



A weekend evening in July 1972

April 14th, 2015

Dear Kerry Hunt,

Thanks for your recent letter together with the membership form. The spring edition of Tennis Talk also arrived recently, in which there was a reference to the unused former Groundsman's Bungalow and the problem of what to do with it. Largely for that reason, I felt sure this photo I took myself way back would be of interest, more particularly as very few current members will be able to recall the beautiful grass court Club R.L.T.C. once was. In April 1974, vandals set fire one night to the thatched building you see here, which had originally been the Clubhouse itself. On the right, the Clubhouse that was replaced some fifteen years ago, which itself was extended in size during the 1961-62 winter. The Bungalow was erected on what had been Grass Court No.10 ; that was in 1971, when it had become increasingly difficult to attract groundsmen living anywhere in the Reigate area and some distance beyond.

The necessary fund-raising was achieved primarily by selling debentures at £200 each and life memberships at 100 "guineas". Seventeen playing members took up life memberships that way, and I was one of them. My playing days ended not so long after wooden rackets went out and metal, graphite and goodness knows what came in. However, I still retain my two Dunlop Maxply Forts, Slazenger Challenge No.1, and an early metal effort purchased at Lilleywhite's in Piccadilly, so I had an excellent "innings" (I played cricket as well) in my younger days !

I've completed your form in all the ways relevant to myself, though I'm now rather too antique to get involved with British Tennis Membership. A few years back, I sent a donation to Club funds to cover the annual postal charges ; your letter came as a handy reminder, the ever-sky-rocketing nature of such costs being what they will continue to be, for me to pick up my cheque book once again. How far this £20 will stretch only time will tell, but at least my conscience is again clear for a while.

There's no need for me to have an "entry fob" (unless there's a Club Rule that declares I must have one !), as any sunny afternoon I drop in there are sure to be plenty of folk about. With my kindest regards and best wishes for the season,

Yours sincerely,

*Nigel*

Nigel Jennings