

History of the Tennis Club site

The land has probably been open to the public since the beginning of time!

- 1870 Ordnance Survey map shows the area wooded with a pond
- 1913 Ordnance Survey map shows woods with a small building
- 1915 Post Office Directory records this as Norwood Golf Course
- 1923 Period photos show golfers accompanied by children competing for the St Julian's cup!
- 1925 Tennis arrives with the Knight's Hill Public Tennis Courts and Tea Rooms
- 1935 Lambeth rates register records 8 hard courts
- 1964 The West Norwood Sports Club Ltd was formed to acquire the land
- 1967 The old club buildings burn down and are replaced with a new club house opened by Mayor of Lambeth, Harold Lockwood. Facilities available for tennis, football, table tennis, darts, drama and dancing. The floodlit court was described as "one of the first of its kind in the country". **See *cutting at foot.***
- 1971 Squash courts built, partly funded by Lambeth with offer from the club to make the courts available to the general public.
- 80s/90s Halcyon days! A popular place for all the family as well as keen club tennis players in inter-club tournaments.



- 2007 The club closes to new membership and proposes development of the site. First plan discussed was for 12 storey flats – first application for 9 storeys with no sport on-site.
- 2015 Three planning applications have failed as well as appeals. The current fourth application is for 5 storeys with a retained sports use (which needs to meet the Lambeth requirement to retain open air sport and leisure on this site).

Many regard the sports provision in the latest planning application as tokenistic and low quality. Only two tennis courts would be retained, many believe insufficient for a viable tennis club, and these would be hemmed-in on 3 sides by 4-5 storey flats. There would also be 2 squash courts. The gym facility is outclassed by the advanced facilities at West Norwood Health & Leisure Centre just a bit down Knight's Hill. Also included is a community hall and small café. Outline planning application [14/06822/OUT](#) refers.

The campaign is to try and regain the sport and family atmosphere that has sadly been lost in recent years. **You can help – go to the link on the Action Page.**

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A NEW TENNIS CLUB RISES FROM ASHES

A NEW £11,000 clubhouse at the West Norwood Lawn Tennis and Social Club was officially opened on Saturday by the Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Harold Lockwood.

The lounge, bar, snooker room and kitchen of the club's old premises were destroyed by fire in February, 1964, and a second fire last April saw the remaining facilities, including the main hall, burned down.

Since then members have had to use a temporary hut while the new clubhouse was being built on the club's Knight's-hill ground.

The new building includes a bar, lounge, kitchen, store, men's and women's changing rooms and a committee room.

Grants

Club members raised £6,000 towards the cost of the building and grants were made by Lambeth Council and the Ministry of Education. Loans were made by the National Playing Fields Association and the Lawn Tennis Association.

Among the sports and pastimes catered for at the club are tennis, table tennis, darts, football, amateur dramatics and dancing.

The tennis section has all year courts and a floodlit court, one of the first of its kind in the country.

Wandsworth fireman retires

STATION OFFICER WIL-
LIAM PHILLIPS of
Wandsworth fire station re-
tires from the London Fire
Brigade next week after 28
years service.

Mr. Phillips (49), joined as a fireman in August, 1939. He was transferred to the National Fire Service in 1941 and served throughout the London "blitz" as a driver at Dock-head fire station.

In 1943 he joined the Royal Air Force, serving as an aircraft mechanic until 1946, when he rejoined the National Fire Service.

When the fire services were denationalised in 1948, Mr. Phillips returned to the London Fire Brigade as a fireman at West Norwood fire station; later serving at Clapham, Battersea, Streatham, Perry Vale and Brixton fire stations before moving to Wandsworth in 1963.

Mr. Phillips was promoted to Leading Fireman in 1950, to Sub-Officer in 1962 and to his present rank in 1963. In that year he also became a

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