

From the Archives

As our tennis players compete in the 105th Tildesley Tennis Tournament, let us take a look at the history of tennis at Meriden.

Since the School's earliest days, tennis has been one of the most popular sports. In 1910, Meriden had three grass tennis courts, and it was an exciting occasion when a new court was opened in 1926. Another early indication of the importance of the game came with the formation of the Old Girls' Union in 1917 when they voted to present an annual prize of a tennis racquet to the champion Singles player at the School.

Meriden has competed at Tildesley since the beginning of the competition in 1918. There was no tennis uniform in the early days, and girls played in their School uniform, using large wooden racquets as seen in the photograph of Junior School students playing in 1934.



Junior School students playing tennis in 1934

Girls practised on grass courts, as seen in the below photograph of Shirley Hudson learning to serve in approximately 1938. Indeed, Meriden had some wonderful results in the 1930s, winning the Tildesley Doubles in 1936 and 1945 and receiving the runner-up title in 1937 and 1938.

By the 1940s, girls were wearing white tennis dresses, and our School magazine captured the changing fashions over the years, as seen in the photographs of the 1959 and 1975 teams below. In 1973, Debbie Dillano was runner-up in the Tildesley Singles event, and Cindy Dock took out that title in 1993. Since 2010, Meriden has established an enviable record at the Tildesley Tennis Tournament and continues to encourage team spirit, school spirit and wide participation in tennis.

We wish all the players well in this year's competition.

Mrs Carrol Miller
Archivist



The opening of a new tennis court in 1926; Shirley Hudson learning to serve in 1938; Meriden Tennis teams in 1959 and 1975