

Oswestry Team Tennis



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NEWSLETTER No 26 – Autumn 2025



Court 2 Upgrade - Blake and Shez on their Wedding Day – Our Clubhouse to be

OSWESTRY TEAM TENNIS: ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING - SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER



Our annual tennis presentation evening is booked for Saturday, November 8th at Oswestry Cricket Club, 6 to 9pm.

Oswestry Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Upton, will be attending to present the trophies to the children and it will be a fun family evening with a few games, bingo, a great raffle and we'll finish the night with a hot buffet. Tickets will be £13 for adults and £7 for children, which covers the cost of the buffet and room hire. Keep your eye out for the parent group, as we'll be on court selling tickets, otherwise please ask Blake.

We are sure you are aware that we are a charity and we're trying to raise money for a clubhouse, which will provide refreshments and shelter to all those that play at our club. During the presentation evening we will be holding a raffle and we would like you all to sell as many raffle tickets as you can, so we can raise much needed funds. Blake will be giving out books of raffle tickets for you to sell over half-term, so we'd be immensely grateful if you could sell these for us and bring back the stubs in a couple of weeks ready for our raffle.

If you know of any businesses that could donate a prize, please let us know, or if you'd like to donate a bottle of wine or some chocolates to the prize pot, we'd be very grateful.

We hope you can join us for a great evening celebrating the fantastic young talent at our club.

Kind regards,

Parent Group

Introduction

Hi everyone and hope you are all okay!

Thought you would like to see one of Blake and Shez's official photo for their amazing wedding day at the end of April at Combermere Abbey near Whitchurch, so many congratulations to both of them.

As you will see above, our clubhouse project is still keeping me busy and we now have our third proposal on board which is similar in design to the original workshop. More detail is shown later.

I hope you approve of our joint investment with the Town Council into the rebinding and painting of Court 2 surface, which was completed last month. I hope those of you who have already played on it agree it is an improvement on what was there previously!

This summer, in addition to our tennis, we have seen the successful introduction of pickleball and walking tennis, and I anticipate that in 2026, we will see more extensive use of the courts for these sessions. This autumn, Maisie Anderson is also aiming to introduce an activity session for teenagers in conjunction with Blake, and supported financially by Oswestry Town Council.

On a personal note, I represented OTT at the Oswestry Tennis Club 100 years Centenary Dinner held at Oswestry Cricket Club, so many congratulations to them. We have a little further to go to get to this milestone, having been officially formed in 2003!

Court 2 Upgrade

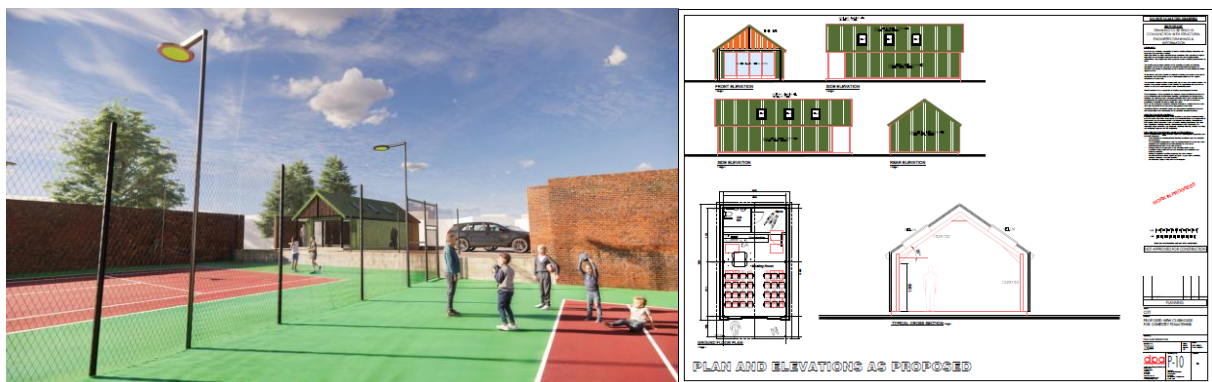
Congratulations to our Ruth Sperring for looking after the admin to make our Court 2 upgrade happen and her patience in getting the job done. This was an important piece of work for our club, so thank you very much for all your efforts in this respect.

This scheme was undertaken in a 50:50 partnership with Oswestry Town Council, with the contractor Leisure Management Services. The rebinding and painting of the court was finished at the end of September. Jon Abbotts and Xi Hi had the honour of being our first members to play on it last Sunday, and it gained both their approval. I hope you enjoy it when you have the opportunity!

Membership Subscription for 2025/26

Jon Abbotts is having a break from being our Membership Secretary, so I am deputising in his absence. Our Club membership year was completed on 31st August, so thank you to all of you who have made your payment. If you are still to make the payment, and you have received a reminder email, payment would be much appreciated as I have a lot on my shoulders with our Clubhouse project, and I really do not want to spend my limited time having to chase for them.

Clubhouse Update



We had problems with our proposed modular building and costings, so we decided to look at an alternative, and see if we could afford a steel framed building similar in look to the existing workshop as you can see.

My report on our new design was therefore submitted at the end of August to the Town Council for their Council meeting on 10th September, but unfortunately it was not considered, as they ran out of time. The Council meeting held on 8th October considered and unanimously approved my report, so we are now moving forward to Shropshire Council to gain the planning variations required to our existing planning permission to demolish the existing workshop and replace it with our new design.

Tennis 2 You Report

We've had a busy start to our autumn term, and it's great to see the children enjoying being back on court after the summer holidays! The weather is definitely getting colder over the next few weeks and months, but as long as it stays dry, we'll be able to keep playing. Please make sure your children come dressed appropriately for the weather as the temperatures drop.

Our team challenges this year have been affected by the weather, but we're excited for our final Team Challenge of the year, taking place on Saturday 25th October, 1:00–3:30pm. This event is open to all members and is a great opportunity for players to put into practice what they've been learning in coaching. It's also perfect for anyone who hasn't played matches before — a fun and friendly way to give it a go!

There will be prizes, certificates, and stickers on the day. Entry is £5 per player, with all proceeds going towards our clubhouse fund.

If your child would like to take part, please let me know by Thursday 23rd October 2025.

With half-term just around the corner, we'll be running two coaching sessions:

- Tuesday 28th October (4:30–6:00pm): Working on forehands and backhands
- Thursday 30th October (4:30–6:00pm): Working on volleying and serving

These sessions are open to all age groups and will be full of fun activities and games! I'll send more details about these sessions on our WhatsApp chat — so watch this space!



Finally, my congratulations go to our coach Erin Oakley for recently passing her LTA Coaching Level 2, a great support for Tennis2You and our club.

Erin has now been a member of OTT for several years, so it is very encouraging to see yet another young member choosing to go down the tennis coaching route.

Finally, I'd just like to finish with a big thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Many thanks,

Blake Strefford

Competition

We have not been that active at club level this year with our competitions due to various factors, but hoping we will have a good turnout at our "Monster" event on Saturday 25th October.

On an individual basis though, we have enjoyed success, especially at Shropshire Junior County closed held in Shrewsbury at the end of August.

Alfie Edwards was again hugely successful winning two Shropshire Under 16 and 18 Singles championship titles adding to his wins. Alfie has trained at Ellesmere College Academy since he was 11, having been a member of OTT since he was 5 years old. He is also playing for Oswestry Tennis Club and is in the Men's first team that plays in Division 2 of the Shropshire Summer Doubles league. Meanwhile Elijah Abbotts aged 12 paired with new member Brodie Lynch won the U12 doubles, so many congratulations to them.



Also, it is pleasing to note our current and ex members helping Oswestry Tennis Club in the Shropshire Summer Doubles league including Kobe Jones, Sam Sperring, Ruth Sperring, Bronwen Jenks and Maisie Anderson. I also understand that Martin / Bronwen Jenks and Ruth/Leigh Sperring will be making a formidable team for OTC in the Shropshire Mixed Doubles league this autumn.

Sunday afternoons 3pm – 5pm Club free sessions

	We have moved from mornings to afternoons and will be restarting after half term on Sunday 9th November, from 3pm to 5pm and we will be delighted to have newcomers to our session. Everyone regardless of ability or age is very welcome. It is very informal and we provide tennis according to how many of you are able to make it. Mini Reds, Orange and Green are particularly welcome to take part, not forgetting parents! PLEASE COME AND HAVE A GO!
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Diary

Monster event (Blake organising) Saturday 25th October start 2pm

Awards Night – Saturday 8th November to be held at Oswestry Cricket Club

Christmas Parade - Saturday 6th December *"For the first time, Oswestry Team Tennis will be taking part in this year's Christmas Parade in Oswestry on Saturday 6th December. More details to follow but we hope lots of you can join us on the float."*

Sunday afternoon club sessions starting at 4pm/3pm after clocks go back – every Sunday subject to weather

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

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