

THE STORY OF EBBISHAM SPORTS CLUB

Written in 2017
to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the club
on its present site in Eastway Epsom

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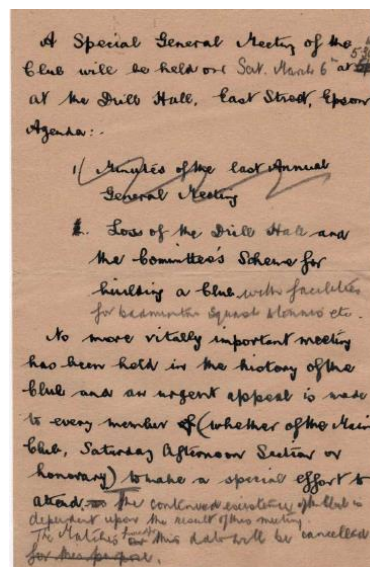
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHAPTER 1 - ORIGINS

According to a brief history written for new members in 1949, **Ebbisham Badminton Club** was already in existence before the 1914-18 war. It was resurrected in 1919 and until 1937 played on 3 courts at the Army Drill Hall in Hawthorn Place off East Street Epsom. By 1936 it was the second largest badminton club in Surrey with about 110 playing members some of whom also served as officers on the Surrey County Badminton Committee.

In the autumn of 1936 the club was informed that the Epsom regiment was to be mechanised and the Drill Hall re-built as a garage so there would be no height or room for badminton. Attempts by members of the Club Committee to find alternative accommodation were wholly unsuccessful and it became clear that if the Club were to continue, it must build its own hall. *It is interesting to note that 6 other badminton clubs in Surrey found themselves in the same position and lost their playing facilities, including Wimbledon Badminton Club, which went on to construct its present premises in Cranbrook Road, SW19.*

A **Special General Meeting** of all members was called for **6 March 1937** to discuss the loss of the Drill Hall and the committee's scheme for building a club with facilities for badminton, squash and tennis. The calling notice for the meeting stated: 'No more vitally important meeting has been held in the history of the club and an urgent appeal is made to every member (whether of the main club, Saturday afternoon section or honorary) to make a special effort to attend. **The continued existence of this club is dependent on the result of this meeting.** The matches fixed for this date will be cancelled'.

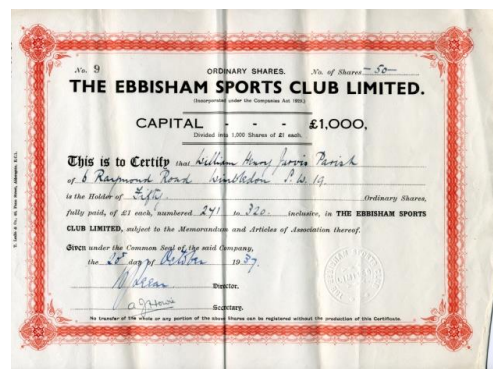


A Special General Meeting of the Club will be held on Sat. March 6th 1937 at the Drill Hall, East Street, Epsom.
Agenda:-
1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. Loss of the Drill Hall and the Committee's Scheme for building a club with facilities for badminton, squash & tennis etc.
No more vitally important meeting has been held in the history of the Club and an urgent appeal is made to every member of (whether of the main club, Saturday Afternoon Section or honorary) to make a special effort to attend. The continued existence of the Club is dependent upon the result of this meeting. The matches for this date will be cancelled for the purpose.

It was felt that a hall for badminton alone would not be viable and that other sports must be included in the complex. In particular, there was an essential need for a summer tennis club, since in those days both badminton and squash were considered to be winter games and no organised summer play existed. Only tennis could keep the club going during the summer months. The concept therefore came into being of having 3 badminton courts, 2 squash courts and some hard tennis courts plus, of course, changing rooms, a bar and lounge, and perhaps a shop, office and a committee room.

There had been a Lawn Tennis Club associated with St Barnabas Church in Temple Road. Though active in the early thirties it had recently folded and their tennis courts and pavilion on the site of our present courts in Eastway came up for sale. A number of other sites were investigated, but this was considered the best option, located as it was on the edge of the recently built Chase Estate. The tennis courts had fallen into disrepair and would have to be re-laid.

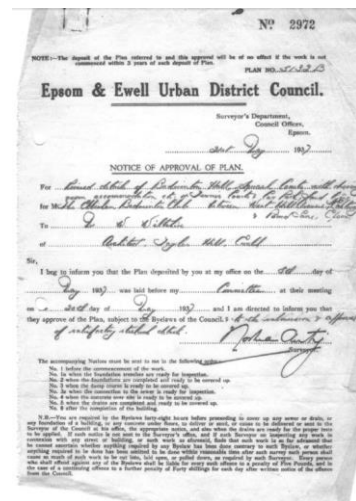
A private limited company, **Ebbisham Sports Club Limited**, was set up to fund the purchase of the site and build the premises. Mr W Bridgwater was chosen as first chairman of the club with Mr W Wiltshire, Mr H Seear and Mr W Parish as the other directors. The company issued £1,000 in £1 shares and also £10 and £25 debentures carrying interest at 5 ½ %.



The Equity & Law Life Assurance Co. lent the club £3,250 on mortgage and on the personal guarantees of the directors and Brewery Company Watney Mann agreed to waive the restrictive covenants on the sale of alcoholic liquors in consideration of the club ordering its requirements through them in preference to their competitors.

The land was purchased from St Barnabas Parochial Church Council for the sum of £350. The pavilion which was surplus to requirements was subsequently sold for £12. As at the time there was no vehicular access to the club site via Eastway, Mr Sydney Smith the owner of the house next to the courts agreed to sell part of his land to the club to allow access for the sum of £150. Mr Smith also agreed to rent a small strip of his land to allow the full amount of space for the tennis courts at the nominal rent of 2/6 per year. In addition, £100 was paid to the Trustees of the Chase Estate for variation of restrictive covenants.

Although the planned site for the club appeared ideal, located as it was on the edge of the Chase Estate where it would add to the amenities available to the relatively affluent residents, there was considerable opposition from near neighbours who feared that their children, who were accustomed to playing out in the road, would be endangered by the 'enormous increase' in traffic in Eastway and (notwithstanding strict licensing laws) that members would engage in excessive drinking parties, and also from the licensees of the nearby Blenheim public house. However, planning permission was granted on 21 May 1937 and the deeds signed on 17 October 1937.



Construction began immediately, though the tennis courts were not completed until the following year due to a temporary lack of funds. The squash courts were completed on 27 November, and put into use shortly after, as soon as the car park was usable, with the rest of the building ready for use about a week later.

Wiltshire's

Mr. Wiltshire submitted a financial statement giving particulars of the amount so far expended on the Hall & the estimated amount due; as follows:

	Amount Paid	Amount Due
Cost of Building	£4875.	25 81.
Land	350.	350.
Paint	150.	150.
Chase Estate (reduced payments)	100.	100.
Furniture	200.	-
Electricity	100.	-
Tennis Courts	500.	-
	<u>£ 6275.</u>	

Assuming that the Mortgage is arranged, the remaining shares issued the following gives the capital raised by the Company:-

Shares	£ 1000.
Debentures	1580.
Mortgage	3250.
	<u>£ 5830</u>

The cost of the project, down to the last cup and saucer, was £7,048 - this was possible because the Chairman, Mr. Walter Bridgwater of Bridgwater Bros, the public works contractors, had all the building work (except the specialist work such as the badminton hall structure, the squash court wall plastering, etc.), and the car park laid at cost. Mr William Wiltshire gave his services free as architect and the legal work was also done free except for disbursements.

Interim report on expenditure given to the Board of Directors by William Wiltshire on 9 December 1937

By today's standards the whole process from conception to birth of the club on the new site was completed in double quick time; presumably there were fewer regulations and less red tape in those days.

Leases for the specific playing facilities plus changing rooms and car park were drawn up between Ebbisham Sports Club Ltd and the badminton, squash, tennis and social clubs. Each club had its own structure, committee, rules, fees, a separate system of accounts and paid a fixed amount of rent plus a percentage of income from fees to the company. In return the company provided all necessary lighting, heating, cleaning and maintenance.

The Club was formally opened on 1st February 1938
by Lord Ebbisham (formerly Sir Rowland Blades,
MP for Epsom) the Club's president and formerly
president of the old Ebbisham badminton club.



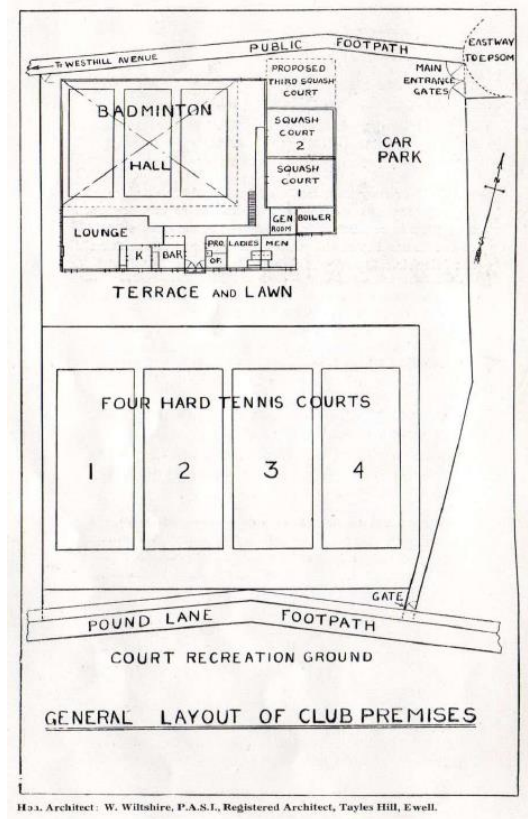
CHAPTER 2 - THE CLUB PRE-WAR

FACILITIES

If we were able to time-travel back to pre-war times, we would be struck by the similarities of the club to its present day incarnation.



There were 4 tennis courts rather than the 3 we have now, and though described as 'hard courts' they were in fact red shale or clay courts rather than the present macadam .



HO 1. Architect: W. Wiltshire, P.A.S.I., Registered Architect, Tayles Hill, Ewell.



The badminton hall, with its 3 courts had a height of 30ft, maple floor and special lighting suspended between the courts as it is today. The top section of the roof was made of glass to let in light. There were unglazed windows into the lounge and what is now named the Wiltshire Room with an open viewing gallery above.

There were just 2 squash courts, but space had been allocated for the construction of a 3rd court in the future. The viewing gallery which overlooked the courts was also used for ping-pong.



According to the 1938 General Booklet, the club was open on weekdays from 11am to 10pm and on Sundays opened an hour earlier. In addition to the playing facilities, the accommodation included: 'Dressing rooms, with wash basins, hot and cold showers and lavatories; Bar; Restaurant and Dance Lounge; Reading and Committee Room; Professional's Shop (where all requirements for the three sports can be obtained); Telephone Kiosk and General Office. Facilities for Table Tennis, Bridge, Darts, etc. The club is centrally heated.'



The Social Club was an important part of the Club as a whole. Weekly dances were held in the lounge on Fridays, with twice-yearly large dances in the badminton hall. One of the first acquisitions of the club was a piano purchased for £21. Whist and bridge drives were held regularly and other social events included car treasure and scavenger hunts, darts, billiards and table tennis tournaments.

THE LIMITED COMPANY

As has been said, Ebbisham Sport Club Limited was set up to fund and oversee the construction of the premises and once these were completed it was responsible for maintaining the playing and other facilities.

The board of directors met once a month, but there was considerable activity behind the scenes. In addition to all the work in registering the company, arranging banking facilities, appointing an auditor, the securing of loans, engaging solicitors, arranging insurance cover, issuing (and re-issuing) of shares and debentures, matters dealt with in the early days included appointing a company secretary, engaging the steward, club professional and other staff, drawing up the leases with the 4 clubs, design and printing of the club brochure and handbook, advertising, the purchase of equipment including a duplicator and typewriter.

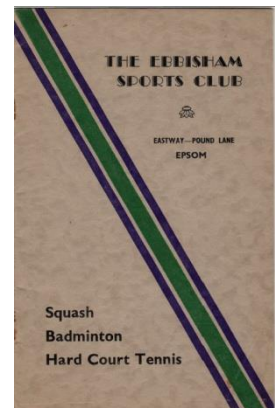
Club colours it was decided should be green, mauve and white; blazers and ties would be available in these colours. They were also reflected in the design of the brochure.



2 versions of the club tie



Blazer in club colours



In addition to sitting on the board, the directors also served on the committees of the individual clubs and took an leading role both as players and committee members.

The club benefited from the services of a full-time steward and his wife, plus assistants who carried out cleaning and providing of refreshments. A groundsman was also employed to tend the tennis courts which needed regular watering, rolling and dragging.

Coaching in all three sports was available 'at special terms' from the club professional who also ran the club shop and offered a re-stringing service.

Lockers were provided in the changing rooms and could be hired at a cost of 3/6 per season. Members were charged 2d for the hire of a bath towel; no charge for hand towels.

THE INDIVIDUAL CLUBS

BADMINTON

The newly constituted badminton club was essentially a continuation of the original Ebbisham Badminton Club. Play had continued at the Drill Hall throughout 1937 until the new premises were ready at the end of the year. There was already a club structure in place and this remained pretty much unchanged.

The club as now, was divided into sections, each of which had its own committee which was subordinate to the main badminton committee:

- Section A (£2-15s per season = £178.37 today) played on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. A standard of play test had to be undergone by all applicants.
- Section B (£2-10s) played on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Beginners were not accepted.
- Section C (£1-10s) played on one court on Saturday early evenings. This section was for beginners and subscriptions covered the cost of instruction from the club professional. When a member reached the required proficiency, transfer was arranged to one of the other sections.

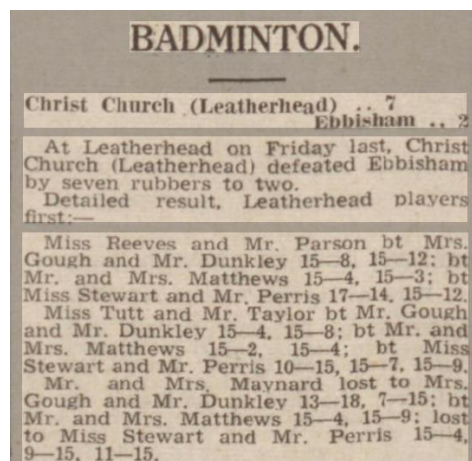
In addition, although ladies could join as members of the other sections, there were also special Ladies Afternoon Sections:

- Section AA (£1-5s or 17/6 for members of other sections) was for experienced players and took place on Wednesday afternoons
- Section BB (£1-17s-6d or £1-5s) for beginners who played on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

Shuttles were provided by the club for all sections and matches, and play was regulated by a rota board system.

2 courts were reserved on Monday and Friday evenings for an already established programme of matches which were arranged for all sections apart from C. The club entered a number of teams in various Surrey County Leagues and knockout competitions, as well as friendlies. Familiar names amongst the opposition were Wimbledon, Limpsfield, Dorking and Raynes Park, which still feature today, but what happened to Alliance, Langshot, Brandhurst, Old Olavians, to name but a few,

Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser
27 January 1939



Club knockout singles championships and several handicap doubles tournaments in each section were held during the season as well as an open tournament. Winner of the first men's singles badminton championships in the new premises was G A Morris (runner-up W Wiltshire) and the ladies champion was M Griffin (runner-up G L Garland).

The club also provided the venue for a number of County League and Cup finals, inter-county matches etc, where leading players of the day could be seen in action.

Courts could be booked when not required for club purposes at a cost to members of 2/6 per court per hour and non-members 3/6. Light when required, 1/- per hour extra.

SQUASH

Although no club had existed prior to the creation of Ebbisham Sports Club, squash quickly became established. Many of the original badminton players also played and ranks were swelled by an increasing number of people taking up the sport at the time. The section had its own committee, rules and structure.

There were various categories of membership:

- A - Full membership, no court or lighting fee (£3-3s per year)
- B - Ordinary membership, court fee 1/- per person per half hour, no lighting fees (£1-15s-6d)
- C - Ladies restricted, no court or lighting fees; NOT available after 5.30pm or on Saturday afternoons, Sundays or Bank holidays (£2-2s)
- D - University membership, for persons attending a university, college or school, during vacations (4/-), court fee 6d per person per half hour without light, 9d with light. Same restrictions as C.

At least one Club Night was arranged per week.

Already in 1938 there was an extensive fixture list. The club entered teams in the County league and played a number of friendly games (though with mixed fortunes). Clubs that still appear on the present day fixture list include Wimbledon, Surbiton and Ashted, but what about Red Lion, Wellersley or the intriguingly named ladies' opponents 'Mrs Winterbotham'?

1938.										Result
Jan. 1	Sun.	Forest Hill ...	Men	F.	H	4.0				✓
" 5	Thur.	Spencer House ...	Ladies	F.	A	6.30				
" 8	Sun.	Red Lion ...	Men	L.	H	4.0				✓
Jan. 19	Thur.	Ashted ...	Ladies	F.	H	8.0				
" 22	Sun.	Surbiton Lawn Tennis Club ...	Men	L.	A	4.0				✓
" 30	Mon.	Mrs. Winterbotham	Ladies	F.	H	2.30				
Feb. 5	Sun.	Sutton Hard Court Club ...	Men	L.	H	4.0				✓
" 13	Mon.	Elmcroft ...	Men	F.	A	7.30				✓
" 19	Sun.	Wimbledon S.C. ...	Men	L.	A	4.0				
Mar. 5	Sun.	Wellersley "C" ...	Men	L.	H	4.0				
" 7	Tues.	Elmcroft ...	Ladies	F.	A	7.30				
" 12	Sun.	Ashted ...	Men	F.	H	6.45				
Abbrev.: H = Home, L = League, A = Away, F = Friendly.										

Club tournaments and competitions were arranged during the winter part of the season. Winners of the inaugural squash championships were Mr J Palmer and Mrs W King (with Mr W Wiltshire and Mrs C Hosegood as runners-up).

TENNIS

Tennis was the section which was intended to keep the club going during the summer as badminton and squash were traditionally played only during the winter months. Many of the founder members of the tennis section were therefore also badminton and squash members.

There were several types of membership available

- Annual - £4
- Summer - £2-17s-6d
- Five-day summer - £1-17s-6d
- Winter - £1-7s-6d
- Ladies weekday sections - £1-1s

A reasonable standard of play was required for all sections except for the ladies only sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays when beginners were taken.

New balls were supplied to each court each week during the summer season. No balls were provided during the winter, but good used balls were available at reduced rates.

An extensive programme of matches was arranged with the club taking part in the County Knock-Out competitions. Open singles, handicap and American tournaments were played during the summer season. Winners of the inaugural tennis singles championships in 1938 were Mr W Wiltshire and Mrs S Pratt (runners-up Mr F Cleaves and Miss R Fleming)

SOCIAL

The Social Club played an important part within the Ebbisham set-up. Unlike today when there are multiple opportunities for socialising, at that time much greater use was made of what the club had to offer in this department.

This section had its own committee and was responsible for the bar, restaurant, lounge etc and for organising the various social functions held during the year. There was also a dance sub-committee.

Every playing member of the other clubs had to become a social member at an annual subscription of 2/6. A limited number of non-playing social club members were accepted on payment of £1-1s per annum. The fully licensed bar was only open to members and those under 18 years of age were on no account admitted to the bar.

One of the first acquisitions of the club was a piano purchased for £21; weekly dances were held in the lounge on Fridays, with twice-yearly large dances in the badminton hall.

Whist and bridge drives were held regularly and other social events included car treasure and scavenger hunts, darts, billiards and table tennis tournaments.

In those days, there were fewer options open for socialising, and sports clubs offered, in addition to the sporting activities, an opportunity to meet people of the opposite sex. In a letter written to the Hon Secretary in 1993, Jack Stiles recalls *'Lord Ebbisham said in his opening address that he suspected the sports club would be a marriage club as well! What foresight!. So many of our friends who met at the club were later married, including my brother and I.'*

CHAPTER 3 - THE WAR YEARS

War was declared on 3 September 1939 and the club was requisitioned the same day for temporary use by a Territorial AA regiment, with 1 battery being stationed at the club and men from the other two Epsom batteries also coming to the club to use the showers.

Following negotiations with the War Office, an annual rent of £500 was agreed for use of the premises, plus a small amount for use of furniture and dilapidation, and the pavilion of the Epsom Bowls Club was rented as a meeting place for club members.

A week later, on 10 September, the club was de-requisitioned by the War Office; though a founder squash member Jack Stiles recalls watching the Canadian Army come and go from his bedroom window in the house next door when he was on leave much later than this.

Immediately, on the same day, the club was re-requisitioned by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council/Surrey County Council with the intention of providing temporary shelter for bombed out people.

The club was then converted for use as a British Restaurant, a scheme set up by the Ministry of Food to provide balanced meals at an affordable price without people having to give up coupons from their ration books. One squash court was used as a kitchen and the other for storage. Meals were served in the badminton hall. Even though in 1941 a central kitchen was built in the school grounds of Pound Lane School, food was delivered to the club and the children still had to walk to there to receive it. Food was served to 145 children not just in term time, but also in the school holidays. Former squash member Geoff Pellant remembers coming here from school to eat.



Boys moving school meals

Following the war the club continued to be used for school meals. However, the club was eager to resume its activities (not only were members wanting to get back to their sports, but the Company was in dire need of funds, still being responsible for servicing the mortgage and loans taken out to finance the building of the club) and in 1946 letters of protest were sent to Surrey County Council by the directors and members protesting at the delay in returning the premises to the club.

In 1947, the club was de-requisitioned and the premises returned, but the squash court used as a kitchen and the badminton hall continued to be used as a feeding station serving school meals, leaving 1 squash court and 1 badminton court available for use. It was in a dilapidated state with weeds on the tennis courts up to the top of the nets. After much hard work, the club reopened on 1 November. A year later the total membership stood at 230, almost back to its pre-war level.

In 1948 the addition of a flat for the club steward and his wife was agreed, planning consent received and building work commenced, with the couple moving in the following May.

Surrey CC agreed to pay £2,140-6s-5d as compensation for dilapidation, though this fell far short of the sum needed to restore the club to its former glory.

Finally in 1952 Surrey County Council decided it no longer required use of the premises for school meals and the last meals were served in July.. The club was then faced with considerable expense to reinstate the second squash court, which it was hoped would be offset by a further claim on SCC for dilapidation. Work was completed using Polish beech rather than the desired maple by the end of the year.

CHAPTER 4 -THE 50s AND 60s - FROM LIMITED COMPANY TO MEMBERS' CLUB

Interest in the games available at Ebbisham fluctuated surprisingly during this period. In the early 1950s the squash club almost folded up, whilst tennis flourished. There was then a sudden boom in squash, leading to a demand for a third court. The badminton club however seemed immune to these fluctuations, fortunately, and thrived both in winter and summer.

The **badminton** club was a growing presence both locally and nationally. The London Badminton League was set up in 1908 for inter-club mixed doubles competition and by the 1930s had 60 clubs competing in 12 divisions, the top divisions playing at a higher standard than inter-county matches. Ebbisham joined the League in 1950 when it resumed after the war and two years later staged the first of 10 London Badminton Championships held at the club.



When the league was revived in 1950 the clubs participating were Badgers (Kent), Cazenove (Middlesex), Frognal (Middlesex), Ebbisham (Surrey) and Wimbledon (Surrey).

The All-England veterans tournament was held at Ebbisham, the club continued to be used for county matches and the 1959 Inter-county badminton finals held at Ebbisham were shown on independent television. This led on to an agreement with ITV to provide television from the club of badminton, table tennis and other activities. In his report to the 1961 AGM the Chairman stated

'A particular word of thanks is due to Mr W Wiltshire for conducting so satisfactorily the negotiations which have resulted in the club being featured in a number of Commercial Television sporting programmes during the past winter months. Badminton and other events have been televised from the club and we understand that this invaluable source of publicity is likely to continue during the summer, when Tennis from Ebbisham is also to be shown on the TV screens.'

A badminton member at the time, Vivien Nash, recalls county matches being televised here with one court was laid out lengthwise in the badminton hall, with the camera located on the balcony. She also remembers a programme for children demonstrating the game of badminton and featuring England international and 1959 All England Women's singles winner Heather Ward was also televised here.

The **tennis** courts were fenced off in the early 50s and the possibility of installing floodlights was first mooted in 1959, but received no backing from the company.

By the end of the 50s, **squash** membership had regained momentum, so much so that the third court provided for in the initial plans was added in 1961. £2000 towards the cost was raised by the efforts of the squash club members through social events, raffles etc. The court was opened on 12 November by the Mayor of Epsom, followed by an exhibition match between England players Messrs Wilson and Jolyon, and a match between Oxford University and Surrey. Two years later the Surrey Squash Championships were held at Ebbisham. Another improvement was the installation in 1963 of squash light meters: 2 florins for 1/2 hour. Squash continued to thrive during the 60s and by 1969, despite a proposal two years earlier to limit it to 250, squash membership was up to 313, with members playing in 39 leagues.

Social activities in the club continued to flourish and were well attended. At the 1952 Spring dance for instance the bar takings were reported to be £95-7s-6d (considered highly satisfactory). However, it was also reported that in an incident following the dance, a visitor's car parked in Eastway had been tampered with and treacle poured over the seats. Events were organised not only by the social club committee but also by the individual sports committees for the benefit of their own members and to raise funds for specific projects. So much was going on that in 1956 the company proposed the introduction of a club diary to facilitate planning of events.

Alongside these positives, behind the scenes there were on-going problems. It had always proved difficult to recruit and retain staff to fulfil the roles of steward and stewardess and there were numerous complaints by members about the staff (rudeness, price of sandwiches compared with local cafes, times of availability of food) and by staff about members (rudeness, excessive and unreasonable demands). Following a succession of rather unsatisfactory incumbents, in 1957 Tom Nash was taken on as steward, providing a period of stability

The board of Ebbisham Sports Club Ltd continued to fulfil its role, but the club was struggling to make ends meet. Contrary to the suspicions of some of the members, the directors and shareholders did not "make a good thing" out of the Club. Only one token dividend was paid after the War, and the honorary directors had personally to guarantee the bank overdraft of £2,000. Indeed, on occasions, as the bank would not allow the overdraft limit to be exceeded and the club was always short of funds towards the end of each summer, they had to dip into their pockets to enable staff salaries and other urgent bills to be paid before the winter subscriptions came in.

The premises had suffered from bad usage and neglect during the period of requisitioning, and because of the stringent limits under which district valuers had to work in recompensing owners of requisitioned property, the club did not receive nearly enough to enable the premises to be restored to a proper state of repair. This factor, combined with the unwillingness of the members to pay economic subscriptions, led to a crisis in 1966. The badminton roof and some of the other roofs leaked badly, the badminton floor needed to be wholly re-laid down to the joists which had rotted, and there were numerous other defects. Therefore the directors felt they had no other option than the following, set out in a letter to the debenture holders dated 18th April 1966

Dear Member,

As you will know from the Annual Accounts of the Company the Club for many years has been running on a "shoe string" of small annual losses or profits. In the meantime, essential repairs and replacements have had to be deferred because insufficient cash has been available to pay for major repairs. The buildings are now nearly 30 years old, no major maintenance repairs have been carried out during that time and amongst the most urgent items now required are the entire renewal of the badminton hall floor and joists together with repairs to the roof and sides; replacement of the old heating and domestic hot water boilers and the renewal of the felted flat roofs over the front portion of the building. In addition, there are, of course, all the normal running repairs and redecorations. It is estimated that at least £3,000 now requires to be spent on the property to put it back into good condition.

For years the Company has suffered from lack of sufficient capital or sufficient annual surpluses to build up a fund to deal with these matters. The Directors of the Company have, therefore, for some time been considering ways and means to overcome these difficulties. About 12 months ago it came to the notice of the Directors that the Government were prepared to make outright grants under the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937 to voluntary sports and recreational organisations either to acquire or build premises, providing these facilities. As a profit making company we could not qualify for these grants so, after careful consideration and having been assured that substantial grants could be made, a method has been formulated to comply with the requirements for grant.

Briefly, this is that your Company should sell the Club premises complete to a non-incorporated non-profit making Club consisting of the whole of the present members of the club and run by an elected committee..... The deeds of the property would then be vested in Trustees appointed on behalf of this organisation

These proposals were accepted and a non-corporate body of the existing members of the club was formed, organised with an appointed management committee in accordance with the recommendations of the National Playing Fields Association. The Company then sold the Freehold property complete to the new body for the (notional) sum of £21,000.

The transaction did not, in fact, cost the members one penny because all the shareholders waived their right to the purchase money, and they and most of the debenture holders were content to leave their holdings as unsecured loans to the members' club.

Grants were forthcoming, but did not by any means cover all that was necessary and the four years from 1966-70 required careful budgeting to cover, in addition to the major overhaul of the badminton facility, the complete electrical re-wiring of the club, re-roofing the squash courts and balcony, re-decoration of parts of the premises which still carried the paint originally put on in 1937 and so on.

CHAPTER 5 - THE 70s, 80s & 90s - MEMBERS! MEMBERS! MEMBERS!

PREMISES

By the early 1970s new problems had arisen. The squash club, which until the mid-fifties had been the lame duck of the club, suddenly boomed and there were many more badminton members. This did coincide with a dearth of tennis players, but the Club overall was bursting at the seams. As a consequence the bar and lounge, changing rooms and car park were hopelessly inadequate.

Major work was carried out in 1981, much of it by working parties of the members themselves; the bar-lounge was reconfigured and the committee/bridge room converted for use as a men's changing room. The 'new' clubhouse was opened in July by Mr Bill Parish (ex chairman). Cost of the work was about £13,500.



Bill Parish, Bernard Jacobs (chairman) and Tom Nash (steward)
Local Advertiser
9th July 1981

And 1987 saw a restructuring of the entrance to the club, bar store, shop and office area.

In an attempt to address the lack of tennis players, in 1974 the management committee acceded to a request for the tennis courts to be resurfaced, in exchange for the conversion of one of the courts into an extension of the car park. The new shale courts played their part in attracting more members. A cloudburst during 1977 washed tons of the top dressing off the tennis courts into the car park but through the efforts of the steward they were quickly restored.

In 1980, to accommodate the still rising numbers of squash players, management agreed to the squash club applying for planning permission for 3 new squash courts. This was later reduced to an application for 1 court on stilts next to the club house, as 3 courts would have necessitated taking over another of the tennis courts which would have made the tennis club unviable. Nothing came of this however, as it was overtaken by the need for urgent repairs to roofs and floors. One improvement that was made was the addition in 1985 of a glass back to court 1 for easier viewing.

In 1997 disaster struck the in the form of a flash flood; the badminton and squash courts were inundated resulting in the strange sight of the centre of the courts rising several feet in the air. Floods had occurred before, but nothing on this scale, Fortunately the club was adequately insured and courts were swiftly returned to normal.

MANAGEMENT

Under the regime set up in 1966, the club not only had a management committee plus 3 trustees, but continued to have 3 separate sports committees and a social committee. Though these were subordinate to the management committee, they nevertheless wielded great power, not only organising their sporting activities, but also with their own accounts, responsible for setting and collecting fees, issuing handbooks, producing newsletters, raising funds, advertising and organising social events. The multi-fold structure did not contribute to a cohesive approach, each section being more concerned with its own area rather than the club as a whole. Often funds

would be held on to by an individual club treasurer (some it is rumoured under the bed) when the overall club was short of money. All the committee work was done by volunteers and whilst the burden was widely spread there was much duplication of tasks.

The club continued to be run on a shoestring, and no contingency funds were ever built up. The feeling seemed to be that as it was now a members' club, members' fees should be kept as low as possible. Consequently there was always a shortage of money with nothing put aside to cover even day to day maintenance let alone any major repairs or refurbishments. In 1981 an appeal was made to members for contributions to a building fund. Response was very poor; therefore at the next AGM a levy of £10 per member was approved, a move which was met with little enthusiasm.

In October 1990 a loan of £38k, repayable over 5 years and linked with the supply of beer, was obtained from Courage Ltd and this tided the club over and allowed much needed refurbishments to be made. And in 1993 the club received a large VAT refund, but rather than put this money aside in a contingency fund, it was merely used to keep fees down.

Despite the lack of funds, in 1997 planning permission for a 1st floor extension above the bar area, with provision for toilets, showers, changing facilities and committee room, was applied for and granted. However this project came to naught and permission has since lapsed.

By the middle of the 90s membership of all sections was beginning to wane, though this was relative; today those numbers would seem highly satisfactory (for instance the badminton section comprised 235 adults + 90 juniors). When the club was formed it had been frequent for members to play 2 or more sports, but this was no longer the norm. The idea that the club should be considered as a whole rather than as separate sections began to be discussed, with combined fees, joint publicity, overall club handbook, and favourable rates for multisport membership and families. A new 'combined' application form was introduced to replace forms for individual sections. Fees included reductions for those who joined 2 or more sports.



It was felt the new style club should have a new style logo. The competition for members to design the new logo, versions of which are still in use today, was won by Alison Tomlin.



Although for several years various 'club managers' had been employed, their role had been ill-defined which led to conflicts of interest with management, sports and social committees and stewards. With the move towards a 'whole-club' approach, in 1995 a new style club manager, Maureen Vandrau, was taken on.

SOCIAL

Social life continued apace, despite the resignation en-bloc of entertainments sub-committee of the Social Club committee in 1980 due to apparent lack of interest from club members in events which had taken time and effort to organise. Each section continued with their individual parties, outings, discos and dances. A badminton member in the 70s and 80s recalls the 'racy' nature of Ebbisham socials. Romances continued to blossom between members and many marriages (including one between club steward Tom Nash and badminton/tennis member Vivien Harris) and sadly also some divorces, often followed.

SQUASH

Squash was fully subscribed and its teams were doing well. Both ladies and men's 1st squash teams were in the top Surrey divisions.

The early 80s' crop of junior squash members was impressive:

- 1981 - Nigel Stiles won the <16 British Junior Open Squash championship. He went on to win the Danish Open Squash Tournament in 1997 and the previous year he had competed in the Pakistani, French and Canadian Opens.
- 1981 - Louise Gillam was accepted into the English A squad and appointed Surrey Junior Captain
- 1983 - Danny Meddings won the <16 British Junior Open Squash championships. He would later represent England on 4 occasions, gain a European Winners medal in 1997 and achieve a world ranking of 11 and World Series ranking of 7.

In 1996 Ebbisham Squash Club was named Club of the Year by the Surrey Squash Association and was runner up in the National Development Club of the Year Award.

In addition to the installation of the glass back to court 1 in 1985, seats, to be placed behind the court, were purchased by the club and sold on to members who would have first option when seats were being sold for matches or exhibitions. At that time, to raise income, advertising space was sold on the 'tins' on the squash courts and other sponsorship was sought. New light meters, taking tokens, were installed in 1982 and 4 years later stamps were introduced for payment for courts.

BADMINTON

These were boom times for badminton throughout the country and Ebbisham badminton club flourished. By 1982 there were 5 graded adult sections, for which massive play-in sessions were held on a Sunday at the beginning of the season, a separate ladies afternoon section plus beginners, teenagers and junior sessions at the weekends with coaching by experienced players. All sections were fully subscribed (48 members or more per section) with waiting lists.

The top Ebbisham teams did exceptionally well in the Surrey County leagues, regularly finishing top of Division 1 and winning the senior cups in men's, ladies and mixed, with the rest of the teams also making their way up through the divisions. On several occasions there were 2 teams in the top divisions, and teams also winning the intermediate and junior cups. The lower sections (C, D and E) also successfully ran teams in the local Sutton and District leagues.

The club continued to host county matches, open tournaments and exhibition matches, including one featuring members of the celebrated Sidek family from Malaysia.

The club provided players for the county teams at senior and junior level, with some achieving even greater things:

- 1985 - 2 badminton juniors Alex Bennett and Nathan Addison, though still under 12 years of age, were included in England under 14 squad
- 1986 - Archie Flashman and Bob McCoig won Danish Men's veterans doubles event
- 1992 - Badminton junior Michael Scoles represented England in an under 14 match in Denmark
- Anders Nielsen - former Ebbisham junior (who had won the club's 1984 and 1985 men's singles competition and who could frequently be seen on court being put through his paces by his mother Heather Ward Nielsen) competed at the 1992 Olympics. He was English National Badminton Men's Singles Champion in 1992 and 1995.



Anders Nielsen

TENNIS

Following the resurfacing of the courts in 1974, tennis membership began to pick up (though not contributing anything like the same amount to the club coffers as the other sections) and in 1977 the club championships resumed after gap of 5 years.



1980 Men's doubles finalists

Larry Burrige, Simon McCleary, Dave Robinson and Keith Jackson with umpire John Land,



1983 Ladies and men's singles finalists

Marion Clarke, Viv Nash, Mike Smith and Joe Wright

Note the weapon of choice was moving from wooden to metal framed rackets

During the 70s, the Ebbisham netball club had also made use of the tennis courts, but at the end of the decade, despite successfully running 3 teams, they left to play elsewhere. However in 1985, in return for a loan made previously to the tennis club which had £2700 outstanding, the Sports Council committee, who were promoting netball at the time, required facilities to be made available again to the Ebbisham netball club. This involved the marking out of courts and intrusion on tennis members court time. As it had been agreed that the shale courts should be replaced the following year with all-weather hard courts, the Tennis club voted at their AGM not to comply with the request and 2 members agreed to pay off the loan themselves, to be repaid when money was raised.

50th ANNIVERSARY

In 1987 the club celebrated its 50th anniversary during August and September. A Super-teams event was held, a disco, and a barbecue, plus a dance with taped music but where no food was provided in order to keep costs down. Local newspaper the Epsom & Ewell Herald sent along a photographer and produced a 2-page feature on the club.





● MEMBERS of the club's tennis team - Jay McCreary, Mollie Caffyn, Gillian Ison, Jim Izzard, Andrew Bettini, Angie Wells, June Webb, Wright, Margaret Sutcliffe, Jason Graeme Webb, George Foot and Clare Tomlinson, Vivien Nash, Shir-Moss, Chris Pearce, Mike Chatter-David Sowdon.



● ABOVE Chairman John Gerrard with some of the club's badminton players.



● BUSY TIME behind the bar for steward Mick Lloyd, wife Susan and helpers Debbie Hinton and Paula Shallders.



CHAPTER 5 - THE NEW MILLENNIUM - A CLUB FOR ALL, FROM GRASSROOTS TO ELITE

As the club stepped into the 21st century, it was a time for change:

MANAGEMENT

1998 - New sets of rules were approved for all sections of the club

2003 - A contingency fund was gradually built up for repairs and improvement to facilities

2007 - The management structure was streamlined with the formation of an executive committee

and in 2007 - Ebbisham Sports Club became a CASC - Community Amateur Sports Club.

To become a Community Amateur Sports Club, clubs must:

- *be a recognised sport by the sports council;*
- *not discriminate in any way in their membership policies and be wholly open to all sections of the community;*
- *have a core purpose in the promotion of amateur sports participation;*
- *be non-profit making, and re-invest any profits in the sports club;*
- *stipulate that in the event of being wound up, any remaining assets be distributed to either the sport's governing body for use in community sport, another CASC or charity.*

This involved a change to the constitution which opened the club up to use by members of the community and also gave some savings in VAT and rates and advantageous treatment when applying for grants.

Admin: As the amount of administrative work in running the club increased, gradually the burden has shifted from management and sports committees to the office staff.

Fees: In 2001 a new fee structure was introduced, consisting of a core membership of the club + add-ons for each section played. All fees were now due on 1 September (tennis had been 1 April) and from the following year fee payments could be made by direct debit. Plans are now in place for the introduction of card payments for fees, court bookings and purchases from the bar.

Technology: Though not always at the forefront of innovation (the club bought its first typewriter in 1937, a Tannoy system in 1960, an electric till in 1991 and first computer in 1994), attempts have been made recently to make the running of the club more efficient and user friendly for members and the public, making use of up-to-date technology. The club first had a website in 2001 and in 2013 gained a facebook page. The court booking system familiar to squash and racketball members since 2012 is shortly to be extended to badminton and tennis.

Security: In 2007 CCTV was installed in the entrance hall and small lockers for members' valuables are now located in the changing rooms.

Health: With health in mind, in 1991 smoking was banned from the changing rooms, squash balcony and badminton viewing area. In 2002, following a petition signed by members (95% in favour of ban), pipes and cigars were banned from the club. Smoking was completely outlawed from inside the club house in 2004 predating the UK national ban by 3 years - ahead of the game for once! A defibrillator was purchased in 2014 and all staff and a number of members have been trained in its use, though in an emergency it can and should be used by anyone.

Going Green: In addition to the replacement of bulbs with LEDs, the club also installed 40 solar panels on the flat roof above the bar lounge, thus helping to save the planet and the club some money on electricity bills.

BADMINTON

The number of people playing badminton as members of clubs nationally fell quite dramatically, though the number wishing to play casually began to rise. Many smaller clubs were forced to close and the number of badminton sections at Ebbisham fell from six in the late nineties to the present three. Numerous attempts were made to address the situation, involving regrading and restructuring of the sections, but these were not always popular with members.

Nevertheless, the club maintained its high standards, particularly with regard to its coaching programme

- 2002 - Toby Honey won England Badminton National Junior championships
- In 2003 the badminton club was one of only 2 clubs in Surrey with 5 star rating from Badminton England and in 2007 it was awarded **Clubmark** and **Premier Club** status.

'Ebbisham Badminton Club has been presented with the highest award possible for a sports club. They have achieved Clubmark status and can now be designated a BADMINTON England Premier Club. This means that the club is extremely well organised, offers a full programme of activity for children from beginners to elite level players and achieves very high standards of coaching and safety. The club sessions are run by fully qualified and accredited coaches.' (Badminton England citation)

Following on from this, in September 2008, the club was approached by Badminton England to apply for **Performance Centre** status and the following year it was duly accredited. There is only one per county.

BADMINTON PERFORMANCE CENTRE

The Badminton England Performance Centre programme is focused on developing a Performance coaching pathway to run alongside a strong Club pathway in order to raise standards of play throughout the country. The aspiration of a Badminton Performance Centre is to create a hub of badminton activity where players, coaches and volunteers can progress, reach their potential and satisfy their own ambition within the sport, and in an environment that is accessible and welcoming for all.

The Performance Centre juniors, talent spotted from within the club and from the local area are split into 4 levels of ability, training an increasing number of hours as they move up the pyramid. In addition to coaching on strokes and tactics, the players receive fitness training and advice on nutrition.



As a change from normal training, the 2013 August bank holiday weekend saw a 24 hour badminton marathon undertaken by players and coaches to raise money for the PC and for the club charity MERU.

All PC players enter tournaments appropriate to their current level of ability within Surrey and throughout the country, competing with considerable success, bringing home medals galore. Members also take part in county squad training and represent Surrey in matches and competitions.

From the club's perspective, the adult sections have been strengthened by the inclusion of PC players, many of whom are regulars in teams. Thanks to their contribution, the A section teams now compete successfully in the highest Surrey divisions; this year saw ladies 1 winners of division 1, men's 1 and mixed 1 winning division 2 which holds the prospect of the club having teams in all three top divisions next year - a feat not achieved since the early 90s.

PREMIER LEAGUE 4 SPORT

Not forgetting players from the other end of the spectrum, Ebbisham has been designated by Badminton England as the hub badminton club to work with Fulham FC as part of the Premier League 4 Sport (PL4S) programme.

- *The Premier League 4 Sport (PL4S) is a unique partnership between Premier League clubs and community sports clubs to help attract young people in their area to take up badminton, judo, table tennis and volleyball.*
- *The Premier League 4 Sport aims to help the Government's ambition to offer young people five hours of sport a week, as part of its 2012 legacy plans. It will also address the drop-off in sport participation when young people leave secondary school.*
- *Working with the sports' governing bodies, the Youth Sports Trust and Sport England, the Premier League clubs aim to get 25,000 young people, aged between 11 and 16, to join local sports clubs in the four Olympic sports*

Coaching is provided by Ebbisham coaches at the club and at satellite clubs located in local schools and players take part in competitions amongst themselves and against teams from other Premier League Clubs.



Competitors in 2011 tournament with the Mayor of Epsom who presented the prizes

Other achievements: far and wide

- 2003 - Mike Coley represented Great Britain Vets at the World Badminton Championships in Australia and returned with 2 gold medals
- 2013 - Brenda and Martin Creasey were selected for the England over 60s badminton team Brenda, playing with partner Betty Bartlett, went on to win a silver medal in the over 60 Ladies Doubles event at the 2013 Badminton Veterans World Championships in Ankara.
- In August 2016, former Ebbisham junior badminton player Chris Langridge (who was 2000 winner of the club's men's singles competition) won men's doubles bronze medal at Rio Olympics with his partner Marcus Ellis.



Ranked no 1 in England for doubles and 15 in the world. Chris visited Ebbisham the following December for a badminton masterclass and question and answer session.



When interviewed by the BBC following his medal-winning performance in Rio, Chris paid tribute to his coaches Jackie and Alan Cunningham who he said had inspired him to take up the sport of badminton. And he was reunited with them here in December.



Jackie and Alan have coached juniors at Ebbisham for over 40 years. In 2003 they received the English Badminton Award for longstanding exceptional service to badminton 'for their (then) 30 years of dedicated work establishing and running junior clubs, coaching the various junior county squads and work on the junior and schools committees. Many players have benefitted from their efforts and enjoyed the very many matches and trips away to play both individual and team

tournaments'.

And in July 2017 the Surrey Junior Committee organised a 'surprise' presentation for Alan and Jackie Cunningham, to recognise the enormous commitment they have made to junior badminton in the county. It was attended by players (and parents), from present and past junior county squads.



They were presented with a specially engraved crystal bowl by Ron Snow, President of Surrey Badminton.

They were not the only members to receive an award. In 2001 Diana Huffer had been the recipient for longstanding exceptional service to badminton. Diana was a member since the mid 1950s till her retirement in 1988 and, in addition to winning a succession of singles and doubles trophies, was a dedicated committee member, serving as secretary for many years, both at club and county level. She was a formidable lady, frequently to be seen striding around the club in her striped club blazer, her devoted dachshunds at her heels. And it was after these canines had devoured a fellow committee member's new leather handbag that dogs were banned from the clubhouse.

The badminton hall, with its sprung wooden floor, high ceiling, correctly positioned lights and dark green walls has from the beginning always been the envy of other clubs in the area. The facilities have been kept up to scratch, the floor having been replaced several times since the club was founded, with only minor improvements being necessary. In 1993 overhead gas heaters were installed and in 2014 all the badminton lights were converted to LED bulbs, In the same year, the roof having become porous, a new badminton over-roof was erected thanks to a grant of £35,451 (full cost) from Sport England Inspired Facilities.

SQUASH

In 2003 Squash club was awarded Bronze charter status which was upgraded to silver status two years later.

The Club Charter is a progressive club development programme that aims to increase the number of adults and juniors playing squash and racketball in clubs, increase the recruitment, education and development of coaches and volunteers, and improve the infrastructure of the club network.

Put simply, if a club has achieved Club Charter status, you know that it has excellent facilities, offers a welcoming environment, sets high standards in child protection, and works closely with local schools to develop the future generations of squash and racketball players.

From the outset, coaching in all sports at Ebbisham was carried out on a voluntary basis by members glad to share their knowledge with others, especially juniors, but squash is now the only section where the majority of coaching is still unpaid.

The junior programme has consistently produced quality players. many of whom have gone on to greater achievements beyond the club.

- In 2000 Elizabeth Tweedale was ranked no 6 in England (no 1 in Surrey) at under 15 level and won the Irish junior open the same year.



- Also in 2000 Philip Allman reached no 19 in England in the under 13 rankings, and three years later his sister Jane was no 4 in England squash rankings and 18 in European rankings at under 13, She went on to win the Surrey ladies closed competition in 2012.
- By 2005, twenty Ebbisham juniors featured in the county and feeder squads, with nine picked to represent Surrey at regional and national level
- In 2011 Michael Robinson was ranked no 1 in Surrey junior rankings with Chris Beevor and Dan Clarke also in the top 10

Being a Charter club, opened the door to Ebbisham holding open tournaments. For example in 2006 adult, junior and min-squash open graded tournaments were held, with 120 entrants for junior/mini events from a wide area including out of county.

And not just the elite players are valued and catered for. 2008 saw a Sports Unlimited initiative funded by Sport England providing free coaching to get more children playing squash and in 2013 the club delivered a Sportivate initiative with similar aims.

Not to be outdone, the adult squash members posted their own achievements during this period, with age being no barrier to success

In 2002 Jim Switzer represented England in an over 70s international match v Scotland.



In 2005 Alan Fuller was crowned Great Britain over 75s squash champion.



In 2013 Peter Culver, Simon Radley and Len Goss were over 55 National Squash Finals winners in Sheffield.

Peter was at the time no 1 in the Surrey Vintage rankings.



In 2011, Ebbisham 5 times squash champion Jamie Mathews gained the Disability Sports Award both for Epsom and for Surrey.

In October the following year, on home turf in Southampton, event poster boy Jamie once again successfully defended his World Deaf Squash title he won first in South Africa in 2007 at age of 21 and then in New Zealand in 2010.

And in 2016 he became English National Deaf Squash champion for the ninth time!



Several improvements have been made in recent years for the comfort and convenience of squash players:

- In 2012 an online booking system was introduced which could be accessed remotely or via a kiosk in the club entrance hall.
- In the same year heaters were installed on squash courts 1 and 2; there are fans on all three courts so all weather conditions are catered for.

- The following year all the lights on all courts were converted to take LED bulbs, considerably reducing down-time waiting for faulty bulbs to be replaced and at the same time cutting running costs.

Membership of the squash section has remained pretty constant over the past 20 years or so. There are currently 13 box leagues with 4 to 5 players in each, and the club fields 3 men's teams, 2 ladies teams plus 3 vets, 1 vintage and 3 junior teams in the Surrey leagues.

On 20 October 2012, squash members joined over 40,000 players from 800 clubs in 70 nations taking part in the World Squash Day Challenge, which demonstrated global support for the sport's 2020 Olympic bid. The day included exhibition matches and team events for adults and juniors. A shame that squash yet again failed in its latest bid to become an Olympic sport!

TENNIS

In the past tennis coaching had been undertaken by members, but by 1996 the number available to do this had dwindled and the tennis committee took the decision to contract out coaching of both adults and juniors to professional coaches first from Terry Cooper Tennis and then later from Absolutetennis. The idea behind this was that it would be in the interest of the professional coaches to attract a large number of people to the club to receive more structured coaching who would then be minded to join as members. And indeed, the number of juniors especially playing tennis has risen dramatically, though fewer have converted to membership than was hoped.

Those juniors who did join and progress through to the senior club have not disappointed.

In 1999 Rebecca Taylor (at 14 years old) was the youngest winner of the ladies singles competition, and followed this up with another triumph four years later.



Evelynn Ansell with champion Rebecca Taylor (2003)

The lads were not to be outdone. In 2006, having won the plate competition the previous year, Neil Locock was the first of fine cohort of juniors to win the men's singles competition.....



.....swiftly followed in 2007 by his doubles partner Luke Bonner

In 2008 another youngster, Euan Barrett stepped up to grab the trophy which he retained the following year in a close encounter with the even younger Chris Graham (just 15 at the time).

Chris Graham



Chris managed to come out on top in 2010, but had to concede defeat to Euan once more in 2011, with Euan winning again the following year.

Euan Barrett

The final member of that cohort to claim the title was Jake Bonner, winner in 2013 and 14, though could only manage second place to Chris in 2015.



Jake receives his trophy from Chairman Terry Coles in 2013

And this year (2017) a fresh cohort of youngsters is making its presence felt - watch this space.

Not to be outdone by the other sections, Ebbisham tennis section was one of the first tennis clubs in Surrey to gain Clubmark which they did in 2009. This was thanks to its comprehensive and inclusive tennis programme and the policies it has in place to ensure a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages

As has been mentioned, the tennis section has striven to maintain its facilities which as a relatively small club are essential if membership is to be maintained. The courts have been regularly resurfaced/repainted as necessary and beginning in 1959 numerous attempts were made to obtain planning permission for flood lights. Applications in 1990 and 2003 were rejected, appeals made to no avail, but finally in 2013 planning permission having finally been granted (at the 4th time of asking) lights were installed on 2 courts. At the same time all three courts were resurfaced, both projects being financed by a grant of over £55k from SITA Trust, a smaller grant of £10k having been secured from the same source in 2009 for new fencing.



Chairman Terry Coles switches on the floodlights for the first time

Other improvements were the addition in 2014 of a hitting fence, financed in part by the fundraising efforts of members at events including a 24 hour tennis marathon, a masterclass led by 2 ex-Davis Cup players, plus donations from Bright Ideas for Tennis and Surrey LTA..

NEW SPORTS AT EBBISHAM

RACKETBALL

Racketball first began to be played in the UK in the mid 70s and was introduced to Ebbisham in 2005 and soon became an integral part of the newly named Squash & Racketball Section.

Racketball is played on a squash court and is similar to squash but in racketball a larger ball and a shorter racket are used. The fact that the ball is bigger, more bouncy and does not need warming up means that the rallies last longer, as the ball moves slower giving the opponent more time to react and get to the ball. The shorter racket also helps with hand-eye coordination making the ball easier to strike. Overall this makes the game much easier to pick up than many other sports like squash or tennis. The fact that racketball is relatively easy to learn is one of the key factors in the sport's recent growth.

The game quickly gained many converts at Ebbisham, both from squash and the other sports, taking part in internal leagues, club championships, league matches and friendlies against other clubs and national competitions.



In 2008 Jenny Mathews was the winner of the ladies >50s and Jo Robinson runner-up in the >45s National Racketball Championships in Edgbaston



A recent promotional drive targeting the over 50s has seen a steep rise in the number of people joining beginner and intermediate racketball groups at the club on a pay and play basis.

TOUCHTENNIS

Touchtennis was introduced to Ebbisham in January 2014 with an open session in the badminton hall presented by the creator of the game.

An attractive alternative to the mainstream game, touchtennis was created by Rashid Ahmad as a means of entertaining his young daughter in the back garden. Played on a reduced size court, indoors or out, with foam balls and 21 inch kids' racquets, its carefully calibrated regulations aim to level the playing field for competitors by fostering long, intense rallies and clever angle play. It has developed to include a tour, complete with rankings, 4 major grand slams as well as Masters events and other smaller tournaments.

The game quickly took hold, attracting players both from tennis and the other Ebbisham sections and from outside the club to the weekly club nights.

The 1st Ebbisham Open with £300 in prize money was held in July 2014, attracting 52 entries from across the country. The same year an overnight tournament was held in the badminton hall in November. Several Ebbisham players have obtained top ten British or world rankings and have played in tournaments throughout England and abroad.



RACKETLON

Racketlon came to this country in 2002 from Scandinavia. It made its first appearance at Ebbisham 10 years later as part of the club's 70th anniversary celebrations.

In racketlon competitors are drawn in pairs and play their opponent in all 4 sports: table tennis, badminton, squash and tennis in the order from the smallest to the largest racket over 3 or 4 rounds.

Each of the four sets are played first to 15 or 21 points, leading to an accumulated score for the round. Winners are channelled through to play other winners, losers to other losers, and the cycle begins again, repeating till there is an overall winner. The winner of a racketlon competition is the player who has won the most points in total.

Racketlon was revived at the 75th anniversary



and a tournament has been held every year since then.

A number of multisport members have spread their wings further, with great success.

- Badminton Performance Centre juniors Leon and Luke Griffiths took part in the World Team Racketlon Championships in Denmark in July 2016 and came home with a selection of gold, silver and bronze medals, both having won individual golds at the previous year's world championships
- In a slightly older age bracket, badminton member Richard Middleton was over 50s world champion in 2016.



TABLE TENNIS

From the word go, table tennis has featured at Ebbisham, though never as a major sport and never with a permanent home. In 1937 it was played on the squash balcony, despite the risk of balls descending to the courts below, and regular tournaments were held in the early days. A table was later erected in the committee room, though lack of space made this unsatisfactory for serious players.

Then in 2011, the club acquired a new table and an attempt was made to promote the sport once more. A table tennis club night was introduced with the table moved onto squash court 1, but although initially well attended this soon faded out. The table is still available for hire and comes into its own during multisport pay and play daytime sessions and for racketlon competitions.

SURREY YOUTH GAMES (SYG)

A prime example of Ebbisham's presence in the community can be seen in the club's role in the Surrey Youth Games. Ebbisham has been involved with the SYG since the beginning, providing premises, coaches and team leaders in badminton, squash and tennis, and most recently touchtennis as well.

The aim of the Games is to develop sport in Surrey through an annual competition between teams of youngsters from the county boroughs. Via the Games, the following outcomes are achieved:

- *More young people take part in competitive sport, and continue to take part in sport after the Games.*
- *More sports clubs become accredited by their National Governing Body, thereby improving the quality of sports clubs in Surrey.*
- *More people become qualified in sports coaching and officiating.*
- *New junior sports clubs or sections are created.*

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has awarded Ebbisham the Charlie Steer Shield for being the most supportive club within the borough on numerous occasions: in 2002 (inaugural year), 2003, 2008, 2009, 2015 and 2016.



In addition, several of the coaches and team leaders have been nominated for awards

- In 2009 Chris Matthews was runner-up for the EEBC Volunteer of the Year award for his work as team leader of the squash squads.
- In 2011 Ebbisham badminton coach Marie Benedict was named EEBC Sports Coach of the Year.
- In the same year, though not winners, the SYG mini-squash team was nominated for the Young Sports Team of the Year award.

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Throughout its history, the club has opened its doors to the community, offering its facilities for use by members of the public, local associations, schools and businesses. The original badminton section drew the line at allowing other established badminton clubs to use the hall, but it was let out from the start to other organisations, though the proposed use in 1938 by the Women's League of Health and Beauty failed to materialise as there was no heating in the hall. For over 30 years local company Atkins has used the badminton courts every Thursday and has recently branched out into squash. There are many other regular block bookings on all courts, not just for the usual sports, but also over the years for example aerobics, fencing, dodgeball, tai-chi, netball, etc.

In tune with the current national desire to improve the health of the nation, the club has supported various initiatives aimed at getting more people of all ages playing sport. Youngsters have benefitted from free coaching sessions such as the Sports Unlimited and Sportivate initiatives for badminton and squash, and the Highland Spring Davis Cup Legacy and Benenden schemes for tennis.

For adults, following the success of the back-to-badminton and beginner coaching sessions, weekly pay-and-play badminton sessions have been introduced for those players who do not wish to commit to club membership. And pay-and-play has this year been extended to tennis.

Latterly the club has turned its attention to the older age groups, focussing on the over 50s, supporting for instance the Active Surrey Get active 50+ initiative and joining forces with U3A to promote sessions for the older generation. A particular focus has been on racketball as an easier to learn and perhaps less demanding sport and on multi-sport drop-in sessions, where players rotate between all the usual sports, plus touchtennis and a new introduction - pickleball.

And let's not forget the efforts of Ebbisham members on behalf of others. From the beginning money has been raised to support local good causes and from 2012 the club has adopted a specific charity of the year. Since then over £1000 has been raised each year for Tadworth Children's Trust, MERU, Epsom Riding for the Disabled, the Sunnybank Trust and Love me love my mind. The charity chosen by members for 2017 is the Epsom Hospital Special Care Baby Unit.

As a result of its work supporting the SYG, plus other initiatives to bring more people into sport, Ebbisham was the winner of the EEBC Aon Hewitt Sports Club of the Year in 2009, was nominated again in 2011, and won once more in 2016.



In both 2009 and 2016 Ebbisham went on to win the **Active Surrey Sports Club of the Year Award**



AND SO TO THE FUTURE

Who knows? - Hopefully **Ebbisham Sports Club** will still be flourishing after another 80 years!

APPENDIX 1 - SINGLES CHAMPIONS ROLLS OF HONOUR

BADMINTON

MENS SINGLES

WINNER	RUNNER UP	
W H BRIDGEWATER		1929
A J HOWIE		1930
R S KEITH		1931
W H BRIDGEWATER	P V FEARON	1932
C S M DAVIDSON	A J HOWIE	1933
A J HOWIE	M H ECK	1934
C S M DAVIDSON	A J HOWIE	1935
G A MORRIS	W WILTSHIRE	1936
G A MORRIS	W H J PARISH	1937
G A MORRIS	W WILTSHIRE	1938
C G METSON	G A MORRIS	1939
NO COMPETITION		1940 - 1947
G A MORRIS	W H J PARISH	1948
G A MORRIS	W WILTSHIRE	1949
W WILTSHIRE	G A MORRIS	1950
W G KNIGHT	W WILTSHIRE	1951
W G KNIGHT	W WILTSHIRE	1952
D V DICKENSON	W G KNIGHT	1953
H I PALMER	S H LIM	1954
D V DICKENSON	H I PALMER	1955
A E FLASHMAN	D V DICKENSON	1956
A E FLASHMAN	D T M FORREST	1957
A E FLASHMAN	M TRANTER	1958
M TRANTER	A E FLASHMAN	1959
J G CAMPBELL	A E FLASHMAN	1960
P MATTHEWS	M A PORTER	1961
P MATTHEWS	M A PORTER	1962
W C E ROGERS	P MATTHEWS	1963
C DARNELL	W C E ROGERS	1964
NO COMPETITION		1965
R W ARTHUR	H E BROCKMAN	1966
W C E ROGERS	R W ARTHUR	1967
R W ARTHUR	W C E ROGERS	1968
R W ARTHUR	R PEARSON	1969
W C E ROGERS	P OSBORNE	1970
R PEARSON	W C E ROGERS	1971
W C E ROGERS	R ARTHUR	1972
W C E ROGERS	C A MARTIN	1973
W C E ROGERS	C A MARTIN	1974
C E HOCKEY	W C E ROGERS	1975
W C E ROGERS	D B SOWDON	1976
W C E ROGERS	C E HOCKEY	1977
I PURTON	W C E ROGERS	1978

LADIES SINGLES

WINNER	RUNNER UP
H M WELLS	
V ASTLEY COOPER	
C G WILKIN	
V ASTLEY COOPER	C G WILKIN
V ASTLEY COOPER	M I SUGDEN
V ASTLEY COOPER	E M EAST
V ASTLEY COOPER	S RAWLINGS
E M EAST	S RAWLINGS
G L GARLAND	E M EAST
M GRIFFIN	G L GARLAND
H MOODY	G L GARLAND
NO COMPETITION	
H I WILDSMITH	MRS D M GOW
H I WILDSMITH	MRS D M GOW
MRS I M WILDSMITH	MRS D M GOW
MRS I M WILDSMITH	MRS B HEAD
MRS B HEAD	MISS J MANSLEY
MRS B HEAD	MRS I M WILDSMITH
MRS B HEAD	MRS I M WILDSMITH
MRS B HEAD	MISS J O BROWN
MISS H J PRITCHARD	MISS D D HUFFER
MISS H J PRITCHARD	MISS D D HUFFER
MISS D D HUFFER	MISS H J PRITCHARD
MISS H J PRITCHARD	MISS B M PARRISH
MISS H J PRITCHARD	MISS D D HUFFER
MISS H J PRITCHARD	MISS D D HUFFER
MISS P M ANDREW	MISS D D HUFFER
MISS B M PARRISH	MISS P M ANDREW
MISS B M PARRISH	MISS P M ANDREW
NO COMPETITION	
MISS D D HUFFER	MRS R M MAINE
MISS D D HUFFER	MRS R M MAINE
MISS D D HUFFER	MRS R M MAINE
MRS R M MAINE	MISS D D HUFFER
MRS R M MAINE	MISS V M HARRIS
MISS S COATES	MISS V M HARRIS
MISS S COATES	MISS V M HARRIS
MISS S COATES	MISS V M HARRIS
MISS S COATES	MRS J CUNNINGHAM
MISS S COATES	MISS C LONG
MISS C LONG	MISS K A COATES
MISS C LONG	MISS K A COATES
MISS C LONG	MISS A M STAPLES

C E HOCKEY	D G PALMER	1979	MISS C LONG	MISS A M STAPLES
C E HOCKEY	D G PALMER	1980	MISS C LONG	MRS A FISH
I PURTON	C E HOCKEY	1981	MISS C LONG	MRS A FISH
C E HOCKEY	I PURTON	1982	MISS C LONG	MRS A FISH
P SMITH	N RIVETT	1983	P WILLARD	MRS J CUNNINGHAM
A NIELSEN	P SMITH	1984	MISS C LONG	MRS L MOH
A NIELSEN	P SMITH	1985	MISS C LONG	MISS J ASHFOLD
J MOH	P BISHOP	1986	MISS C LONG	MRS R MILLARD
J MOH	M HINDLE	1987	MISS C LONG	MISS J ASHFOLD
J MOH	I PURTON	1988	MISS C LONG	MISS Z ROBINS
M HINDLE	J MOH	1989	MRS C CROSSLEY	MISS J ASHFOLD
M HINDLE	J MOH	1990	MISS K CUNNINGHAM	MISS A KELLETT
M HINDLE	J MOH	1991	MISS K CUNNINGHAM	MISS T SALE
M HINDLE	J MOH	1992	MISS K CUNNINGHAM	MISS T SALE
J MOH	I HUNTER	1993	MISS S SCHOLES	MISS T SALE
I HUNTER	J MOH	1994	MISS T SALE	MISS K CUNNINGHAM
I HUNTER	??	1995	MISS J PALMER	MISS K ARSCOTT
I HUNTER	??	1996		
I HUNTER	J COCKLIN	1997	MISS K CUNNINGHAM	MISS T SALE
I HUNTER	H DIBBLE	1998		
		1999		
C LANGRIDGE	??	2000	MISS C HANSON	MRS L MOH
R SHARP	??	2001	MISS K CUNNINGHAM	MISS C HANSEN
I HUNTER	R SHARP	2002	MISS J LAWRENCE	MISS C KERWIN
R SHARP	A EVANS	2003	MRS K WARD	??
D MORBEY	S HEMSLEY	2004		
S KENNEDY	S WATKINS	2005		
D MORBEY	I SHAFFI	2006		
A EVANS	D LEE	2007		
		2008		
P KUO	C SHERMER	2009		
S WATKINS	M HAWKINS	2010	MRS K WARD	MISS H CREASEY
S WATKINS	M NORTHFIELD	2011		
		2012		
S WATKINS	R WELLARD	2013		
		2014		
A SHEPHERD	M NORHTFIELD	2015		
B RICHARDS	W MANNERS	2016		
B RICHARDS	W GIACOMINI	2017	MISS G ATKINS	MRS K WARD

If anyone can fill in any of the gaps, please let me know via the office.

TENNIS

MEN'S SINGLES

LADIES SINGLES

		YEAR		
WINNER	RUNNER-UP		WINNER	RUNNER-UP
W. WILTSHIRE	F.R. CLEEVES	1938	MRS S.G. PRATT	MISS R.A. FLEMING
NO COMPETITION		1939 - 1947	NO COMPETITION	
W. WILTSHIRE	H.G. SMYTH	1948	MRS I. WILDSMITH	MRS M.A. WILLIAMS
R.J. KING	J. TIMBERLAKE	1949	MRS E.V. JAMES	MRS D.M. GOW
H.N.L. MYERS	R.J. PRANKERD	1950	MRS E.V. JAMES	MRS D.M. GOW
H.N.L. MYERS	R.J. KING	1951	MRS E.V. JAMES	MRS I. WILDSMITH
R.J. KING	H.N.L. MYERS	1952	MRS M.A. WILLIAMS	MRS D.M. GOW
R.J. KING	H.N.L. MYERS	1953	MRS I. WILDSMITH	MISS S. GILBERT
H.N.L. MYERS	R.J. KING	1954	MISS J.O. BROWN	MISS P.E. MATHIE
H.N.L. MYERS	R.J. KING	1955	MRS D.M. GOW	MISS J.O. BROWN
R.L. FREWIN	H.N.L. MYERS	1956	MISS P.E. MATHIE	MISS J.O. BROWN
I.W.R. FRANCIS	H.N.L. MYERS	1957	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS D.M. GOW
H.N.L. MYERS	W. WILTSHIRE	1958	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS D. TURNER
N. DUNCAN	N.A.C. MYERS	1959	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS P.E. WILLIS
N. DUNCAN	N.A.C. MYERS	1960	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS P.E. WILLIS
H.N.L. MYERS	H.F. JOHNSON	1961	MRS P.E. WILLIS	MISS J.O. BROWN
H.N.L. MYERS	R. COLLINS	1962	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS P.E. WILLIS
R. COLLINS	H.F. JOHNSON	1963	MISS B.E. SIMISTER	MISS J.O. BROWN
R. COLLINS	E. COLES	1964	MISS J.O. BROWN	MISS B.E. SIMISTER
M. HARGRAVE	A. JAMES	1965	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS B.E. PRUDEN
R. ALLNUTT	P. HORNSBY	1966	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS M. KELBIE
H.N.L. MYERS	P. HORNSBY	1967	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS B.E. PRUDEN
G. MULLER	H.N.L. MYERS	1968	MISS J.O. BROWN	MRS B.E. PRUDEN
G. WILDMAN	D. ROBINSON	1969	MISS J.O. BROWN	MISS V.M. HARRIS
K. CONSTABLE	W. ROGERS	1970	MISS V.M. HARRIS	MRS A. HUGHES
P. WILKINSON	D. ROBINSON	1971	MISS V.M. HARRIS	MRS M. KELBIE
D. ROBINSON	P. WILKINSON	1972	MRS M. WRIGHT	MISS V.M. HARRIS
NO COMPETITION		1973 - 1976	NO COMPETITION	
C.J. IZZARD	W. ROGERS	1977	MISS V.M. HARRIS	MISS M. SUTCLIFFE
C.J. IZZARD	D. ROBINSON	1978	MRS V.M. NASH	MRS A.WELLS
D. ROBINSON	D. WEBB	1979	MRS V.M. NASH	MRS A.WELLS
K.W. INCH	L. BURRIDGE	1980	MRS V.M. NASH	MRS P. PLEASE
J. WRIGHT	D. ROBINSON	1981	MISS M. CLARKE	MRS V.M. NASH

M. SMITH	K. JACKSON	1982	MRS V.M. NASH	MRS A.WELLS
M. SMITH	J. WRIGHT	1983	MISS M. CLARKE	MRS V.M. NASH
M. SMITH	J. WRIGHT	1984	MRS E. FELL	MISS C. TOMLINSON
T. WEBB	M. SMITH	1985	MRS E. FELL	MISS C. TOMLINSON
M. SMITH	J. MOSS	1986	MRS G. WRIGHT	MISS C. TOMLINSON
T. WEBB	J. MOSS	1987	MISS M. CLARKE	MRS G. WRIGHT
T. WEBB	A. BETTINI	1988	MISS C. TOMLINSON	MISS M. CLARKE
T. WEBB	A. BETTINI	1989	MRS G. WRIGHT	MRS A.WELLS
T. WEBB	A. BETTINI	1990	MISS D. RUMNEY	MISS J. HAYNES
T. WEBB	S. Mc CLEERY	1991	MISS D. RUMNEY	MISS M. CLARKE
T. WEBB	S. Mc CLEERY	1992	MISS D. RUMNEY	MRS A. ALLEY
T. WEBB	J. MOSS	1993	MRS D. REDDIN	MISS K. SARGENT
T. WEBB	J. MOSS	1994	MISS K. SARGENT	MRS A. ALLEY
T. WEBB	C. PRICE	1995	MISS C. COLLETT	MISS F. WILLOUGHBY
T. WEBB	C. CROSSLEY	1996	MRS N. VERRALL	MISS L. JOHNSON
T. WEBB	C. CROSSLEY	1997	MRS V.M. NASH	MRS A. ALLEY
C. PRICE	C. CROSSLEY	1998	MRS M. GORDON	MISS T. WEBB
C. PRICE	J. MOSS	1999	MISS R. TAYLOR	MISS T. WEBB
J. MOSS	C. PRICE	2000	MRS B. BLACKBURN	MISS T. WEBB
J. MOSS	P. FITZGERALD	2001	MRS B. BLACKBURN	MISS R. TAYLOR
J. MOSS	P. FITZGERALD	2002	MRS B. BLACKBURN	MRS E. ANSELL
T. EDWARDS	M. NEWTON	2003	MISS R. TAYLOR	MRS E. ANSELL
T. EDWARDS	M. NEWTON	2004	MRS E. ANSELL	MRS L. COLES
T. EDWARDS	A. DATT	2005	MRS E. ANSELL	MRS L. COLES
N. LOCOCK	J. MOSS	2006	MS J. DOSWELL	MRS E. ANSELL
L. BONNER	J.MOSS	2007	MRS G. FUTCHER	MRS G. TICKLE
E. BARRETT	J. MOSS	2008	MS J. DOSWELL	MRS E. ANSELL
E. BARRETT	C. GRAHAM	2009	MS J. DOSWELL	MISS A. LUEKE
C. GRAHAM	L. BONNER	2010	MRS J. ROBINSON	MRS G. FUTCHER
E. BARRETT	C. GRAHAM	2011	MRS G. FUTCHER	MRS K. HUDSPETH
E. BARRETT	C. SHERMER	2012	MRS K. HUDSPETH	MRS G. FUTCHER
J. BONNER	P. WILLIS	2013	MRS E. ANSELL	MRS G. FUTCHER
J. BONNER	J.MATHEWS	2014	MRS G.FUTCHER	MRS J. MATHEWS
C.GRAHAM	J.BONNER	2015	MRS E. ROWLANDS	MRS G. FUTCHER
P. WILLIS	J. BONNER	2016	MRS J. ROBINSON	MRS E. ANSELL

SQUASH

MEN'S SINGLES

LADIES SINGLES

YEAR

WINNER

RUNNER UP

WINNER

RUNNER UP

J PALMER

W WILTSHIRE

1938

W KING

G HOSEGOOD

NO COMPETITION

1939 - 1947

NO COMPETITION

R M LISCOMBE

J P STILES

1948

J ALSTON

G RIGGALL

B GOW

R J GOWILAND

1949

J ALSTON

G RIGGALL

B GOW

S PLUMMER

1950

J ALSTON

G RIGGALL

S PLUMMER

B GOW

1951

M A WILLIAMS

G RIGGALL

B GOW

I RIGGALL

1952

M A WILLIAMS

G RIGGALL

B GOW

N L WILLIAMS

1953

G RIGGALL

M A WILLIAMS

N R CARR

A F KLIMA

1954

G RIGGALL

J STEPHEN

A F KLIMA

N L WILLIAMS

1955

G RIGGALL

J SMITH

A F KLIMA

N MASTERS

1956

G RIGGALL

R RATHBONE

A F KLIMA

N MASTERS

1957

B SIMESTER

G RIGGALL

A F KLIMA

N MASTERS

1958

B SIMESTER

J M COYSH

A F KLIMA

T WILLETT

1959

B SIMESTER

J M COYSH

J BROWN

A F KLIMA

1960

B SIMESTER

J M COYSH

J G BROWNE

P GRAYLIN

1961

B SIMESTER

J M COYSH

A F KLIMA

J G BROWNE

1962

B SIMESTER

J M COYSH

A F KLIMA

J G BROWNE

1963

B SIMESTER

J M COYSH

A F KLIMA

C PATSTON

1964

J M COYSH

B SIMESTER

A F KLIMA

I HAWSON

1965

J HAWSON

B PRUDEN

I HAWSON

A JOHNSON

1966

P WILSON

J M COYSH

I HAWSON

A F KLIMA

1967

J HAWSON

B PRUDEN

R ALNUTT

C PATSTON

1968-69

M PRICE

A WILSON

R LANE

A F KLIMA

1969-70

J HAWSON

M PRICE

R ALNUTT

J ELLISON

1970-71

M PRICE

B PRUDEN

R ALNUTT

D STOKER

1971-72

M PRICE

M WRIGHT

R ALNUTT

D STOKER

1973

M HEPBORN

M PRICE

R ALNUTT

J ELLISON

1974

M PRICE

M WRIGHT

R ALNUTT

P WARD

1975

M WRIGHT

H CROSSLEY

R ALNUTT

P WARD

1976

M WRIGHT

H CROSSLEY

R ALNUTT

P WARD

1977

H CROSSLEY

M WRIGHT

R ALNUTT

P WARD

1978

J TESTER

H CROSSLEY

R ALNUTT

P WARD

1979

M WRIGHT

J TESTER

R ALNUTT

P WARD

1980

J BENTLEY

A BRANSBY-ZACHARY

N STILES	L GOSS	1981	M WRIGHT	A FISH
N STILES	L GOSS	1982	A FISH	M WRIGHT
N STILES	L GOSS	1983	L GILLAM	A BRANSBY-ZACHARY
N STILES	G OKERCHIRI	1984	L GILLAM	E FELL
N STILES	R HUNT	1985	L GILLAM	M DOWN
D WALLOND	R HUNT	1986	L GILLAM	M DOWN
R HUNT	G COLE	1987	M DOWN	A BRANSBY-ZACHARY
R HUNT	J CUNNINGHAM	1988	K MCGEOCH	A BRANSBY-ZACHARY
J CUNNINGHAM	G SMART	1989	A FISH	K MCGEOCH
P FISH	G SMART	1990	A FISH	M DOWN
P FISH	J CUNNINGHAM	1991	M LANE	C SUTTON
P FISH	P CULVER	1992	A COOPER	C SUTTON
P FISH	J CUNNINGHAM	1993	A COOPER	C SUTTON
J CUNNINGHAM	N BURGESS	1994	J ROBINSON	C SUTTON
J CUNNINGHAM	R WOLSEY	1995	J ROBINSON	J MATHEWS
R HUNT	P CULVER	1996	J ROBINSON	J MATHEWS
P CULVER	J CUNNINGHAM	1997	J ROBINSON	J MATHEWS
J CUNNINGHAM	R STEERE	1998	J ROBINSON	J MATHEWS
P CULVER	R STEERE	1999	J ROBINSON	J MATHEWS
D BROGAN	S KENEDY	2000	G CLARK	J ROBINSON
R STEERE	S KENEDY	2001	J ROBINSON	A BURR-DIXON
R STEERE	D BROGAN	2002	A BURR-DIXON	G CLARK
R STEERE	T WEST	2003	G CLARK	J ROBINSON
R STEERE	J MATHEWS	2004	J ROBINSON	E MATHEWS
R STEERE	J MATHEWS	2005	E MATHEWS	J MATHEWS
J MATHEWS	D BROGAN	2006	E MATHEWS	A BURR-DIXON
J MATHEWS	D BROGAN	2007	E LEDGER	J ROBINSON
G LAMOND	M ROBINSON	2008	S HUDSPETH	J ROBINSON
D BROGAN	M NEWTON	2009	C RATCLIFFE	L MAYER
M ROBINSON	P CROSSMAN	2010	J ROBINSON	J MATHEWS
J MATHEWS	M ROBINSON	2011	J ALLMAN	S HUDSPETH
M ROBINSON	P WILLIS	2012	K OLIVER	C LUCAS
J MATHEWS	M ROBINSON	2013	E MATHEWS	J SCRIVENS
M ROBINSON	P WILLIS	2014	C LUCAS	K OLIVER
P WILLIS	D COFFIN	2015	C LUCAS	G MEAD
P WILLIS	M NEWTON	2016	C LUCAS	S BEAK
J MATHEWS	P WILIS	2017	M COE-O'BRIEN	C LUCAS

APPENDIX 2 - A SHORT OUTLINE OF THE FORMATION AND HISTORY OF THE CLUB WRITTEN IN 1949

EBBISHAM SPORTS CLUB
Eastway Epsom

A SHORT OUTLINE OF THE FORMATION AND HISTORY OF THE CLUB.

The Ebbisham Badminton Club functioned for very many years, even before the 1914-18 War, playing in the then Army Drill Hall in East Street, Epsom. The Club had, by 1937 become quite a strong Club with a total membership of about 100, and with play in two sections. Suddenly, at this time, the Club Committee were informed that the Drill Hall was to be demolished, and that the Club would, therefore, not be able to continue at that hall. A general meeting of the Club was called to enquire into possibilities of finding alternative accommodation, or of building a hall.

As a result of the efforts of a sub-committee that was appointed for this purpose, it was found that there were no other suitable premises anywhere in the District, but the site of the present Sports Club was found, and proposals drafted for building a club premises.

The then members of the Ebbisham Badminton Club held a general meeting, and decided to proceed with the project of building new premises, undertaking themselves to find sufficient capital to take up Debentures and Shares to finance the Scheme, either with a Building Society or other mortgage. The sub-committee of members, consisting of - Messrs. W.H. Bridgwater, W.H.J. Parish, W. Wiltshire, and H.J. Seear were accordingly authorised to take all necessary steps to acquire the site, and prepare a scheme for a building, and as a result, the Ebbisham Sports Club Ltd., a private limited company was formed, and shares and debentures were subscribed for by the then badminton members and their friends. A further mortgage had to be arranged which was personally guaranteed by Messrs. Bridgwater, Parish and Wiltshire.

The premises and buildings were completed at the end of 1937, and were formally opened by the president of the Badminton Club, The Lord Ebbisham, on the 1st February 1938. It had been decided in the early days that a club for badminton only would probably not be self supporting, and therefore, the present facilities for badminton, tennis, and squash were provided.

The Club immediately commenced to attract a large number of members, and by the summer of 1939 had a full membership for all of its sections with a waiting list for some of them.

On the 5th September, 1959, the whole of the property was requisitioned, and so remained requisitioned throughout the period of the last War, being occupied in turn by the Army, the Borough Council, as a rest centre, and for A.R.P. purposes, and later as a British Restaurant, and finally by the Surrey County Council as a school feeding centre.

As soon as the War came to an end efforts were made to obtain the derequisitioning of the premises with a view to restarting the Clubs, but it was not until late in 1947 that an arrangement was made with the authorities to release the greater part of the premises, except for one squash court, and partial use of the Badminton Hall for the feeding of school children. The Directors of the Company decided to accept this solution, and the Clubs were restarted on the 1st November, 1947, but in a somewhat limited way. However, the membership soon grew again so that by 1948-49 the various Clubs were once again flourishing, and the membership back once again nearer to the pre-war total, except for the limitation imposed by the part still occupied by the Surrey County Council.

The whole property was naturally very dilapidated when the Company again came into possession, and very considerable negotiations were necessary to obtain compensation from the requisitioning authorities, and the carrying out of the necessary repairs to make the premises

reasonably usable under the numerous restrictions then in force, but by 1949 the premises were once again practically up to pre-war standard

In order to provide living accommodation for a steward and stewardess it became desirable, if possible, for this to be on the premises, and the Company were successful in obtaining the necessary licence to erect a small flat on the property for the occupation of the steward and stewardess, and this was completed in June, 1949.

The Directors of the Company, after the War were Messrs. W.H. Bridgwater, Chairman, V. W.. Denyer, Hon. Secretary, W. H. J. Parish, W. D. Ross, and W. Wiltshire. The Directors remain the same at the present time, with the exception of Mr. Ross, who had to resign from the Board in 1949 on leaving England to take up an appointment in Australia.

It should, perhaps be pointed out that all the Directors and other officers of the Company and the Clubs all act in an honorary capacity, without any remuneration for their services in any respect. The general structure of the private limited company is that there is an Ordinary Share Capital in £1 Shares held by 33 past or present members and their friends. There is a first mortgage by way of overdraft with a bank and there are Debentures held by 26 past or present members and their friends. The interest on the mortgage and Debentures has always been met, but the Ordinary Shareholders have not received any dividend since the formation of the Company.

At the present time the approximate overheads in running the premises amount to £2 000 per annum, excluding the cost of shuttlecocks and tennis balls and it will be realised that this is a heavy responsibility.

It has always been the policy of the Directors of the Company to run the whole premises for the general benefit of all members, having regard, of course, firstly to the obligations which must be met on the financial side to maintain the stability of the Company.

At this time quite a large number of the original members of the Club who took part in the formation of the Company are, of course, by reason of age or otherwise not now taking an active part in the Club, and it is felt that this brief outline can be of interest to the newer members of the various playing Clubs particularly those who have joined since the recommencing of the Club activities in 1947.

1949.

APPENDIX 3 -A HISTORY OF EBBISHAM WRITTEN ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB IN 1987

The Ebbisham Sports Club has its origins in the Ebbisham Badminton Club, which was founded in 1919 and, until 1937, played at the Territorial Army Drill Hall off East Street, long since pulled down.

In the autumn of 1936 information reached us that the regiment, a battalion of the East Surrey Regiment, was to be mechanised and the Drill Hall re-built as what the Permanent Sergeant Instructor called "a glorified garage"; there would be no height or room for badminton. Attempts by members of the Club Committee to find alternative accommodation were wholly unsuccessful and it became clear that if the Club were to continue, it must build its own hall.

It was felt that a hall for badminton alone would not be viable and that other sports must be included in the complex. In particular, there was an essential need for a summer tennis club, since in those days both badminton and squash were considered to be winter games and no organised summer play existed. Only tennis could keep the Club going during the summer months. The concept therefore came into being of having 3 badminton courts, 2 squash courts and some hard tennis courts plus, of course, changing rooms, a bar and lounge, and perhaps a shop, office and a committee room.

The search then began for a suitable site. Ultimately, our site was found, a defunct lawn tennis club owned by St. Barnabas Church. There was, however, one snag - there was no vehicular access to the ground, only a pedestrian one from the Pound Lane footpath by the Court Recreation Ground to the bottom left hand corner of the present car park. The front garden of Mr. Sydney Smith's house tapered to a point adjoining the footpath from Eastway to West Hill. Fortunately, Mr. Smith was sympathetic to the idea of a club and conveyed to us the piece of land needed for a 22ft. wide vehicle access.

Matters could now proceed and in the summer and autumn of 1937 work went ahead in building the Club premises on the lines agreed by the Committee, including 4 hard tennis courts. Badminton and squash play effectively started in about the middle of November 1937, but the tennis courts were not completed until later. The Club was formally opened by the Lord Ebbisham, G.B.E., (formerly Sir Rowland Blades, M.P. for the Epsom constituency) the Club's President, on 1st February 1938.

The cost of the project, down to the last cup and saucer, was £7,048 - remarkable by to-day's standards, but this was possible because our Chairman, Mr. Walter Bridgwater ("Wally") of Bridgwater Bros., the public works contractors, had all the building work (except the specialist work such as the badminton hall structure, the squash court wall plastering, etc.), and the car park laid at cost. The late William Wiltshire gave his services free as architect and the legal work was also done free except for disbursements.

The money required was raised by forming a private limited company, necessary in case the project failed, with a resultant personal liability on the individual club members and, of course, a convenient means of raising funds. The company issued £1,000 in £1 shares and also £10 and £25 debentures carrying interest at 5 ½ %. The Equity & Law Life Assurance Co. lent to the Club £3,250 on mortgage and on the personal guarantees of the directors. The limited company continued to exist until 1966, when the ownership of the Club was conveyed to 3 trustees acting for the members. This transaction enabled the Club to receive grants of £8,000 from the Dept. of Education & Science and £2,000 from the Surrey County Council, made under the terms of the Physical Recreation Act, 1937.

The reason for the Club's then desperate need of funds was that parts of the Club had fallen into serious disrepair. The badminton floor had become quite dangerous and needed re-laying and the

roof of the badminton hall was leaking in a number of places, some of the roof sheets having deteriorated badly. Other important items also required renewal. Members' subscriptions had not been enough to build up a reserve fund and the Club had worked on a hand-to-mouth basis which inevitably led to a crisis. The work was carried out in 1967.

It would now seem desirable to return to other aspects of the Club's history. 1938 and 1939 saw a booming in all the 3 activities, badminton, squash and tennis and there seemed to be a rosy future ahead. But the shadows of war became increasingly threatening during the summer of 1939. During that summer, some 75 to 80 Club members attended a course of lectures in the badminton hall on air raid precautions, first aid, etc. The directors of the Company appreciated that the Club could not hope to continue during a war and the writer went to see the Secretary of the Territorial Association to enquire whether the Club might be requisitioned in the event of war. He took with him the plans of the Club and was told that the Club was eminently suitable for military use. This relieved us of the possibility of having to face mortgage interest charges, upkeep and other expenses with the prospect of very little income.

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, 3rd September 1939, four hours after the declaration of war, an advance party of a Territorial Army A.A. regiment requisitioned the Club in the name of the King. In the event it was nearly 8 years before we regained possession.

This A.A. regiment was based on Epsom. One battery was quartered at the Club, one battery in the Racecourse Grandstand and the third in the Ebbisham Hall in Ashley Road, now part of the Ashley Centre. Neither of the other two places had bathing facilities and the men were marched down to the Club for showers. The Club Steward had been kept on and, according to him, shovelled more coke into the boiler during the period when the regiment was in Epsom than he had done since the Club opened!

The Army occupation was however short, the regiment, we gathered, being ordered to France in the late autumn of 1939. Thereafter we have no knowledge of them; it is to be hoped that they were successfully evacuated through Dunkirk or one of the other Channel ports.

For a time, the Club premises were hardly used, but then came the Government scheme for British Restaurants, open to the public and offering reasonably adequate though hardly luxurious meals. The Club was converted to this use with one squash court a kitchen and the other used for storage. The Ebbisham British Restaurant continued as such until the end of the War. It was then used for school meals, serving the Pound Lane schoolchildren at the Club and sending hot meals in containers to other schools. This continued until 1947, when the Club was de-requisitioned and returned to us in a condition which reduced us nearly to tears (for instance rosebay willow herb was growing on the tennis courts higher than the net posts). However, hard work brought the Club once again into use.

It would not be right to leave the wartime history of the Club without some reference to its members. Sadly, there were losses. John Palmer, the pre-War Squash Captain, a fine sportsman, was killed at Arnhem and another member, John Roll, remembered pre-War as a very likeable young chap in his late teens or early twenties, was killed in Normandy. There may have been others. But there were happier stories. Wally Bridgwater offered his services to the War Office at the beginning of the War and was commissioned a major in the Royal Engineers and given the task of raising a company of construction engineers, which he accomplished, a number of his recruits being his own men from Bridgwater Bros. They served with him in Egypt and Italy. His elder brother, Eric, kept the firm going in his absence. (The writer had occasion to salute him from time to time as a major in the Home Guard!)

Returning to chronological order. Post-War, there were two additions to the Club premises. First, a flat was built in about 1948 for the accommodation of the Steward. Then in about 1961, a third squash court was added.

Interest in the games available at the Club fluctuated surprisingly. In the early 1950's the squash almost folded up, whilst the tennis flourished. There was then a sudden boom in squash, leading to a demand for a third court. In the 1970's the tennis club membership waned alarmingly; tennis seemed to have become a spectator sport, concentrated on the Wimbledon Championships. The opportunity was taken to convert the end tennis court into an extension of the car park.

The badminton however seemed immune to these fluctuations, fortunately, and thrived both in winter and summer. In the hot summer of 1976 it was a little curious to see badminton players come out of doors after their games indoors, to cool off in the open air, whilst the tennis courts were hardly being used. Fortunately, the tennis position has been reversed and the splendid new tennis courts have become a real asset to the Club. We should not see again the sight when a cloudburst during 1977 washed tons of the top dressing off the tennis courts into the car park. The squash club have also provided themselves with an added dimension, in the spectator facilities for the third court.

The social facilities at the Club have also been vastly improved over the years. First, the lounge was extended to take in a little used viewing area behind a badminton court and viewing windows were provided in the lounge. About the same time, the watching area to the right of the badminton courts was glassed in. Then the small and inadequate bar and even less adequate kitchen were converted to the present layout in 1981.

As to the personal aspects of the Club, it has been interesting over the years to see many second generation members grow up to full membership. Maybe, there are even grandsons and grand-daughters of bygone members, carrying on a family tradition. Quite a number, too, of the honorary officers of the Clubs have given many years of service. Perhaps consideration might be given to the award of long service medals; or a suitable device to wear on ties or cardigans! The Club owes them a lot.

This history of the Club cannot be concluded without reference to the loyal staff who have served it for many years. Chief among these is, of course, our Club Manager, Tom Nash. He first came to us in 1957 with his then wife, but left us in 1963 to run a Barnardo's Home in Stepney. But evidently his heart was still with the Club and in 1967 an invitation to him to rejoin us met with an immediate response. Happily, he is still with us. Then there was David Boyle. It is true that he left us, following disagreements with the Management Committee, but it would be wrong not to remember the years of able service he had given to the Club. It was his misfortune to suffer a severe accident in the City, being knocked down on a pedestrian crossing. Whilst in hospital for this, he was diagnosed as having diabetes. It is my belief that he was never the same again. He is living in Newhaven, having recently married Mary Westley, some years after his first wife, Joyce, had died. We wish them well. Joan Atkinson has been with us for nearly 25 years and Nan Peddy for 12 years. Mike Peareth has been our Secretary since 1978.

The Club owes much to all of them. Mick and Sue Lloyd have been with us since 1980. Our thanks to them.

Two idle thoughts to conclude. I wonder how many thousands of people have played at our Club during its 50 years, and I wonder how many marriages have originated there:

And now all aboard for the next 50 years.
W.H.J.P. May 1987.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sources:

Previous historical accounts prepared by Bill Wiltshire and Basil Gow

Ebbisham Sports Club Ltd Company minutes

Letters from and to company directors

Management, sports and social committee minutes

National sporting body archives, including Badminton England, the Lawn Tennis Association and England Squash and Racketball

Thanks to current and ex-members who shared their memories including Viv Nash, Brenda Mewett, Geoff Pellant, Jack Stiles, Ray Eyers, Bertie Fowler and Jo Robinson, and photos including Jeff Sham and Charles Pitt

This account does not claim to be a complete history of the club, but rather to provide snapshots at given moments in time.

Lesley Coles

July 2017