

Oswestry Team Tennis



www.oswestryteamtennis.co.uk

NEWSLETTER No 25 – Summer 2025



Blake and Shez on their Wedding Day

Introduction

Hi everyone and hope you are all okay!

Thought you would like to see Blake and Shez on their amazing wedding day at the end of April at Combermere Abbey near Whitchurch, so many congratulations and a great start to my newsletter.

We have now almost reached the summer holidays, so despite Blake's club coaching having a break until September, there are the holiday courses, so I do hope you will continue to use your racket on our courts or wherever you will be on holiday.



I thought you would like this photo of some of our more "senior" OTT junior members who attended the Marches Prom earlier this month. How time flies! This is also the time of the year when we sadly lose a few of our members going on to university, so good luck with your GCSE and A Level results and starting the next stage of your life's journey.

It has been a busy time for me overseeing our Clubhouse project and now being on court to help participants on Mondays - walking tennis, Tuesdays - walking tennis, Thursdays - Rusty Rackets and Sunday mornings for our Club sessions.

Trustees

I am delighted to report that we have recently grown our Trustees from three to five so thank you to Ruth Sperring and Claire Anderson for joining Helen Shiel, Hugh Roberts and myself in this important role with our club being a registered charity.

Court 2 Upgrade

You may have noticed that Court 2 is not now at its best. Ruth is currently working with the Town Council on our behalf to have Court 2 surface rebound following a disappointing court clean eighteen months ago unfortunately damaged the surface. We are in a 50-50 financial partnership, and it is hoped that this work will be done in August/September.

Membership Subscription for 2025/25

Jon Abbots is having a break from being our Membership Secretary, so I am deputising in his absence. Our Club membership year is completed on 31st August, so please look out for my membership renewal email for 2025/26 in mid August. If you can make the payment as quickly as possible, that would be much appreciated as I have a lot on my shoulders with our imminent Clubhouse project, and I really do not want to waste my limited time chasing malingerers!

Clubhouse Update

I had been hoping that I could advise you that we would start work demolishing the workshop in August, but this is unfortunately not going to happen now, and the autumn now looks a more likely start date.

We have now reached our financial target of 107k, so thank you so much for your amazing support over the last few years to get us there. However, we have been faced with a number of administrative problems in the last couple of months that I cannot go into at this stage, but rest assured, our Trustees including me are doing their best to resolve these issues and get us over the line.

My third and Final Sponsored Walk for our Clubhouse



Joe Shiel –Website Administrator, Helen Shiel- Treasurer and Trustee at Colemere and Ellesmere

I completed my third and final Clubhouse sponsored walk with a number of my friends. Whilst it took a long time to complete all the walks due to people's limited availability, I eventually covered the 100 miles I had targeted and in the process raised just over £1500 against my target of £1000, so a well worthwhile exercise and thank you to those of you who contributed. The photos show me when I was on one of my ten sponsored walks with Joe and Helen in April from Ellesmere to Colemere with a well deserved late lunch at the Boathouse to enjoy! Christie their son is now off to University in September and we thank him for all the help he has provided for our coaching scheme.

Walk to Wimbledon – Sunday 29th June around Cae Glas Park



Our Walk to Wimbledon challenge on Sunday 29th June around Cae Glas Park was taken up by 56 participants this year and we walked around 210 miles so we more than got there! £1000 was raised so thank you very much for your support.

Last but not least, I am very grateful to our Rusty Racket ladies who continue to support our Thursday morning sessions so well and in the process have raised almost £1400 so far in this financial year.

Wimbledon 2026 LTA Advantage Ballot closes 31st August 2025

If you are a current member of the LTA Advantage scheme, you should have received an LTA email asking you to opt in to the ballot by 31st August 2025.

Please do not miss out!

Tennis2You Report – Blake Strefford

Before I start talking about our tennis programme, my wife and I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone for the lovely card and generous gift. We haven't received our photos from the official photographer yet, but once we do, I'm sure we'll share a few with you all!

As the summer term comes to an end, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support. We've welcomed a large number of new players into both our coaching programme and the club. A warm welcome to all of you – I hope you're enjoying learning this fantastic sport!

Information about next term's tennis coaching will be sent out in late July or early August. This will give you time to plan, as I know September can be a busy month with children moving up to different schools or classes.

Summer Programme

Although our regular tennis coaching programme is now on break for the summer holidays, we will still be running sessions throughout the summer. These sessions are open to all age groups and will run from 4:30–6:00 PM on the following dates:

- Tuesdays: 29th July 5th, 12th & 19th August 2025
- Wednesdays: 30th July 6th, 13th & 20th August 2025
- Thursdays: 31st July 7th, 14th & 21st August 2025

Each session is £11 per child. To book, please contact us at tennis2you.ltd@gmail.com or 07515 822921. Places are limited, so book early to avoid missing out!

Team Challenges

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to run any LTA Team Challenges this year so far, due to poor weather and low sign-up numbers. These events are a great opportunity for children to apply what they've learned in their coaching sessions, gain match experience, and enjoy competing in a fun and supportive environment.

You may have noticed that we've been playing lots of points during our coaching sessions this term. I'll be continuing with this to encourage the children to enjoy playing points – after all, tennis isn't just about rallying or hitting balls with a coach, it's about playing with friends and loving the game!

We still have two Team Challenges left this year, so it would be great to see some new faces taking part. If your child has enjoyed the match-play element of their sessions and is available, please consider signing them up:

- US Open Team Challenge – 13th September 2025
- Monster Smash Team Challenge – 25th October 2025

Using the Courts This Summer

Over the summer holidays, feel free to bring your child down to our courts to continue practising and having fun. Please check our coaching schedule on the website to see when the courts are available. Then, simply show your membership card to the park keepers, and they'll be happy to let you onto the courts.

Blake/ Tennis 2You

Sunday mornings 10am – 12pm Club free sessions

We are now having a break until Sunday 7th September, but pleased to advise that we now have a number of juniors attending competing beyond our tennis club, so well done to Xi Hi, Xin Hao, Geoffrey and Alys who attend on a regular basis, not forgetting Maisie Sam and Elijah and a number of our adult members competing for Oswestry and Llanymynech Tennis Clubs.

Walking Tennis

In the spring, we were approached by Tennis Shropshire with the idea of introducing Walking Tennis to Oswestry. It is played with an orange ball and the rules allow the ball to bounce twice and serving is underarm. It has taken a long time to pull together so I am pleased to advise that it was introduced at the beginning of July to two groups – U3A and a Parkinsons group.

Pickleball



In May, our club registered with Pickleball England as there is a growing demand for playing this new sport, though it is normally played indoors. Adam Hughes, (whose son Arthur plays mini red), is leading the adult section – 7/20 Club that is now using our mini red courts on a Thursday night, and provided the weather is kind, it runs and as you can see, there is a good turnout. If anyone is interested in joining Adam's group, please contact him on his mobile 07590324820.

Following this successful introduction by Adam, I am hoping to introduce a club pickleball session during the day for adults, but this will not now happen until Spring 2026 because of my Clubhouse and other admin commitments.

Diary of Club Key Events for 2025

Competitions - USTA Open Team Challenge Sat 13th September
- Parent / Child Mini Red event – Sat 27th September 2pm start
- Monster Smash Team Challenge Sat 25th October

Awards Night – Saturday 8th November to be held at Oswestry Cricket Club
Christmas Parade - Saturday 6th December tbc

Clive Knight – Chairman/Trustee/ Assistant Treasurer / Temporary Membership Secretary

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