

NOTABLE EVENTS

The First 100 Years

- 1884 Two tennis courts laid on ground formerly a dump in Dean Park Crescent. Six Guarantors acquired lease of ground. Subscription = 1 guinea. 70 members. First Rules and Regulations drawn up.
- 1888 Dean Grounds Association Limited formed - purchased ground for £1,800. 2 further courts laid. Suggestion made that courts could be flooded in winter and used as a curling pond. A bowling green was also added and a two-storied Pavilion.
- 1889 Newly equipped Club opened by Archibald Hewat, Chairman of Board of Company. He narrated the circumstances leading to the formation of the Company and said the erection of huge tenements on the site would have been "at variance with the spirit of the age, which in all large towns was crying for more light and more air." £700-£800 had been spent in laying out the ground. First Office-Bearers and Committee elected. Minimum rent to DGA to be £52 plus any surplus.
- 1890 New Rules approved. Limit on numbers = 100 members. Sub-Committee set up 'to arrange matches with other Clubs and also to arrange the Club Competitions and settle the Handicaps'. WSC Shaw presented Silver Challenge Cup for Open Gentlemen's Singles. The President, Dr RC Maclagan, presented silver-mounted Shield for Gentlemen's Handicap Singles. Committee discussed the 'subject of liquor being supplied to Members in the Pavilion and the Secretary was instructed to get in a quantity of bottled beer and porter from time to time'. Members taking the Club's beer or porter to pay the amount due at once to the Officer in charge of the ground.' No other alcoholic liquor to be kept.
- 1891 Sub. = 25/-. Rent to DGA = £80 to include services of Groundsman.
- 1893 Clock for Pavilion bought for £7:16/-.
- 1894 Club colours adopted - "dark green bound with red".
- 1895 Rent to DGA = £45 ex. Groundsman
- 1896 Club joined Scottish Lawn Tennis Association (formed 1895). Pavilion extension to provide additional changing accommodation.
- 1898 Committee decide 'to bring a little more life into the Club - there being signs of interest and vigour in the game flagging. On the suggestion of the Secretary, to have tea provided in the Pavilion on Wednesday afternoons during the month of June at the Club's expense.'
- 1899 As bowling green ground found not suitable agreed to take it into hands of Tennis Club Committee.
- 1901 "Naval and Military men" allowed into Club without entry money.
- 1905 Dean joined newly formed East of Scotland LTA.
- 1911 WA Wyse retired as Secretary and Treasurer which offices he had held for 26 years (ie since founding of Club). The Committee recorded their "high appreciation of the energetic and painstaking services which he had so ungrudgingly given during his long tenure of office. They recognised that it was in no small measure owing to his efforts and to his unflinching courtesy and readiness to meet the wishes of members that the Club had reached the state of prosperity it at present enjoyed."
- 1912 Men's and Ladies' Singles title-holders in future to play through whole tournament, not merely Final.
- 1914 Courts relaid - Club to be responsible for all taxes, repairs and upkeep - annual rent to be £15 on understanding that skating be entirely discontinued during winter. Sub. increased to £1:10/-.
- 1915 In March, Committee considered whether Club should carry on as usual or to close on account of the War. Secretary pointed out there were 40 male members serving with HM Forces and a large number of lady members acting as nurses in Craighleith and other Hospitals. Agreed to carry on. Special Service List opened for members engaged in connection with the War - no Sub. to be paid by them.
- 1920 Joined East of Scotland League. The question of Sunday play ('a revolutionary matter') was raised; it was decided by the Committee to be "impossible at present".
- 1923 Sub. £1:15/- Entry £2. 2 Men's Teams and 1 Ladies' Team in East Leagues.
- 1924 57 Applicants for Membership. New entrance from Lennox Street and stairway proposed.
- 1925 Death of WA Wyse, Club President. WR Rainnie succeeded N Macdonald as Secretary and Treasurer.
- 1927 Minutes record 'tragic death of Mr Bell while playing for the Club against Waverley LTC on 10th May.'
- 1929 Resolved to hold Dance annually in October. Electric light installed in Pavilion.
- 1934 Sunday play voted for, but refused by Dean Grounds Association. "Welcome" Committee formed to look after social side of Club.
- 1935 Sub. = £2:10/-.
- 1936 Mixed Doubles Trophy presented by WG Purves.
- 1938 Membership down to 33 Men and 53 Ladies. Entry money waived.
- 1940 Decided that Club should continue despite poor financial prospects. WR Rainnie appointed President. No new balls available - 14.5 dozen given to Thornton's for reconditioning.
- 1944 Sub. = £3. Entry £3.
- 1946 103 full members; 14 temporary; 20 evening and 5 afternoon. Teams restarted in East Leagues. First Club tournament since War. Dr A Foggie became Secretary.
- 1948 Dance held in October in Albyn Rooms. Serious consideration given to re-orientation of courts.
- 1953 Estimate from En-Tout-Cas for an all-weather court at cost of £242:10/- for court 4 - not agreed by Committee by small majority.
- 1954 Drainage of courts overhauled.
- 1955 Dr Foggie succeeded WR Rainnie as President.
- 1956 New Rules adopted, including President serving for fixed term of 3 years. 73 Men and 80 Ladies as full members. Agreed to have an informal Dance during the season instead of usual formal one in October.
- 1958 Sub. = £4.
- 1960 45 Men and 68 Ladies = Ordinary Members. Entry money dropped.
- 1961 Ladies promoted to 1st Division. Men retained place in 2nd Division.
- 1963 Student Sub. of £3 introduced. 144 Full Members and 53 Juniors. Mens and Ladies teams in 1st Divisions - Men for first time since pre-War.
- 1964 Mens and Ladies teams remain in 1st Divisions. Mrs Letts and son GK Letts presented Men's Handicap Doubles Cups. Miss D Aitchison presented Ladies' Doubles (Handicap) Cup. Ladies - Runners-up in 1st Division. Men retained place in 1st Division.
- 1965 Gibson & Simpson, Chartered Surveyors, reported on condition of Pavilion. Need to replace balustrade on balcony and renew woodwork including joists.