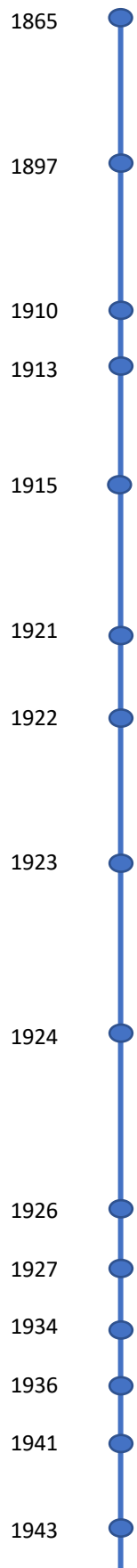


Berkhamsted LT&SRC: the club timeline

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- 1865 2nd Earl Brownlow (owner of the Ashridge Estate) proposed to give the town a strip of land from Kings Road to Billet Lane for the purpose of recreation, in compensation for his plan to fence off 434 acres of Berkhamsted Common. That plan failed, but it did indeed lead to sport being played between the canal and the railway line
 - 1897 Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club was formed to play on land informally provided by the 3rd Earl Brownlow. There were 6 grass courts (where tennis courts 7-12 are located), a small pavilion with a thatched roof (where the Fitness Suite now stands) and a croquet lawn (now the terrace)
 - 1910 A guarantee of tenure for 3 years was agreed
 - 1913 An additional section of land was added close to the railway line (where we now have tennis courts 1, 2 and 3, the squash courts and the clubhouse), for a 7th tennis court and a 2nd croquet lawn
 - 1915 The AGM decided that, during the Great War, club members on active service would not be liable to pay their subscriptions, and that members of the Inns of Court Reserve Regiment stationed at Kitchener's Field, Berkhamsted for training on Berkhamsted Common, could join the club for 50% of the usual subscription
 - 1921 3rd Earl Brownlow died without any children to inherit his estate, and negotiations commenced on land sales as his Trustees sold off his Ashridge property
 - 1922 Berkhamsted Cricket Club asked Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club to attend a meeting to discuss the purchase of the cricket, football, hockey and tennis club grounds from the Trustees of the Ashridge Estate, but then it appears that negotiations for the Tennis & Croquet Club were carried on independently of the other sports clubs
 - 1923 The AGM authorised the purchase of the freehold site and a negotiating committee was formed

An adjacent plot next to the canal was purchased by Berkhamsted Urban District Council to build the outdoor swimming pool that existed until 1988
 - 1924 Ordnance Survey Plots 58 and 59 (the land already occupied by the club) were purchased for £500, including a right of way across the adjoining land (Plot 60) purchased by the newly incorporated Berkhamsted Sports Grounds Associated Ltd for the cricket club and football club. £760 was raised from members towards the purchase of the land and the laying down of 2 hard courts, to enable play all year round
 - 1926 The AGM agreed to switch the use of the croquet lawns to a bowling green
 - 1927 The club dropped croquet from its name and became Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis Club
 - 1934 Installation of a 3rd hard court. The 3 hard courts are where we now have courts 1, 2 and 3
 - 1936 Construction of a new pavilion with a rubberoid roof and separate tea room
 - 1941 Financial losses during the Second World War due to falling subscriptions forced the club to close 3 of the 6 grass courts for the duration of the war
 - 1943 The supply of new tennis balls had become a big problem. Old balls were being collected and returned to manufacturers to be re-inflated

- 1946 ● The club decided not to relax the 'all white' dress policy notwithstanding the shortage of tennis clothing and equipment. Rationing prevented food being offered at the tea room
- 1955 ● Berkhamsted Hard Courts Tennis Club was formed on neighbouring land owned by the Berkhamsted Sports Ground Association, with 3 courts built on land surplus to the requirements of the cricket club (the strip of land now comprising the Indoor Tennis Centre, courts 6a and 6b, and the club car park) – before BCC relocated to Kitchener's Field in 1983
- 1958 ● A bar licence was obtained, run by volunteers
- 1965 ● Swimming pool rebuilt and its car park expanded to form the Canal Fields car park
- 1967 ● Merger of Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis Club and Berkhamsted Hard Courts Tennis Club to form Berkhamsted Tennis Club
- 1970 ● Formation of Berkhamsted Squash Club and construction of a squash court on land leased from Berkhamsted Tennis Club
- 1970 ● Construction of new clubhouse on its current site, relocated from the old pavilion
- 1974 ● Construction of 2nd squash court
- 1975 ● Floodlights installed on 3 tennis courts (courts 1, 2 and 3) enabling court utilisation to be extended into the evening and more year-round, and enabling membership numbers to be increased
- 1976 ● Merger between Berkhamsted Tennis Club and Berkhamsted Squash Club to form BLT&SRC
- 1976 ● Clubhouse extended and construction of a covered link to the squash courts
- 1977 ● Construction of 3rd squash court
- 1982 ● Construction of 4th squash court
- 1983 ● Cricket Club moved to Kitchener's Field and the Football Club moved adjacently to take over the former BCC land and pavilion, with the access road and entrance re-routed from immediately next to the canal to a new junction in the Lower Kings Road for the housing development planned on the former football pitch
- 1984 ● Dacorum Borough Council constructed the canal footbridge to/from their new Canal Fields recreational area
- 1985 ● DBC built the Bowls Club and its car park and extended the Canal Fields car park for the traffic it was encouraging to the location
- 1987 ● Clubhouse extensively redesigned and extended to current footprint, although exterior remained of wood and the building was flat-roofed
- 1988 ● DBC opened the Sports Centre at Lagley Meadow and closed the Canal Fields swimming pool
- 1991 ● First appointment of a part-time club manager
- 1992 ● Sauna installed. Original intention was 2 saunas: men's and women's integrated into the changing rooms. Hence the single sauna that is next to the ladies' changing rooms but across the corridor from the men's

