

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES 1985.1

Worcester Tennis Club Collection

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## **Collection Information**

Abstract : Records of the Worcester Tennis Club (ca. 1906-1980)

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Donated by Nan Lyell for the Worcester Tennis Club.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

The Worcester Tennis Club at 69 Sever Street was organized and incorporated April 9, 1907. It originated from a group of members from the old Salisbury Tennis Club from 1901-1906 on Institute Road. When the Salisbury Club's land was sold, a part of the old Agricultural Grounds on nearby Sever Street was acquired for the new club. Although 1982 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club at its present location, the first Worcester Tennis Club actually opened 102 years ago in 1880, when tennis got its start in Worcester on what was believed to have been the first regulation tennis courts in the city. After much growth, and several relocations, the club finally settled on Sever Street. It was deemed appropriate, because it was easily accessed by Worcester public transportation system. On April 10, 1907, the first meeting of the incorporators of the Worcester Tennis Club was held. By late spring, the Club opened its courts for the first time. The first tournaments were held for both men and women in June. In the roaring twenties, the prosperity of sports was reflected by the activities of the Worcester Tennis Club. It experienced its most prosperous times, both numerically and financially in the 1920s. The club faced a serious decline in membership during the Depression of the 1930s, but it rebounded by 1939 with many new members and few resignations. The only other low ebb in membership occurred during the 1944 season when they lost revenue from members who were serving in the armed forces. In 1951, the father and son duo of Everett and David Hicks won the National Clay Court Father-Son Championship as the only club members to accomplish the feat. The 1960s were defined by a tremendous growth period. It was reflected in Worcester when the club was deciding on various options on how to expand. It eventually decided to stay in their current location on Sever Street. In 1982, the club celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During that first 75 years of the club's existence, it has hosted numerous state and New England Championships; many of its members have been ranked, nationally as well as in New England; and eleven national champions have played on its courts. As of the year 2011, the club is still in existence and more information can be found on their website: [www.worcestertennisclub.net](http://www.worcestertennisclub.net).

### **Scope and Content**

The Collection contains three boxes of which the first two house all of the club's records from 1906-1982. The third box contains tournaments brackets from 1955-1981.

## **Series Descriptions**

Series 1: Records

Series 2: Tournament Brackets

Worcester Tennis Club Collection  
1985.1.  
Series 1, Records

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u>   |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1            | 1               | 1985.1             | Contains various correspondences, letters, invitations and other various documents including tournament announcements, newspaper articles and executive records.                                 |
| 1            | 2               | 1985.1             | Contains more correspondences including letters about facility repairs and the credit memos that corresponded to those expenses. It also contains membership lists and annual financial records. |
| 1            | 3               | 1985.1             | Contains more correspondences like letters and executive reminders. It also has annual financial records, various lists of executive members, and an amended list of the Club's By Laws.         |
| 1            | 4               | 1985.1             | Contains more executive correspondences like letters and reminders for meetings and other executive events. It also has more annual financial records and notes.                                 |
| 1            | 5               | 1985.1             | Contains various letters and other correspondences. Records of various meetings that were held including annual meetings are also here. Finally, there is an amended copy of the By Laws.        |
| 1            | 6               | 1985.1             | Includes many more letters and announcements for meetings and for other executive matters. It also includes many financial records.  |
| 1            | 7               | 1985.1             | Includes many records from tournaments like announcements and draw sheets. It also contains more executive correspondences and some financial records.   |
| 2            | 1               | 1985.1             | Includes more executive documents like meeting agendas, staff lists and letters. It also has tournament documents including announcements, schedules, etc.                                       |

Series 1, Records, Cont.

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u>  |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 2            | 2               | 1985.1             | Includes more executive lists, letters and meeting announcements. It also has various similar data concerning tournaments.  |
| 2            | 3               | 1985.1             | Includes more tournament details among other documents. There are various records concerning repairs and other facility improvement documents. Many more meeting records are also included. |
| 2            | 4               | 1985.1             | Contains an assortment of records from tournament details and scheduling, to various financial records.   |
| 2            | 5               | 1985.1             | Contains a journal that includes details from all the executive committee and annual meetings from 1907-1956.   |
| 2            | 6               | 1985.1             | Contains two copies of a brochure celebrating the club's 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1982.  |

Worcester Tennis Club Collection  
1985.1  
Series 2, Tournament Brackets

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u>                   |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3            | 1               | 1985.1             | Men's tournaments from 1955-1969.    |
| 3            | 2               | 1985.1             | Men's tournaments from 1970-1971.    |
| 3            | 3               | 1985.1             | Men's tournaments from 1972-1973.    |
| 3            | 4               | 1985.1             | Men's tournaments from 1974-1975.    |
| 3            | 5               | 1985.1             | Men's tournaments from 1976-1977.    |
| 3            | 6               | 1985.1             | Men's tournaments from 1978.         |
| 3            | 7               | 1985.1             | Women's tournaments from 1957-1969.  |
| 3            | 8               | 1985.1             | Women's tournaments from 1970-1971.  |
| 3            | 9               | 1985.1             | Women's tournaments from 1972-1973.  |
| 3            | 10              | 1985.1             | Women's tournaments from 1974-1975.  |
| 3            | 11              | 1985.1             | Women's tournaments from 1976-1978.  |
| 3            | 12              | 1985.1             | Juniors' tournaments from 1955-1969. |
| 3            | 13              | 1985.1             | Juniors' tournaments from 1970-1971. |
| 3            | 14              | 1985.1             | Juniors' tournaments from 1972-1973. |
| 3            | 15              | 1985.1             | Juniors' tournaments from 1974-1975. |
| 3            | 16              | 1985.1             | Juniors' tournaments from 1976-1977. |
| 3            | 17              | 1985.1             | Juniors' tournaments from 1978.      |
| 3            | 18              | 1985.1             | Men's tournaments from 1979-1981.    |
| 3            | 19              | 1985.1             | Women's tournaments from 1979-1981.  |
| 3            | 20              | 1985.1             | Juniors' tournaments from 1979-1981. |



