



Banbury Lawn
Tennis Club



Tournament - Finals!



1pm Sunday 28th September 2025

Match Secretary Rod Haddrell writes: Our annual Club Tournament is nearing its finals stages and things are hotting up! For the first time since their reintroduction, with the inclusion of ladies doubles, we appear to be building towards having all 5 finals keenly contested. However, owing to the sudden non-availability of both Pia Ramirez and Matt Dale (respectively, our ladies' finalist and our current men's singles and mixed champion), your committee has decided to delay the Finals Day by one week. Not involving these players would be unfair to those players they already defeated in the earlier rounds and devalue the Finals overall.



Please come and be part of the excitement and fun whilst watching what is sure to be some great tennis. Finals Day is set for **Sunday 28th September (1pm start)** although the Ladies Doubles final remains scheduled for the previous weekend.

A big thank you to all of our competitors for making this year's Tournament such a great success yet again and, of course, congratulations to Rod for organising a most enjoyable and efficient event. He's even discussing next year's event being an Open! Wimbledon and Flushing Meadows: eat your hearts out.



Competitions

Our club enters summer and winter teams into both the Banbury Tennis League and the Oxfordshire Dunlop League and, recently, the LTA Men's National League.

Match Secretary Gary Jackson writes: this is the summary of both the
Oxfordshire Winter & Summer Leagues 2025



Winter 2024/2025

The Tennis Oxfordshire Dunlop [Winter League](#) has Men's and Women's divisions and runs between October and March. The respective leagues are a doubles competition with each team consisting of two pairs. Each pair plays two sets against each opposing pair, with one point for every set won.

Mens A - Premier Division

Finished in a comfortable mid-table position (6th), never in any doubt of relegation. The main three players involved were Darren & Elliott (8 matches) and Matt (7 matches). The team only needed to call upon seven players during the whole season thanks to good availability from the main three players.

Mens B - Division 6

Unfortunately, the Mens B fared less well, finishing second to last and thereby returning to Division 7 next season. They used 13 players, which demonstrates the poor availability of players throughout the squad. Only Steve Ashby managed to play more than 5 matches, out of the ten available.

Ladies A - Division 1

A decent winter for the Ladies finishing a comfortable seventh. Stalwarts Fiona (9 matches) and Jo (7 matches) led the way as usual. Kelly played six matches with a winning record of 10-2, which was comfortably the best percentage out of all of the teams.

Summer 2025

The Tennis Oxfordshire Dunlop [Summer League](#) has Men's, Women's and Mixed divisions and runs between April and September. The respective leagues are a doubles competition with each team consisting of two pairs. Each pair plays two sets against each opposing pair, with one point for every set won.





Mens A - Division 1

A respectable mid-table (4th) finish for the A team. The core players were Darren & Gary (6 matches) and Matt (5 matches). However, we did have to call upon 10 players in total, as we often struggled to find the all-important fourth player. Both Darren (9-3) and Matt (7-2) finished with winning records, an impressive feat in the top division.

Mens B - Division 8

Sadly, relegated again with only one win of 7 matches. Out of the 14 players used only 2 managed to play 5 matches. If Rod and Rob hadn't done so I doubt the team would have survived. Surely division 9 will prove to be the correct level for this team?

Mens C - Division 11

Relegated down to division 12 for Mens C next season. They did manage to win 2 matches at least out of 8 and needed only one more point to avoid relegation. 13 players were used and nobody managed more than 4 matches out of the 8 available. On a positive note, relegation from division 12 is not possible!



Ladies A - Division 3

Much like the Mens A, the Ladies A have been surviving with the bare minimum of players for a few years. I'm afraid this season it has finally told, and the Ladies will be in Division 4 next season. The turning point was a match concession which resulted in the loss of 8 points and dooming the team to relegation. Can we bounce back? I'm sceptical unless we

gain some new players.

Ladies B - Division 9

Time for some good news. The B team ladies had a good season finishing mid-table (with other teams still to play matches). Only 8 players were required throughout the season. Ruth played 7, Shirley 6 and Lyn 5.

Mixed A - Division 2

With two matches left to play, it looks like the A team will stay in Division 2 but getting a strong team out on a regular basis remains a challenge for captain Caroline.



Mixed B - Division 4

Unfortunately, the team has folded due to the lack of players that are available, largely due to a shortage of ladies that can cope with this standard. Given our current pool of players, a drop to Division 5 may not be a bad thing.

Mixed C - Division 8

Still three matches to go but as we have accumulated 2 points from our opening five matches, I think we can expect to be relegated. On the upside, you can't be relegated from division 9!

Match Secretary Rod Haddrell writes: **Banbury Tennis Leagues 2025**



Our two teams in the Summer [Banbury Tennis League](#) are again experiencing different fortunes, like last year, when the B team was promoted and the A team relegated. This summer, the B team is facing a real battle to avoid dropping back down to the 4th division and, with only one match to play against close rivals, Byfield, it's still all to play for – nothing like a tense encounter! The A team, being 3rd out of 7 teams, has now slipped too far off the pace to gain promotion so will have another season in Division 2 next summer.

The Floodlit League schedule of matches will shortly be announced.

A new BTL Seniors League (60yrs and over) was trialed this summer with our team (ably lead by Ruth Parle) putting in some creditable performances. Please make yourself known if you would like to play next summer.



It is very clear that we are struggling to attract enough ladies into playing competitive tennis. Other local clubs have mentioned they share the same problem! Please - if you know someone who would like to play matches for our club, just ask them to contact matchsecretary@banburytennis.co.uk

After a few years hiatus, we re-entered 2 teams in the LTA Men's National



League this season. The format is akin to the Davis Cup where players compete in singles and doubles. The teams experienced a very high level of competition and will be keen to repeat the experience next year.

Membership News

Membership Secretary Wallace Farley writes: Membership is really just business as usual as our numbers (~150) are about the same as the last three years - with 60% adults and 40% juniors, two-thirds male.



In addition to our regular Club Nights (Tuesdays & Fridays at 6.30pm) we've introduced a couple of Family & Friends evenings that have been successful. We'll continue them next summer. Our Senior numbers have grown slightly this year, which reflects our overall age demographic. The youngsters nowadays don't seem to play as much sport as a few decades ago. Of course, it's nothing to do with the introduction of social media. More seniors will always be welcome to the regular Tuesday 1.30pm afternoon slot – as would any adult member who is free then. Seniors also get together informally on Friday mornings at 10am.

As ever, Lyn Shields does a super job keeping the regular club nights running efficiently year-round; and our non-member, Kyle Smith, voluntarily maintains our web site, which is our first contact point for the public to become members. Thank you, Lyn & Kyle! Finally, your committee is investigating the proposal of introducing corporate membership; the idea is to boost overall membership numbers by approaching local firms to include it as an added benefit for their employees.

Courts and Costs

All of our court surfaces are currently far from perfect but the good news is that they are "about to be repaired" (Courts 1-4) and resurfaced (Courts 5&6). Please be patient whilst repairs are ongoing as there is bound to be some disruption. "Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible".

Now please bear with me for some basic maths. Courts generally need resurfacing every 10 years to keep them in good condition. After 20 years without attention, we have finally persuaded Banbury Town Council (BTC), who is our landlord, that remedial action can wait no longer. It took protestations to the BTC Town Clerk and then the General Services Committee to achieve action. We can also thank our Easington ward town councillor, Kieron Mallon (*Con*), for using his long experience to oil the cogs of bureaucracy.



Many of you will have noticed that the first task was to remove the tree above Court 6, which was making the surface icy in the winter and its roots were breaking through, too.

BTC has generally chosen the cheapest stop-gap option. Asphalt courts cost about £17k each to resurface, which will be the approximate cost for Courts 5&6 (resurfacing every 10 years?). However, the Council has chosen just to repair Courts 1-4, with a resin/grit binding and paint, for about £10k total. That should extend the safe and playable life of the courts about 2-3 years. Our lease expires on 1 March 2029, when the Council intends to investigate *"options for full resurfacing to be reviewed and negotiated alongside a new lease proposal"*.

In summary, the Council was handed the property, in 2003 with newly renovated courts, which they initially leased to us at £2,647/yr, rising with inflation to ~£4000/yr. In that time, we have paid approximately £55k in rent and paid for ongoing routine maintenance (which was the Council's responsibility anyway). They have paid £1k in 2011, for repairs to the public court only, and £4k towards the lighting in 2010 (£5k total).



The council are now paying £35k for resurfacing and £10k for a stop-gap measure on four courts. In other words, our lease payments have more than paid for the work about to be undertaken. And in 3 years' time they are hoping to renegotiate a new lease, perhaps offering us 4 courts at the end of their useful life.

Your committee obtained an independent survey for the proper required work on 6 courts, estimated at ~£230k excluding fencing and protection against future frost damage. Make of it what you will but court maintenance is "ongoing".

Peoples' Park & Our Public-Use Court

Last year, the LTA forwarded a grant of about £10k to BTC for the refurbishment of the two courts at Peoples' Park. Unsurprisingly, those courts



continue to be misused by non-tennis players as the new electronic gate access is bookable at no cost. BTC has decided to charge £4/hr there shortly. Consequently, *our* public-use court will also attract a minimal charge. Your committee is discussing which court (of the six) will be adopted for public-use; Court 6 will be newly resurfaced and, with lighting, will be in premium demand. It makes sense to transfer public use towards courts 1-4.

Seniors Tennis

Our Seniors (65+) play all year around, making the most of Tuesday Club Afternoons for all, from 1.30pm every Tuesday, and Friday mornings for a couple of hours. Tennis is recognised as one of the best all-round activities for those who wish to preserve their health – and you'll be surprised how healthy our seniors are! Nonetheless, it doesn't matter if you have a few limitations with aches and pains – we still play fun tennis. And: reduced annual senior membership fees too!



Club House

All Members have access to the club house whenever playing. If you don't know the access code, ask any club official, club night organisers, team captains or a coach



The club house has:

- A first aid bag hung up on the left side and the Accident Book is in the far left corner.
- A socialising area with rest and refuge from weather. There's a kettle, fridge and heater, too.
- Display boards with varied information including Safeguarding, tournaments and coaching.



- Club Night balls (good former match balls) are stored in the 2nd storage box on right.
- Net measures are by the door if not hung on court fencing.

Please always tidy up/wash up before you leave and recycle into the nearby recreation park bins. Now that winter is approaching, to prevent freezing and flooding, please turn off the water stopcock below the sink. Please don't try and open the windows, nor turn on the club house lights when the floodlights are on. It's some sort of magic.

Finally please remember, if you're the last one to leave, to lock the club house properly every time – ensure the latch is fully across to the right and the door does not open. Ask if you're not sure!

Toilets.

Separate gender facilities are in the Pavilion behind the club house. Officials, club session organisers, captains & coaches have access to the key safe in the club house. Don't forget that's also the location of the nearest debrillator.



Coaching

Head Coach Rosie Clark writes: The Coaching Team has been busy running weekly classes for 2-year olds to adults. Currently, over 84 players attend weekly Group Coaching and Cardio Tennis. In addition, monthly Junior Match Plays have brought together Banbury Tennis Club players and others from neighbouring counties, totalling some 33 young competitors. Private coaching for adults brings in some court revenue from non-members but, interestingly, all our adult club members seem to consider their skills to be fully honed.



The Holiday Camps for juniors were again only reasonably well-attended; 10 dates accommodated 68 players with the majority being non-members. Mysteriously, the parallel holiday camps at Bloxham were more popular.



Inclusive coaching sessions started over the Summer for ladies from Banbury Mosque using specialist funding. 12 Ladies enjoyed weekly coaching with further sessions scheduled for Autumn 2025. Many of the ladies had never previously had the opportunity to participate in tennis coaching.

Free Tennis for All has become a popular annual event with up to 100 people attending each year. Free coaching, competitions and hot dogs prove a winning combination. Bring on 2026!



ROSIE CLARK
TENNIS COACHING : **PLAY YOUR GAME**

BANBURY TENNIS CLUB

SEPT-DEC 2025 Coaching Programme

Mondays from: see session

5:15-6:15PM Junior Improvers (10+) from 08/09
6:15-7:15PM Beginners (adults & teens) from 1/09
7:15-8:15PM Improvers (adults & teens) from 1/09

Wednesdays from 03/09

5-6PM Orange Beginners/Improvers (ages 7-9)
6-7PM Junior Beginners (ages 10+)

Thursdays from 11/09

9:30-10:30AM Cardio Tennis (adults & teens)

Saturdays from 06/09

9-10AM Red Beginners/Improvers (ages 4-6)
9-10AM Junior Beginners (ages 10+)
10-11AM Orange Beginners/Improvers (ages 7-9)
10-11AM Junior Improvers (ages 10+)
11-11:45AM Tots (ages 2-4)
11AM-12PM Junior Advanced Improvers (ages 13+)

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Chairman Rob Retires



We probably all know Rob in different ways: as a very keen social player; a worthy adversary or team partner in competitions; a dedicated committee member, including 5 years' service *before* 18 years as the club Chairperson. All admirably achieved whilst raising his lovely family of four!

He's conscientiously embraced the Chair role whilst retaining his passion for tennis and infectious enthusiasm within our club as a whole, always in his friendly, capable and calm manner.

He has been fully involved in all aspects, leading on:

- Annual captains' meetings - to agree competitive team selections
- The coaching programme - recruiting and liaising with our head coaches, including Safeguarding
- LTA/club partnership - including the annual Venue Registration
- Resolving the quirky Clubspark electronic membership and database system
- Court & lighting maintenance (all year round) - eg net & light replacements
- The local Banbury Tennis Partnership that involved the LTA & Banbury TC. This ambitious project was for a new indoor tennis/multi-activity centre that, sadly, was not approved.

Moreover, with his business/finance expertise, Rob saw the benefit of the LTA online court booking system using the LTA's Electronic Gates and grant. The



online system allows members, and also paying non-members, to book courts. This has brought in extra income for our club, which helps towards the annual lease fees to Banbury TC and maintenance!

In the past 2 years, Rob has been proactive in liaising and meeting with Banbury Town Council to address the urgent leased court refurbishment. The result is Banbury Town Council has finally approved funding for repairs to all 6 courts this autumn. A great achievement, thank you Rob.

What your committee didn't expect was the administrative foot-dragging, vacillation and procrastination that we now all know about, to say the least. That's something we'll be thinking about when renewing the contract, or not, in the next year or so!!!

As you should know, Rob has decided to pass over the Chairing role to someone with fresh new ideas, but he's keen to remain still involved on your committee as our Treasurer (if elected!)



His last task will be to chair the AGM at **7.30pm Tuesday 23rd September**, so please do attend to support and thank him in person.

On behalf of Banbury Lawn Tennis Club, most sincerely, thank you Rob for your 18 years at the helm.

