

125 years

**Souvenir Programme**  
28th September '08



# President's Welcome

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Welcome to the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Basford Lawn Tennis Club. Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club is only six years older.

We discovered our roots as a result of much searching by our longstanding member, Derek Newport, who has compiled all his findings into a booklet entitled 'A History of Basford Lawn Tennis Club 1883 – 2008' which can be purchased today at a cost of £7.00 each. It makes a fascinating read.

The Club was established in 1883 on land at the rear of the Queen's Hotel in Basford. The two courts were very near to the Etruria marl hole and one night literally disappeared. The Club moved to its current site in 1926 and was registered under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act 1893 (modified by subsequent Acts) as a business or trade which is of benefit to the community. Each full playing member owns a £1 share.

To celebrate our 125th anniversary, we have arranged for an exhibition by our juniors. Who knows we may have a Wimbledon Champion there. The last member of Basford to play in the Wimbledon Championships was Andrew Foster, in 1993, reaching the Quarter Finals where he lost to Pete Sampras when he was in his prime.

We are very grateful to the Royal Air Force for being involved in our celebrations by sending ladies and men's teams to compete against our first teams and I am sure we are in for an entertaining afternoon.

All four courts are floodlit and laid with artificial sand-filled grass which is very close to playing on actual grass but have the advantage of being playable almost immediately after rain. The surface is also very kind on those aging, aching limbs. Tennis at Basford is truly all year round and caters for all levels of ability.

If you are interested in joining, the winter membership (1st October to 31st March) is available for only £80.00. Please take a membership application form available in the clubhouse.

Regrettably, I am unable to attend the celebrations due to a long standing, prior arrangement but you will be in good hands guided by the Chairman of the Management Committee, John Plumb's aplomb! I hope you have an enjoyable day and we look forward to welcoming some new faces on to our courts.

**Hugh Padley**

**President: Basford Lawn Tennis Club**

# Order of Events

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**12:00**  
**Gates open**

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**12:00 - 2:00**  
**Exhibition matches - Junior Teams**

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**2:00 - 5:00**  
**Exhibition matches - RAF / Basford Teams**

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**5:00 onwards**  
**Buffet & presentation**



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# Welcome to our guests

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Basford Lawn Tennis Club would like to welcome the following guests, who are here today to help celebrate our 125th anniversary.

**Mayor and Mayoress of Newcastle Borough Council, Councillor John & Mrs Angela Cooper**

**Staffordshire LTA President, Ian J. Dudson CBE, DL**

**Borough Council leader, Councillor Simon Tagg**

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the visiting RAF ladies and men's teams and their families who have very kindly agreed to join us on this occasion.

The club congratulates them on their recent success in the inter services competition at Wimbledon



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# Basford Players

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**Mike Armstrong** is a qualified LTA and PTR coach and head coach at Basford LTC. He works with all ages and abilities, ranging from complete beginners to the club's nationally ranked players. He is now team captain of the Basford Men's A team.

**Tom Ellis** has been a member of Basford Lawn Tennis Club for the past 8 years. Over the years he has played in LTA tournaments and represented Basford in the National Junior Club League. He has also played for Basford's City-Suburban teams for the past two years, and is a qualified tennis assistant.

**Josh Eardley** competes regularly in LTA events and has won several grade 4 tournaments. He has represented Staffordshire in their Junior County Cup team, and Basford in the National Junior Club League and City & Suburban league.

**Dave Egerton** represented Staffordshire mens county team while still a junior and went on to win the RAF LTA singles final in 1987. Whilst in the RAF he played in the inter services championship beating the Army and the Royal Navy teams, and represented the RAF in several countries. He now plays for the county and is a regular player in the Basford A team.

**Mary Hobson** has represented Staffordshire in the over 35s teams and is a regular 40s team player and current Captain.

**June Fisher** is an England veterans player and is Captain of the Staffordshire 60's team.

**Sue Winters** has played for Great Britain and England veterans 50's teams and is a regular player in the Cheshire veterans teams.

**Karen Dobson** has been a regular county player and Staffordshire 35's team Captain for nine years and now a regular player in the Staffordshire 40s team and current Basford Ladies Captain.

**Judy Tierney** is a long term Basford member since a junior, she currently manages the C&S teams who this year won both league and cup competitions

**Amy Ellis** is currently ranked inside the top 100 in both 16s and under & 14s and under. She is currently county champion at 14 and under doubles and has represented her county. For the last two years she has reached the national finals of the road to Wimbledon event and this year won the plate final and got to meet Tim Henman.





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For more information contact John Pears:

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# Junior Tennis at Basford

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Basford Lawn tennis club has two resident coaches in Mike Armstrong and his brother Paul. Together they deliver coaching to over 100 children both at the club and in local schools. They cater from all ages and abilities, ranging from 5 year olds just starting out with mini tennis, to the club's best juniors who compete around Staffordshire and the country.

The club has had a very successful year in terms of junior performance, with three players ranked inside the top 100 in their age group. Performances of note have come from Amy Ellis and Alex Grocott who have won several grade 3 events throughout the summer, while Josh Eardley, Hannah Parker and Ben Stannard have also done well.



Four Basford players have represented their county this year; Alex Grocott, Amy Ellis, Ben Stannard and John Thornhill. Amy and Alex also reached the national finals of the Road to Wimbledon

Competition. Closer to home, Basford won the 16s and 14s North Staffs League with players such as Josh Maughan, Adam Fenton, Dan Clarke, James Belfield, Ryan Maughan and Chris Riley taking part.



As well as coaching and competitions the club also runs social events and trips. Over the past year Ace Tennis Coaching has run trips to Barcelona Tennis Academy, the Nottingham Open and Wimbledon.



Anyone interested in the coaching programme or wanting to join the club should contact club coach Mike Armstrong on 07908221420

## Sponsors

Basford Lawn Tennis Club would like to thank all of our sponsors for supporting this event.

## New members

The success of the club is dependant on the continued support of its members. It continues to look for new members and warmly welcomes anyone wishing to join.

For more information please visit [www.basfordltc.co.uk](http://www.basfordltc.co.uk) or alternatively obtain a membership application form, available in the clubhouse.

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