



**THE VETERANS' LAWN TENNIS CLUB of GREAT BRITAIN**

## Archive

It is not very useful to have archive material that very few people know about. To rectify this I give below its location and an index of the content. Ideally these days all information should be one or two clicks away in digital form. However, that is not available yet although I have made a start. This brief record should ensure that its existence is not entirely forgotten and the general content is known and could be accessed if in the future any member so desires.

## Location

Archive material of The Veterans' Lawn Tennis Club of Great Britain is held in The Kenneth Ritchie Wimbledon Library, part of The Wimbledon Tennis Museum at the AELTC.

Admission is by appointment only. Telephone +44 (0) 20 8879 5609

As at October 2011 the archive material is held in four large cardboard boxes identified as 15A, 15B 15C and 15D. Given forewarning The Librarian will make these available to any member for study and research.

## Content

The content will be described below but it may be of interest to know how it got here.

Well, so far as I can discern, we are greatly indebted to all our most assiduous Hon. Secretaries. To begin with one of our founders and our first Secretary, Tom Todd, ensured that The Inaugural Dinner and Minutes started life in a proper minute book.

Then for the next 16 years Bill Latham carried on the good work from ledger to ledger. He passed everything on to Philip Ridsdale in 1977.

Steeped in tennis, it was probably he who published the first history of the club in 1983. This was later used in our handbook and copied as the basis of "Foundation and the Early Years" section of the history on our website.

The mantle of Hon. Sec was then passed to Dennis Platford. Dennis kept meticulous records and on his death in post these were saved by his wife, Ann,

who with the help of David Lidderdale (Chairman at the time), ensured the records moved to their current abode at the AELTC.

This allowed Ann to get her house back! Now, in 2011 we may also have to search the lofts of Jeremy Woods and Graham Neale to ensure continuity. Knowing them I suspect it is now all digitally recorded and one DVD will suffice.

So that is how things survived and thus we are able to view below an index of what we have got in our four boxes, with a few illustrations. I would still rather be playing than (rather sadly) reminiscing so the digital archive will take ages if I am spared to enhance it!

### ***Start of Index***

#### **Boxes 15A and 15B:**

**Contain photographs taken by Dennis Platford (Hon. Sec. 1988 – 2003)**

Large albums – 23

Small Albums – 4

#### **Norwegian Tennis Veterans**

1986 AELTC  
1987 Bergen 2 vols  
1988 AELTC  
1989 Gausdal  
1990 AELTC  
1991 Oslo 2 vols  
1992 AELTC  
1993 Gausdal 4 vols  
1994 AELTC and Magdalen College  
1997 AELTC  
1998 Alesund 2 vols  
1999 AELTC

#### **Other events**

1996/7 Palace Hotel Torquay  
2000 Palace Hotel and Beere & Chawton  
2000 Cocktail Party 3 vols

## Box 15C:

### Contains Minute Books, Newsletters and Annual Dinner Book

Minute Books	1959 – 1971 1972 – 1977 1978 – 1994 1995 – 1998
AGM and Newsletters	1972 – 1978 1986 - 1990
The Annual Dinner Book	1980 -2002  Menus Guest lists Table Plans List of venues 2pp

## Box 15D:

### Contains files on Norway, Torquay, Anniversaries and General Correspondence

Box File <b>Norway</b>	1963 – 1984 Hanko. The start of it all 1984 – 1993 Organisers' Correspondence
Box File <b>Torquay</b> Gordon	1996 Re-started after an interval. Organiser Jim 1997 Jim Gordon 2000 - 2010 John Harrop (Info for 2000-2003)
Box File <b>Anniversaries</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Programme and correspondence 35 <sup>th</sup> Table Plan and arrangements 40 <sup>th</sup> Table Plan
Box File <b>Secretary</b>	1971- 2002 Miscellaneous File of three Hon. Secs!

### *End of Index*

***NOTE:** At present I have taken over fifty photos of documents in order to assist in the writing of both the History and this Archive Index. It may be possible to make these and any future additions available via this website. You would then be able to access any picture in full definition whenever you wish. In the mean time if you wish to view something go along to The Library and do it for yourself – I'm due back on court soon!*

**David Straker Nov 2011**