial support? If so, please let me know asap.

Blake Strefford - Tennis2You

First, I would like to thank all parents for braving the cold evenings and mornings, this term so the children can still enjoy their tennis and keep learning. The temperature has definitely dropped after the end of November. Even with the cold weather all the children seem in good spirits. Now moving into the New Year unfortunately the weather isn't going to get warmer and may even get colder so plenty on layers needed for both children and parents standing on the side.

This year has been a great year for tennis at OTT we currently have over 120 people playing tennis every week. We are always looking for new players so if you have friends or family, who would like to join, please encourage them as tennis is always even more enjoyable with friends and family.

As you all know we have had a change to our coaching team with Kobe going on to Uni, back in September. Thierry has joined our coaching team this year to join Jon and Erin who do an amazing job helping all our players enjoying and improving their tennis. I would personally like to say a huge thank you to all our coaches this year for their continued support and great Coaching. As well as our coaching team we have a great group of volunteers that help all our coach's week in and week out and are a vital part of our coaching sessions. Matei, Cameron, Xin Yi, Cooper, Maisie, Lucas and Joe thank you for your hard work on each and every session. Our sessions couldn't run without you.

This year we have run lots of different events and tournaments at OTT. We held an open day in May and had 50+ children down at the courts playing tennis; We also ran a Play your way to Wimbledon tournaments and also took part in the Oswestry Community games. Our LTA team challenges this year have been hit hard with the weather with 2 out of the 5 events being cancelled but the events we did run were a great success and we will be looking to run them again next year.

Our coaching program will be start back the week commencing the 6th January. All emails with the details for the new term will be sent out on 22nd December so please keep an eye out for the email. I would just like to finish off with a big THANKYOU to everyone for your support over 2024 in so many ways, and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you all on court in 2025!

Final thoughts

I trust you all have a very Happy Christmas and New Year, and I hope you come back refreshed to enjoy our tennis in 2025.
Clive Knight – Chairman/ Trustee

