

Date	Event	Notes	Source
1930	<p>Bowburn Welfare Scheme was officially opened by Mr. P. Harle, colliery manager and chairman of the Welfare Committee.</p> <p>The opening of this 8-acre site followed 8 years of planning. Joe James was the first groundsman. He was responsible for the installation of all the swings in the playground area, the relaying of the cricket square, the planting of trees, hedges and flower beds, and the supervision of improvements to the football pitch. He also laid the putting green, from almost a bare field. Mr. James told the Advertiser (in 1966): "I had practically no help at all, but it was my life and I enjoyed it."</p>	<p>Mr. James lived at the bottom of Coxhoe. The groundsman's cottage was only built after he retired in 1952 and been replaced by Tim Pragnell, who continued till the colliery closed.)</p> <p>The work was expected in 1928 to cost £6,000, at which time a 16-acre site was to include recreation ground (including cricket ground, football ground and 5 'Webco' tennis courts, putting green, bowling green and lawn skittles), a playground for older children (including chutes, plank swings, hopscotch table, jungle jim or maze), a park (with walks, paths, trees and shrubberies), ground set aside as a fair ground for shows etc., sports and galas, paddling and boating pools.</p> <p>It was to be leased from the colliery company and managed by a committee that included W.F. Gardiner, the colliery cashier, as secretary.</p>	<p>Co. Durham Adv. 20/5/1966 p.16 + 30/8/1928; Beatrice M. Bethel</p>
1949	<p>Walter Harrison became chairman of Spennymoor Tennis League.</p>	<p>Peter Harrison was also a noted junior tennis player, in the late 1950s.</p>	<p>Dur. Co. Adv. 20/5/67; Dur. Co. Adv. 5/9/1958 p.9</p>
1955	<p>Bowburn Mens Tennis Team won the Spennymoor Tennis League for the first time.</p>	<p>Bowburn mens tennis team won in 1955, 1956, 1960, 1963 and 1965.</p> <p>Among Bowburn's stars were Peter Scott, who was County NCB champion for six years, and Bowburn's best woman player, Pam Smith, who played at Wimbledon.</p> <p>Players, e.g. in 1956, were Peter Scott, Walter Harrison, Vernon Campbell, W. Scott, Arny Ward, H. Ward, Matt Lawson, Douglas Haigh and Doreen Smith, Ann Winter, Pam Smith (14), Rose Stephenson (13)</p>	<p>Dur. Co. Adv. 20/5/66 + 1/6/1956 p.11 + 8/6/1956 p. 10 + 29/6/1956 p. 10 (with photo)</p>
8 Sep 1958	<p>Pam Smith (17), of the Bowburn Colliery Welfare Tennis Club, played at Wimbledon in the national junior championships.</p> <p>A left-hander, she had just won the open singles in the Durham Tennis Championships for the second year running, as well as the doubles (with M.P. Evans) and the mixed doubles (with Derek Chamberlain, of Ferryhill) for the second year running.</p> <p>She also retained the Northumberland singles title in the Newcastle Tournament and won both the doubles and mixed doubles in this too.</p>	<p>PS lived in Hawthorn Terrace, Bishop Middleham and first became interested in tennis when she went to Grangefield Grammar School in Stockton, where she was due to take her GCSs the following summer. She hoped then to take a degree in Maths.</p> <p>Other stars from the Bowburn Tennis Club juniors in those tournaments included Peter Harrison (14) and Alan Humphrey (who both also played football for Durham City Juniors), Dorothy Swainston, and 14-year-olds Anne Malkin and Heather North.</p>	<p>Dur. Co. Adv. 5/9/1958 pp.7 + 9</p>
1959	<p>Bowburn Tennis Club joined the new Central Ladies' League and won in their first year.</p>	<p>They proceeded to win it four times and be runners up twice in the League's first six years.</p>	<p>Dur. Co. Adv. 20/5/1966</p>