

2023

# ILTSC

ILKLEY LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB

## OFFICIALLY RETIRED

August officially marked the end of Simon's coaching career after a legendary 42 years at the club.

As Head Tennis coach, Simon will forever be associated with ILTSC having coached many over the years. Although he's hanging up the coaching racket, Simon will still be a regular face around the club enjoying the social side of the game.

We were joined by many members both past and present to wish Simon a fond farewell.



ALL THE BEST FOR THE FUTURE





# SIMON ICKRINGILL

After five decades at the heart of ILTSC, this year will see club legend Simon Ickringill retire. We pay tribute to the man who will forever be associated with the club and the impact he has had on the game.

Few names in the history of Ilkley Lawn Tennis and Squash Club will ever come close to achieving as much as Simon Ickringill.

For over half a century, he has been instrumental in the club's success, growth and reputation and now aged 65, the man affectionately known as Ickers is about to hang up his racket and retire from the game he has dedicated his life to.

From his humble beginnings at Keighley Tennis Club to representing his country at the highest level, Ickringill's journey has been nothing short of inspirational and as he bows out, Yorkshire and the wider world of tennis will be losing one of its most accomplished and respected names.

Ickringill was just nine years old when he first picked up a tennis racket at Keighley Tennis Club and it was to be the start of a journey that would see him go on to play at international level and dominate Yorkshire tennis for over a decade in the 80s.

Having joined Ilkley in 1974 aged just 16, the young Ickringill wasted little time showcasing his obvious talent and by the time he was 19 he was already a regular name on the first team sheet.

The following year, Ickringill's rise continued when he made his debut for the Yorkshire men's team and for the next 17 years, he proudly represented his county, becoming an integral part of the team and leaving a lasting legacy.

Along the way, he clinched the Yorkshire singles championship an impressive eight times, further solidifying his reputation in the game and attracting the attention of the GB team.

In his early twenties, Ickringill dipped his toe in the professional game where he tested his skills against some of the best players in the world and although his time on the circuit was brief, it was a valuable experience that shaped him as a player and opened the door to international tennis.

His world-class kick second serve, earned him the nickname 'Kickers Ickers' and his unique style and unwavering dedication to the game endeared him to fans and opponents alike.



Playing for his country was undoubtedly the pinnacle of his career and he went on to proudly represent England in numerous home internationals before moving on to an equally successful spell playing for the veterans.

Simon proudly donned the Great Britain colours in the Over 35s, 40s, and 45s categories and at the age of 49 he defied the odds to win the Over 45 national title - a true reflection of his enduring skill and unwavering passion.

While Ickringill competed at the highest level as a player, the loyalty he has always shown to Ilkley and the impact he has had on the club will never be forgotten and so it was fitting he was appointed as head coach in 1981. It was a position he has held with distinction and pride for over four decades and a role that has helped shape the success of numerous aspiring players and the club as a whole.

Now as Simon prepares to bow out after such an illustrious career, his achievements both on and off the court will forever serve as a testament to his talent and dedication.

Happy retirement Ickers, you'll be greatly missed by a club you have served so well and a game to which you have given so much.