

## **THE HISTORY OF HENLEAZE LAWN TENNIS CLUB** **(Updated 2014)**

**1920** - It appears that Henleaze Lawn Tennis Club was set up just after the First World War by URC/Henleaze Congregational Church members and used almost exclusively by the Church's Young Peoples Fellowship (YPF), the youth club

Church records show that the Tennis Club asked permission to use the church premises for a dance in January **1920** and a Whist Drive in October of the same year.

**1923** - Mr Curtis of Springfield Farm sold off land in the area. Besides selling land to the URC church members he also sold land to the trustees of Westbury Park Social Club, Trinity Presbyterian Lawn Tennis Club and David Thomas Church Tennis Club. This parcel of land lay roughly between the end of Tennessee Grove and Claremont. Apparently all these tennis courts at that time were grass and there was a groundsman whose job was to look after them all.

**1926** - Initially the club played on a court at Henley Park Mansions but moved to Tennessee Grove this year when the mansion was converted into appartments. Edward Corner, the Church Secretary of the URC in Waterford Road at the time of the move, was responsible for the provision of two grass courts and a wooden pavilion for the use of church members.

**1926** – There are Club Treasurer’s records and from **1944** records of Committee meetings.

**1945** When member Don Harris came out of the RAF the tennis courts had been laid to tarmac. (He sadly died in 2013 but in 2004 had been the longest serving member,)



**1955**  
Showing the drains being laid for to provide plumbed sanitation.



**Late 1950s**

This must have been taken at the end of a tournament match with the umpire getting down from the chair.

It's interesting because in the background the garages in Russell Grove and Westbury Park's clubhouse of that time can be seen.

This view is now obscured by 40 Russell Grove.



**Late 1950s? Tennessee Grove**

To the right of this group of ladies can be seen the courts belonging to the Waterworks Company together with its wooden storage hut which is still used today.

In the background can be seen David Thomas Club pavilion and courts now replaced by the houses in Russell Grove. The entrance to Henleaze club is out of view to the left of the car.



**Late 1950s?**

The wooden structure behind this group belonged to Trinity Presbyterian Church.

At some point Westbury Park bought the land and their car park and clubhouse now stand here.

One of their courts can be seen on the left. The land came right up to Henleaze but now the road of Russell Grove separates the two clubs.

**1961** - The club became known as Henleaze Lawn Tennis Club and bought the land from the Church.

1973 - The old wooden clubhouse was demolished and replaced by a concrete structure with showers and a kitchen.



**1972/1973**

Demolition of the old clubhouse



The Demolition Gang!

1993 - With the aid of a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts the club bought the two tennis courts belonging to the Bristol Waterworks Company.



**2005**

Photo taken from Russell Grove of children playing tennis

**Many thanks to Pat Thomson for providing background and photos of the Club.**

For further information on the Henleaze Lawn Tennis Club please see their website  
<http://henleazeltc.com/>

**More information about Henleaze can also be found at these links.**

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/henleazebook/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/henleazebook>

2014 Veronica Bowerman