

The Great Ayton & District Tennis Club started in the summer of 1939 as a Tennis & Bowls Club, with one court next to the bowling green, although depleted membership was already causing the Bowls Club problems. The Club was situated on land to the rear of The Tile sheds Inn car park - some of the houses in Wheatlands now occupy the site. There was an old tramcar which acted as a pavilion, very useful for fish and chip suppers on long summer evenings. They were really long days due to double Summer time during the Second world War.

The first Annual General Meeting was held in the W.I. Hall on 2nd April 1940 and the Bowls Club closed in that summer, after which we had two courts. The subscription was 5/- (FIVE SHILLINGS) per annum, with a minimum age of 14 years: in 1941. It was increased to six shillings and sixpence, with a special rate of half that for members of HM Forces.

There were several Whist Drives and dances - all held in the Ambulance Hall, as the other Halls in the village were occupied by HM Forces.

In March 1944 a letter was received from the owner of the land, which we had hoped to purchase, saying the land was required for agricultural purposes. This was a great disappointment to all involved, but it had to be accepted. Fortunately, Sir John Fry agreed to allow the Club to use his courts at Cleveland Lodge. We had many happy years there and more dances and parties were organised, all helping to swell the funds. After the War we held tournaments, a Social Club was started in the Ambulance Hall during the winter months, and in 1947, a Badminton Club was started in the Parochial Hall.

In June 1947, a set of rules was drawn up and presented to an Extraordinary General Meeting. The first rule being the Club should be known as "The Great Ayton & District Tennis Club". We joined the East Cleveland Tennis League travelling to matches at Guisborough, Skelton, Redcar, Carlin How and Hinderwell, usually on public transport!

Around 1949/1950, negotiations commenced to lease the land opposite the Buck Hotel from Nimmo's Brewery. The outcome was satisfactory, with three new courts completed and occupied from 1951.

By 1966 the team was promoted to the top division in the league. The enthusiasm for men's team tennis waned and the team was disbanded in 1985. The men's team was reformed in 1991 and went from strength to strength rising in the year 2000 to the first division and staying up in year 2001. A second men's team was formed in 1996.

A women's team was formed, and was in and out of the first division over the last few years. A second women's team was also formed.



In 1995 an application was made for funding of (a) £65,000 from the National Lottery, (b) £18,000 from Hambleton District council in order to resurface the present courts and to build 2 new courts. The project team was led by Mike Newton and Tim Ryan. Other members of the club committee included Jennifer Roberts (secretary), Don & Wendy Heald, Paul Mannix, & Betty Manton. This funding was agreed in late 1996, with the total project cost being just over £105,000. In order to get the funding it was necessary to

- agree a 20-year lease with the Whitbread brewery
- remove a diseased tree adjacent Levenside
- write a Constitution for the club (see below)
- increase club membership fees to provide for future maintenance of the courts
- appoint a club coach (Ken Gaget)

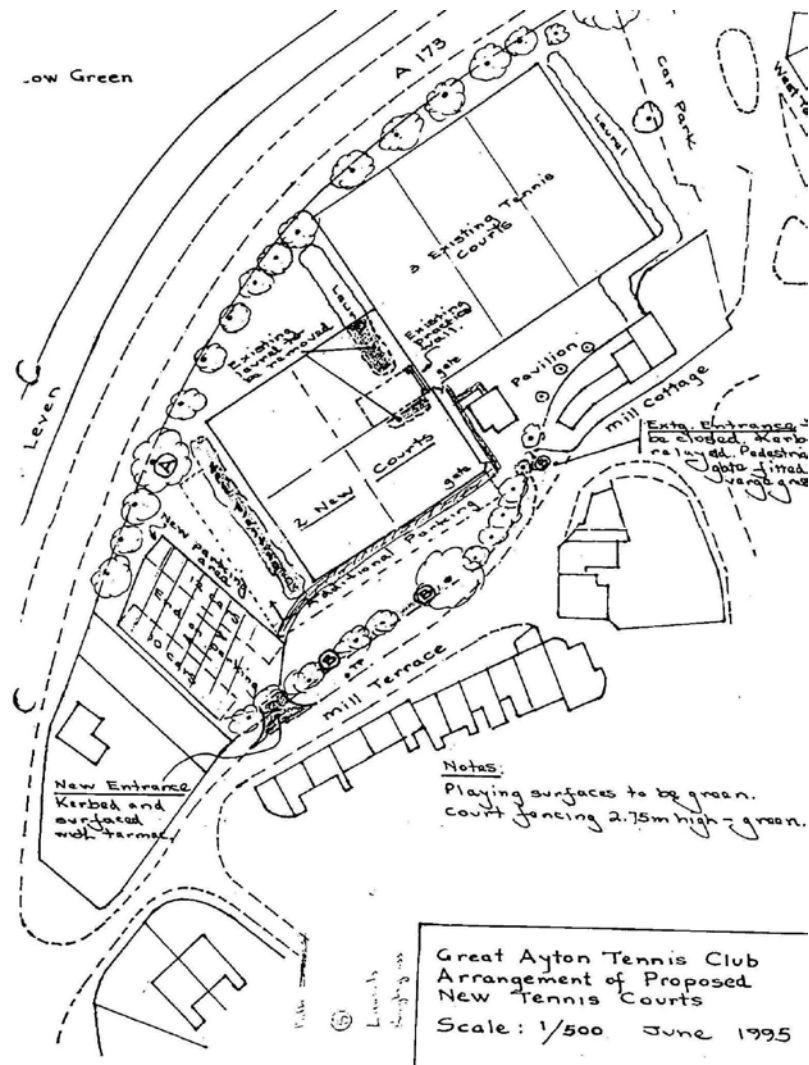
The project was completed in early 1997, transforming the whole club and with a significant rise of membership.





The social events, organised by the committee, have added to culture of the club, and besides raising money have been very enjoyable. There have been numerous chairmen of the club over the years but Jennifer Roberts has remained as the secretary of the club for over 20 years, a real stalwart of the club.

Arrangement of new courts in 1995



The Constitution

1. NAME AND PURPOSE

(i) That the name of the Club shall be Great Ayton Tennis Club formed for the purpose of playing social and competitive tennis and for raising funds to provide facilities for its own continuance and maintenance without the motive of financial profit

(ii) That the opening date of the Club is 1 April of each year

2. MANAGEMENT

That it be managed by a Committee consisting of:

- i. The Club Chairperson
- ii Vice Chairperson
- iii The Honorary Secretary
- iv The Honorary Treasurer
- v The Mens Team Representative

vi The Ladies Team Representative

vii The Social Secretary

viii The Junior Coordinator

ix And Two ordinary members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting

3. POWERS AND QUORUM

(i) That the Committee be empowered to act in the name of the Club and be guided by a simple majority of votes provided always that FIVE bonafide members shall constitute a quorum. It shall have power to co-opt members as deemed necessary by such a majority to fill vacancies arising during a term of office.

(ii) That the Committee shall have the power to enter into a lease for property to carry out the purpose of the Club.

(iii) That the Committee shall have the power to authorise the borrowing of money for the said purpose.

(iv) That the President may be asked to perform such duties as the Committee shall determine, including chairing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) until the election of officers.

(v) That the Chairperson, together with the Committee, shall be responsible for the running of the Club and will organise improvements and maintenance of the Club's assets; shall deal with complaints which are not covered by responsibilities of the Captains; shall preside over the Committee, Annual and Special General Meetings.

(vi) That the Vice Chairperson shall have the same responsibilities as the Chairperson in his/her absence.

(vii) That the Secretary shall convene all Annual and Special General Meetings and all Committee meetings; shall keep minutes of such meetings; shall conduct all correspondence on behalf of the Club unless this responsibility is transferred to other Members for specific activities (eg: Club improvements)

(viii) That the Treasurer shall receive all monies and make payments on behalf of the Club; shall prepare Receipts/Expenditure accounts which shall cause to be audited before and presented to the AGM. Account years shall be 1 January until 31 December; shall collect subscriptions from members, reporting to the Committee any that are unpaid by 1 June.

(ix) That the Mens and Ladies Team Representatives shall take responsibility for all team concerns.

(x) That the Junior Coordinator shall take responsibility for all Junior team concerns.

4. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

That the duly appointed Honorary Secretary shall notify members of the dates and venue of all meetings.

5. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

i That Ordinary Membership of the Club be open to any member of the public on payment of the appropriate subscription subject to the approval of the Committee.

ii That Associate Membership of the Club be offered to any member of the Club, at the discretion of the Committee.

iii New members shall be approved by the Committee and will be expected to abide by the Club Constitution and Rules.

iv Any matters or complaints should be reported to a member of the Committee.

v Juniors of sufficient ability (to be determined by the Committee) may be invited to join senior practice nights, tournaments and Club nights.

6. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

The Annual General Meeting shall have the power to grant honorary life membership to any person deemed to have made a significant contribution to the Club.

7. VICE PRESIDENTS

The Annual General Meeting shall have the power to invite persons to become Vice Presidents of the Club who shall, upon acceptance, enjoy Associate Membership of the Club.

8. VOTING

That voting on all matters shall be a show of hands or card ballot, as the Chairperson deems appropriate, by ordinary and honorary life members only. In the event of an equal division in any meeting, the Chairperson will have a second or casting vote.

9. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION & VISITORS

That the annual subscription for full membership for any season shall be approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting immediately preceding that season, and that such subscription should be paid by 30 April. Any member whose subscription is unpaid after such date shall not be eligible to play in matches, nor entitled to use the Club's materials or property. Students and persons under 17 years of age may take advantage of a reduced subscription. Families may pay at the Family rate. All levels of subscriptions and the visitor's fee to be approved at the Annual General Meeting. All visitors shall pay the approved visitor's fee. New members who join the Club after paying visitor's fees will pay the full membership less the total visitor's fee paid. New members joining late in the season shall pay at a reduced subscription entirely at the discretion of the Committee.

10. A G M ACCOUNTS AND QUORUM

That the Annual General Meeting be held in February of each year for the election of Officers, President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Auditor and Committees that are necessary, and for any other business. All senior members shall be given not less than two weeks notice of this meeting. All officers shall go out of office every year but shall be eligible for re-election. At the meeting the Honorary Treasurer shall present an account of all monies received and paid by him on behalf of the Club, such an account been duly audited and certified by an Honorary Auditor appointed by members in Annual General Meeting. The accounts shall be made up to the 31 December of the year immediately preceding the date of the meeting. In Annual General Meeting EIGHT shall constitute a quorum.

11. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS & QUORUM

That on a requisition in writing, signed by no less than FOUR members, the Honorary Secretary shall, within twenty one days of receipt of such a requisition, call and hold a Special General Meeting stating the objects of the meeting. In Special General Meeting EIGHT shall constitute a quorum

12. CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

That cheques drawn on behalf of the Club shall be signed by any two of the following officers: The Club Chairperson, The Honorary Treasurer, The Honorary Secretary.

13. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP & DEBTORS

That the Committee shall have the power to suspend or terminate the membership of anyone whose conduct they deem detrimental to the interests of the Club.

That the Committee shall have the power to suspend or terminate the membership of anyone owing money to the Club.

14. MATCH FEES & TEAM SELECTION

That the fee for participating in matches shall be approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting immediately preceding the season; That balls of the required standard shall be provided by the Club for matches; That Team captains shall collect the approved match fee from all Great Ayton Team members; That the selection of the teams be in the hands of the relevant Captain, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. That they shall be responsible for the running of their respective teams.

15. DRESS

Recognised tennis shoes and appropriate tennis dress shall be worn by all members when using the courts

16. TRUSTEES

The property of the Club shall be vested in TWO Trustees who shall be appointed by the Annual General Meeting and the property of the Club shall be vested in them to be dealt with as the Committee may from time to time direct by Resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by the Committee. Whereby reason of such death, resignation or removal it is necessary that a new Trustee or Trustees be appointed, the Committee shall nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the Club Chairperson is now nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of the Trustee Act 1925 Section 36 and he shall by deed appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee.

17. ALTERATION TO RULES

That no rule or rules shall be amended or rescinded, or additional rules made, unless by the consent of a majority of members at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

18. COACHING

That only the official Club Coach, or his/her nominees, shall have the use of the courts for paid coaching as permitted by the Committee.

19. COURT USAGE

(i) The courts shall be open for play each day

(ii) Members shall play in the order of arrival, unless any special arrangement, approved by the Committee has been made (eg. American Tournaments)

(iii) Junior members shall have priority between 4 and 6 pm every weekday, on Saturday mornings until 2 pm and on Monday evenings. AT ALL OTHER TIMES SENIORS HAVE PRIORITY. (NB. Players when requested should leave the courts at the end of present game, not point or set)

(iv) On Club nights players should limit their matches to 8 games only; this will aid the mixing in of members. All players who attend club night are expected to participate with the rest of the members present. The etiquette is for mixed matches to have preference over single-sex matches.

(v) No singles matches will be played after 6 pm or at weekends when there are members waiting.

(vi) Members are not allowed to play on the courts while a match is in progress, until the match is over.