

# Oswestry Team Tennis



[www.oswestryteamtennis.co.uk](http://www.oswestryteamtennis.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER No 28 – Spring 2026



### Our Clubhouse to be! Our Parent Group enjoying a well deserved night out! Finn and Riley - Tournament winners

Hi everyone, and hope you are all okay and enjoying the better weather now for our tennis!

Our Clubhouse planning variation to our existing planning permission is now in the process of being assessed by Shropshire Council after public comments closed on 12<sup>th</sup> March with 43 in support and no objections. A big THANKYOU to all of you who submitted your comments and very supportive they were, and all good to read. We hear the planning outcome from Shropshire Council on 14<sup>th</sup> April, so fingers crossed it gets the go ahead, though no doubt there will be conditions that we need to comply with. Once this is passed, we only have the lease to sign off, and we can hopefully get going with the build!

Many thanks must go again to our Blake and his vital team for keeping us all busy on and off court in this difficult first three months of the year with the adverse weather.

Club Membership for 2025/26- we currently have almost 140 members – adult and juniors so anticipating our numbers will move up to around 150 with our Spring intake. You will see in my AGM report later on in the newsletter that I am continuing as your Chairman, as nobody put themselves forward as my replacement despite being far too old to continue, I have however stepped down from my role as Acting Membership Secretary with Ruth Sperring kindly taking over the reins, so many thanks to you for taking on yet another very important club role. Off court our Parent Group continue to work hard for the good of our club and members, and as a thank you, I took them out for a meal in January which was well deserved.

**If anyone would like to join our Parent Group and help our Club move forward, please get in touch with a member of it or me.**

### Astro Update



The astro has at long last after three months delay had the necessary maintenance work done to it to make it a safe and enjoyable surface area for us to play on, so many thanks to Blake for his persistence in encouraging this to happen, and many thanks to Henry Teuma – Oswestry Town Council for getting it over the line. As you no doubt appreciate, life is very difficult for Blake to deliver the tennis programme if he only has Court 2 to work with for our older juniors, so delighted that this saga is now over.

## AGM – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March Park Keepers Pavilion

Many thanks to those of you who attended our AGM, and I hope you thought it was worth your time to better understand how we will move forward in 2026.

Thank you to Craig Nurse for presenting his Treasurer's report for the first time. The meeting agreed to increase Membership fees by 5-10% in September 2026, in anticipation of our Clubhouse, which will help towards covering our increased costs including Insurance and running costs. Ruth Sperring was appointed Membership Secretary and Rebecca Smith kindly agreed to take on our auditor role for our accounts after Mark Lord stepped down after many years in situ. I was re-elected Chairman. Our parent group was re-elected en-bloc, so thank you to those parents for your ongoing support.

Hopefully we will have next year's AGM in our Clubhouse which will encourage more members to attend!

## SUNDAY CLUB MORNINGS



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. Because of the poor turnout in the afternoons we are moving it after Easter to Sunday mornings starting on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 10am, so hope that will suit you better. Please look out for another announcement nearer the time.

**The club session is FREE**, it is open to everyone including parents, providing mini red, mini orange mini green and full ball opportunities, you can attend as and when you are available, so hoping we will get a better turn out in the Spring.

**Please get in touch if you would like to play and be added to our whatsapp group.**

## Blake Strefford - Tennis2You report

### Winter Term Wrap-Up & What's Ahead

Our winter term has now come to an end—and hopefully this brings with it a welcome change in the weather (I think we've earned it!). Despite the challenging conditions at times, I hope your child has thoroughly enjoyed their tennis coaching this term. It's been fantastic to see their effort, enthusiasm, and progress on court.

**We have our Easter holiday sessions coming up – all from 4.30pm to 6pm, so if you have not yet booked in, please do so and quickly, as our first one starts on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March as follows:-**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Forehands and Backhands; Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Volleys and Serves; Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Forehands and Backhands; Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Volleys and Serves

Let's hope next term brings us some sunshine... and maybe even the need for suncream during sessions!

### Tournament Success

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, we hosted our first tournament of the year—and what a great event it was! With 12 players taking part (8 Yellow Ball and 4 Green Ball), we were treated to some excellent matches and high-quality tennis, all enjoyed in beautiful sunshine.- (see later report)

Tournaments are a brilliant opportunity for players to put their coaching into practice, build confidence, and experience match play in a fun and supportive environment.

We have more tournaments planned throughout the year, and all details will be shared via the WhatsApp group—so please keep an eye out. We'd love to see as many players involved as possible!

### **Get Playing Outside of Lessons**

As the weather begins to improve, we'd really encourage children to get down to the courts outside of their coaching sessions. Extra practice and playtime can make a huge difference to their development and confidence.

You can check court availability on our website, and then simply show your membership card to the park keepers, who will be happy to grant access.

It's always great to see players enjoying tennis in their own time—whether that's playing with friends, family, or even teaching someone new!

### **Free Open Day – 9th May**

We're excited to announce our 5th FREE Open Day, taking place on Saturday 9th May (1–3pm).

This year, we're running slightly different age groups:

- 1–2pm: Ages 5–10 - • 2–3pm: Ages 11–18

Following the success of the past four years—where many players have joined and are still enjoying their tennis today—we're looking forward to another fantastic event.

We'd love for all members to come along, help create a great atmosphere, and showcase what makes our club so special. If you're able to share the event on social media or spread the word to friends and family, it would be hugely appreciated.

As always, a big **Thank You** to everyone for your continued support. It really does make a difference and helps us grow a positive, welcoming tennis community for all our players.

See you on court soon!

Blake

### **Our first Tournament of the Year – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March**



Our first tournament of the year took place in fine weather, so many thanks to Blake Wendy and helpers for making this event happen, and to our club members for taking part.

There were two events – Full ball with 8 players and Mini Green with 4 players. Format for the full ball was a round robin short set whilst Green played championship tie breaks plus doubles so plenty of tennis played with our courts and the park courts in action. Well done to Finn and Riley to win each event.

## Erin Oakley – Very well done!



Huge congratulations to our OTT and [Tennis2You](#) coach, Erin Oakley, on winning Young Person of the Year at the Shropshire Tennis Awards last month! 🎉  
An amazing achievement — well done, Erin! 🏆

Erin started her coaching journey with Tennis2You at OTT and continues to coach weekly at OTT as well as running sessions in schools.

Well done again!

## Maisie Anderson – Photo with Karl Harter Chairman of Charlotte Harter Foundation



Maisie Anderson who many of you will know from her helping Blake on court and is our junior representative on our Parent Group has embarked on her coaching career by attending a LTA Level One course at Cheshire Oaks this month.

The club applied for support towards the cost of the course from Charlotte Harter Foundation, and we were delighted to receive a grant towards our Coach Education budget of £275 to cover the full cost of the course.

Without their support, it would not have been possible to help Maisie in this way as the club cannot afford to have a coach education budget as the funds we have are going towards our Clubhouse project, so very grateful to Charlotte Harter Foundation.

Photo of Maisie with Karl Harter – Chairman Harter Wealth Management at cheque presentation earlier this month.

## Walk to Wimbledon- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 10am – 1pm around Cae Glas Park

I have applied to Oswestry Town Council to hold our third annual Virtual Walk to Wimbledon around Cae Glas Park on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, the day before Wimbledon starts. Last year, there were around 50 of us taking part on the day, and we raised just over £1000 towards our Clubhouse project, so hoping we can repeat that success!

**PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY!**

## Oswestry Community Games – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June Cae Glas Park 11am – 4pm

I do hope you and family will be able to set aside this date in your busy calendar and take part in this our thirteenth annual event. OTT was the founder member of the Games way back in 2013, and we always take part on the day, ably led by Blake on the field.

Last year we had over 30 local organisations attending to showcase their activity, not just sport, and with around 1000 people of all ages visiting the park through the day, it was again another success, so hope I will see you there!

**Enjoy your tennis this Spring!**

Clive Knight – Chairman/ Trustee