BARBY TENNIS



BARBY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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BARBY TENNIS

Early Days

Barby residents have had access to a tennis court for many years. One of the first courts was on land behind the present bungalow Longcourt at 40 Kilsby Road below. Later, play was on a court in the Rectory garden as the Rev John and Mrs Esme Boughey were keen players. Rev Boughey became Rector in 1947, and lived in the Victorian rectory which was demolished to make way for Rectory Close.



Lent by Brian Williams BLHG PD001.068

About 20 players played regularly during the late 1940s to early 1950s. These included the Bosworth family who frequently cycled from Hillmorton for a game, and others from Kilsby. Friendly games took place against players from Willoughby and Ashby St Ledgers, the apprentices from the British Thompson Houston (BTH) Laurels Hostel in Dunchurch Road, Rugby.

Names of some of the original Barby tennis players were Basil Smith, Cecil and Betty Henson, Margaret and Eddie Thompson, Bob Smith, David Weston, Joyce Herbert, Margaret Livesey, John and Jean Bosworth and an older brother, Joan Carter, Mr and Mrs Carter, Percy Hale, Albert Haddon, Miss Dewey and Kathleen Thompson.

The Present Court

The present court is in Rugby Road on part of the Townlands land opposite the Arnold Arms, in front of the Millennium Orchard. This land was originally the village playing field, as seen below, now relocated to its present site in the centre of the village beside the Village Hall. The old playing field was made available to the Parish Council by the Townlands Charity for a lease of £75pa, and leased on condition that the area be for a tennis court only.



L-R: Neville Weston, Stephen Hamp and Stuart Prestidge c 1959

Lent by Ethel Prestidge

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The monies raised for the court, built by Highways of Coventry, was funded by the villagers through a sponsored walk round Barby over an entire weekend, and other fundraising

The new court was opened by Miss Audrey Pittom on 8 May 1971 when Kenneth Formby was Chairman. An agreement was made with the Barby Parish Council that a Barby Tennis Management Committee be formed to oversee the running of the court. The court being a village amenity is available to all parishioners and therefore cannot be a club. Monies for the annual rent of the court and resurfacing every 6-8 years is funded by annual season tickets, hourly rates, and grants.

When the old wooden Village Hall in Ware Road was demolished in 1970, part of it was used as the Cricket Pavilion at the field in Longdown Lane, and part to make a pavilion for the tennis court. It was removed in 2000 to provide access to the newly planted Millennium Orchard.

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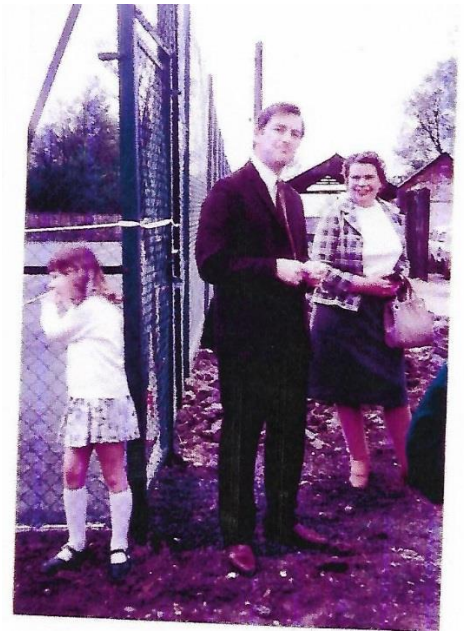


Players' photoshoot

Back Row L-R: Jill Maltby, Janet Atack, Brian Thompson, Eileen Thompson

Front: Jean Nightingale (L), Hazel Parsons (R)

BLHG PD001/087



Ken Formby and Audrey Pittom 1971

BLHG PD001/069



The Pavilion 1999 *BLHG P04/23*



The present court with the pavilion and Shakespeare Terrace in the background, : Barby Local History Group (BLHG) Flash 1 PD001/070



Standing Ted Parsons, Seated L-R Eileen Thompson, Hazel Parsons, Jean Nightingale

BLHG PD001/086