



Oswestry Team Tennis



www.oswestryteamtennis.co.uk

NEWSLETTER No 27 – CHRISTMAS 2025



Awards night

Hi everyone, and a big WELCOME to all 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 2026, so there we go.

Club Membership for 2025/26- a big THANK YOU to all of you who have renewed your membership and many thanks for working with me in my role as Acting Club Membership Secretary stepping in for Jon Abbotts.

LTA Club Registration 2025/26. I m pleased to advise this has been approved which means we reach the criteria set by the Lawn Tennis Association for looking after your children. If you are not a member of the LTA, then you should consider this as you can apply for Wimbledon tickets as a club member in addition to the Public Ballot.

My Sunday afternoon sessions for all age groups including Mums and Dads run currently from 3pm to 4pm have not exactly been a huge success with just eight of us participating on a regular basis including my support team Gavin McDonald and Craig Nurse, so thanks to them for regularly supporting this tennis opportunity and me. **The session is FREE**, it is open to all, you can attend as and when you are available, so hoping we will get a better turn out in 2026. We will promote the session to you again in January so please look out for it, and take up this opportunity to play more tennis.. When the longer days return, it will revert to 4pm to 6pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen Shiel for all her work as our Treasurer and Parent Group for several years now, and working so well with me, not an easy job I can assure you! She will be continuing in her role as one of our Charity Trustees to make sure our club continues to run smoothly. ,

In her place, Craig Nurse has kindly agreed to take over the Treasurer role, and we have had much fun in the last few weeks getting through the TSB bureaucracy, our main bank for him to be given access to our bank account online!

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



Jonathan Upton Deputy Mayor, Ella Sianchuk, Blake and Jon, and Jonathan, Dennis Ruscoe with Blake

Our Awards Night four weeks ago was another huge success and the photo above is of Ella Sianchuk who won our Enjoyment award.

Our Parent group again put the evening together. Congratulations go specifically to Ruth Sperring, Bronwen Jenks, and Claire Anderson who over the last four months worked very hard to put the evening together and promote it to our members. 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 our evening together as well as their ongoing support throughout the year. We raised an amazing £700 towards our Clubhouse, so many thanks to our sponsors for their financial support, Midac Batteries and Richard Burbidge Ltd and to Oswestry Cricket Club for hosting our evening and to all of you who attended!

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, Blake with Jon Abbotts –Assistant Coach and Jonathan Upton – Deputy Town Mayor were on hand to present the annual awards to the various juniors and older ones.

At the end, Blake 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 Xin Yi Hy, Most Improved Boy Finn Cummings
Commitment Older Elif Sevim , Commitment younger Dennis Ruscoe
Enjoyment older Ella Sianchuk, Enjoyment Young Gus and Nelson Cooper
Team Spirit Cup older Cooper Craig Team Spirit younger Edward Flack
Achievement younger Elijah Abbotts and Brodie Lynch Achievement older Alfie Edwards
Endeavour older Marcus Gorzka Endeavour younger Isla North

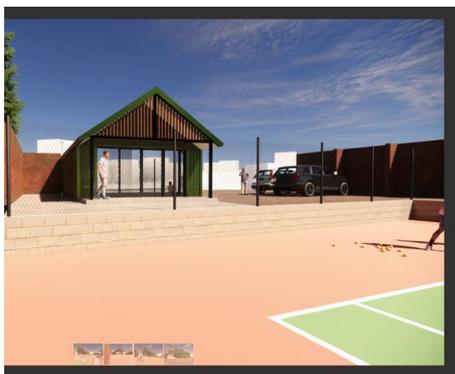
Court 2 and Astro Updates

It is encouraging to see the transformation of Court 2 for you. Hopefully it will last for a few years but it is attracting a lot of usage and from the public, as it compares so favourably with the courts in the park.

As for the astro, it has been very disappointing that it has been out of use since early November due to the deluge of rain in the last month and this month to date with no end in sight.

The good news is that we have just heard from the Town Council that maintenance work on it will be undertaken in the week after Christmas which will mean we will be back to our two floodlit courts for next term's tennis.

Clubhouse Update



We are still working hard to get the go ahead and currently sorting out our drains is the latest issue. Salop Drains Ltd were there on Friday 12th December undertaking a CCTV survey down to Willow Street, so I had an early start to try to supervise the live car park whilst they were doing their work. Quite interesting seeing them at work! Once this work is completed and analysed, we will go for gaining planning variations to our existing planning permission to demolish the workshop and replace with our Clubhouse.

We have now raised an amazing £120k to meet the costs, but patience is definitely a virtue, having started the project back in 2020.

Fingers crossed we will get this completed in 2026, which will be a remarkable achievement for our small club.

I know I am definitely looking forward to having my first cup of tea in there and looking out over the courts, and have something else to think about!



Blake Strefford - Tennis2You

This year has been a highly successful one for tennis at OTT, with over 110 participants playing each week. We continue to focus on growing our participation and encourage all current players to introduce friends and family to the club.

Our coaching programme has remained strong thanks to the dedication of our coaching team. Jon and James are now in the final stages of completing their Level 2 coaching qualification, and Erin successfully achieved her Level 2 qualification earlier this year—an excellent milestone in her coaching development. I would like to extend my appreciation to all OTT coaches for their commitment and high-quality coaching throughout the year.

The club also benefits greatly from the support of our volunteers. Matei, Cooper, Maisie, Jeffery and Ella consistently assist the coaching team each week, contributing valuable time and effort. Their hard work and reliability are an important part of the programme's success.

Of course, our players couldn't attend without their parents bringing them week in, week out—braving all weather conditions—so a huge thank you to all parents for their dedication throughout the year.

Our coaching programme this term will finish on Saturday 20th December and will start back the week commencing 5th January. All messages with the details for the new term will be sent out on 20th December, so please keep an eye out for the information.

I'd like to finish with a BIG thank you to everyone for your support throughout 2025 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you on court in 2026!

Youth Cardio Scheme



Maisie Anderson, our junior representative on our Parent Group, is to be congratulated on putting together our Youth Cardio Tennis scheme led by Blake is running on a Tuesday night. There have been consistent turnouts this term and as a result of her hard work, we should be recruiting more new members as a result in the New Year. Maisie writes:-

Earlier this year I was nominated for a Grant called 'Make a Change, Make a Difference' run by Oswestry Town Council. This grant was encouraging young people to make a difference in the town. After hours of thinking of ideas for this project I came up with 'Youth Cardio'.

Youth Cardio is a super fun workout that mixes tennis drills with cardio exercises, all set to music.

I planned Youth Cardio as a way to get kids active, improve their fitness in a really engaging way. It's also a fantastic way to socialise and develop teamwork skills.

With the help and encouragement from Clive and Blake, we have now set up a session on a Tuesday night 4-4:55 for all 14-18 year olds.

This has already proved to be a success. But there is still room for more to join.

Feel free to join in!!!

Final thoughts

Last but not least, I would very much like to thank Rusty Rackets group which we run on Thursday mornings for their ongoing support and the fun we have had in 2025 on and off court. Long may it continue!

I trust you all have a very Happy Christmas and New Year, and I hope you all come back suitably refreshed and ready to enjoy our tennis in 2026.

Clive Knight – Chairman/ Trustee

