NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2022.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS ?

The tennis court at Tarbrax was opened in 1933 with local dignitaries in attendance, eg. Schoolmaster, councillor, & Miss Claasen, the lady who made it all possible. She lived in Viewfield Road, & when her sister died & left her property in Glasgow, she sold it & used the money to buy the ground & develop it to form a tennis court, a putting green & a bowling green, along with all the accoutrements to take part in these activities, & a shed to store everything & use as a changing room. As a teenager in the 1940’s Johnny remembered playing with Bill Russell (an uncle of Florence Provan’s), Jock Borthwick, Muldoon (Brown), Maysie Robertson from Greenfield Farm, to name a few. Maysie was a Wren during the war & became grandmother to the Baillie’s at Calla Farm & she was a lovely lady. All the players wore “ Whites” & that continued for a long time. I first played in the 1950’s along with the rest of the Youth Club members who came from the three villages & met in Tarbrax old hall (formerly St. Magdalene’s Chapel). The original base of the court was tarred & by then was cracked & breaking up so we approached the Council for help. We got a compromise & formed a work party to dig up the tar surface & the Council removed it. It was replaced with fine blaes & we were provided with a roller to keep it smooth & flat after use. The court was enclosed by a high metal framework with wire mesh, & there was a doorway at one corner. Maysie Robertson’s family had given a silver cup for the tennis players & after the putting green & the tennis court went out of use the bowlers played for it, & it is still with us. The portacabin was named “The Claasen” in honour of our benefactor. I never knew her but was told that she was a little bit eccentric, & when the workmen were laying the bowling green she checked their work by testing the level using an HP sauce bottle filled with water as a spirit level!

Grace.