Oswestry Team Tennis

www.oswestryteamtennis.co.uk

NEWSLETTER No 29 – Autumn 2026

Our Clubhouse to be!

Hi there and hope you are all okay! Apologies for size of newsletter, but we do have a lot of news!

CHRISTMAS PARADE – SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

For the first time ever, Oswestry Team Tennis will be taking part is Oswestry's Christmas Parade! We'd love you to join us on the float, so please keep an eye out for further details. We want to promote our wonderful club and have lots of festive fun in the process! If you would like to help with dressing the float, please let us know.

Hope you are excited as I am in seeing our Clubhouse coming to life. I would like to dedicate the work that we have done to achieve this building to Mike Markham our Head Coach who very sadly passed away in 2018. Mike was a good friend of mine and I am sure he is very much missed by everyone who knew him. It was his inspiration to see this happen that galvanised us into action to achieve his dream, and in his will, he left the club £20,000 to start the fundraising. Mike never married though he got close, and OTT was in effect Mike's family as many of our older members will appreciate.

Many thanks must go yet again to our Blake and his team of coaches from Tennis2You who we contract to undertake our tennis delivery on court, and our young OTT volunteers for helping our players on court in the spring/summer with coaching and competition opportunities. Alys MacDonald is currently on a LTA course in Shrewsbury which will help to broaden her skill set in preparation maybe to take her Level One course next year, so well done Alys.

You will be pleased to know that the park courts are to be resurfaced starting o Thursday 8th October. For those of you who have had the pleasure of playing on them in recent years, I am sure you will welcome this piece of news.

Parent Group

Following James McKenna joining our Parent working group in June, I am now delighted to welcome Debbie Brown – Dylan Evans' Mum, and hope she will enjoy being part of it at this exciting time in the club's history. I appreciate it is a big ask with your busy lives, but if any of you reading this would consider helping the club in this way, however little time you can spare, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Our Clubhouse to be

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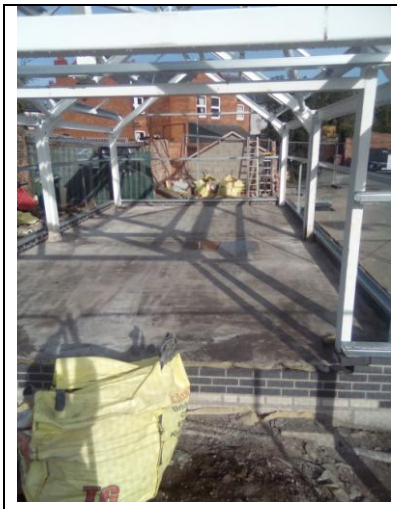
<td>  </td>
<td>I sincerely hope by now you are getting enthusiastic about our Clubhouse, as you can see it change from week to week. Next week, the cladding and roof will arrive, so from then on, our contractor will be working on the interior.

We need to kit out the clubhouse interior at minimum cost, so if any of you have surplus equipment/ furniture etc that you think will help us and can donate, please let us know asap.

This will be your Clubhouse so please treat it kindly as we will want it to last a long time.</td>
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MEMBERSHIP FEES

Many thanks to all that have paid so far. However we are still waiting for a few more membership payments. Membership to Oswestry Team Tennis is necessary in order to take part in our tennis coaching programme. Membership fees enable us to use the courts at Cae Glas park and pay towards the ongoing maintenance of the courts and other associated costs such as insurance and administration. This year we will have the new clubhouse, which is very exciting. Membership also allows you to play on the courts for free throughout the year, so it is great value!
If you haven't already, please complete the membership form (email to oswestryteamtennis@outlook.com) and send over the payment. Details below.

Bank Account Name: OSWESTRY TEAM TENNIS
Sort code: 30-96-33
Account No: 00286077

Blake Strefford - Tennis2You report

First of all, I would like to welcome everyone back to tennis coaching after the summer holidays! I'm really looking forward to another great term of tennis, which will take us all the way up to the Christmas holidays (where has this year gone?!).

As we head into the autumn and winter months, unfortunately the temperature is going to start dropping, so for the parents watching from the side and the children playing tennis, please remember to wrap up warm! We should also have use of our new clubhouse, which I'm sure will help keep parents warm while the children are out on court.

As the evenings get darker, we will be using the full court for our midweek Mini Red tennis sessions so that we can make use of the floodlights.

Please also be aware that the park will start closing earlier as we get further into the winter. The earliest closing time will eventually be 4pm. This means that you will no longer be able to access the tennis courts through the park once it is closed, so you will need to use the large gate at the back of the courts.

Tournaments

Over the summer, we have had some really well-attended tournaments at the club. It has been fantastic to see so many players competing, enjoying themselves and putting their tennis into practice in a competitive environment.

Competition is a big part of a player's development, and it is great to see so many of our children enjoying the challenge of playing matches and competing against other players.

Our latest tournament took place on October 3rd with 14 players taking part in three separate events. We are now looking at holding another tournament in early November, with the date still to be confirmed. So, keep an eye out for details of our November event.

As well as hosting tournaments at our club, we have also had several players competing in tournaments outside of the club, with some fantastic results. I always love hearing about our players going out and competing at other events, and it is brilliant to see them representing the club and continuing their development. These are all fantastic achievements, and all of these players deserve a huge well done! Keep up all the hard work, guys!

If your child would be interested in playing tournaments outside the club but you're not sure how to get started or which tournaments would be suitable, please let me know. I'm more than happy to help advise you on the right events to enter.

Nelson Cooper

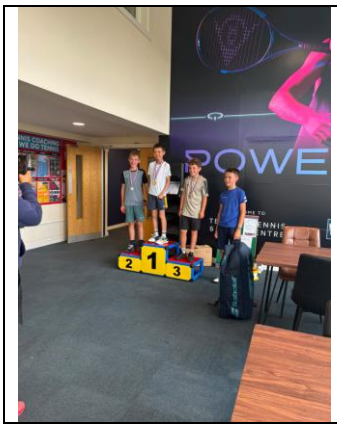
Nelson reached the semi-finals of the **Shropshire County Championships 8 & Under Boys' event**, only losing to the eventual winner — a fantastic achievement!

This year, Nelson has also been playing in other tournaments around Shropshire and has been selected to train and play for the **Shropshire 8 & Under team**.

Isla North

Isla finished **3rd in the 8 & Under Girls' event at the Shropshire County Championships**, playing some great tennis along the way.

She has also been selected to train with the **Shropshire 8 & Under County team**, as well as competing in other tournaments around Shropshire.



Dylan Evans

Dylan has started playing in events around Shropshire over the last few months and recently finished **2nd in a tournament in Telford**.

A great result and hopefully the first of many more tournaments for Dylan!

Alfie Edwards

Alfie regularly competes in tournaments, not only in Shropshire but across the region, and also regularly represents Shropshire in his age group at **16 & Under**, as well as competing up an age group at **18 & Under**.

At the Shropshire County Championships, Alfie won the **16 & Under Singles, 18 & Under Singles and 18 & Under Doubles**, as well as finishing runner-up in the **Men's Singles and Men's Doubles**.

A Big Thank You

As always, I would just like to finish by saying a **BIG thank you** to everyone for your continued support. I'm really looking forward to another great term of tennis, lots of development and, most importantly, maintaining the great community feel we have around the club.

Many thanks,
Blake Strefford -*Head Tennis Coach*

ANNUAL AWARDS & FUNDRAISING NIGHT - SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY, 2027

This year's tennis presentation evening is booked for Saturday, February 6th at Oswestry Cricket Club. It's a little later than usual as we want to take part in Oswestry's Christmas Parade and not clash with Halloween and Bonfire Night celebrations.

This will be a family evening where we celebrate the finest young tennis talent of Oswestry Team Tennis. There will be bingo games, trophy presentations, a great raffle and we'll finish the night with a hot buffet. Always a great evening and lots of fun.

My coaching groups saying goodbye to the Council Workshop!

The following photos are the three coaching groups that I look after on a Monday, Thursday and Sunday mornings.

Walking tennis

	In conjunction with U3A, since July 2025, I have been running walking tennis sessions on a Monday morning starting at 10am for people with mobility issues. It is a very small group at the moment, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in taking part, please get in touch with me.

Rusty Rackets Thursdays 10am to 11am followed by coffee at Old School House Restaurant

	Weekly numbers vary from around six to ten depending on availability as this group is run on a pay as you go basis. These ladies are not rusty, I can assure you.

Sunday club session 10am – 12pm FREE to our members including parents

	This is a free club session for our youngsters and parents to play some tennis and socialise. It is fun with quite a variety of playing formats on offer. Currently our numbers are undoubtedly low, so if you would be interested in taking part, please get in touch with me. Clive Knight - 07964615858

Wrexham Lexus Open, - Sunday 18th – 25th October.

This is a very high quality Ladies tournament held locally involving women in the top 100 in the world and up and coming British players. It is a really good experience to watch high quality tennis and it is on your doorstep.

To find out more, please use the link **https://wrexhamopentennis.com/**

Look forward to seeing you on or off court, and VERY WELL DONE for getting to the end of our longer than usual Newsletter.

Clive Knight – Chairman/ Trustee

5.10.2026