



History of Hatherly Tennis

Tennis has been a cornerstone of Hatherly since the early 1900s. In fact, when the Hatherly Playground Association inaugurated the Hatherly "Casino" building on July 3, 1900, the Boston Globe reported: "The new building cost about \$6,000, and considerable money will be spent in laying out the grounds for golf, tennis, baseball, and other outdoor sports."

The clay tennis courts were introduced shortly thereafter. Situated adjacent to the Casino, they became one of the central gathering spots for the Club. In 1902, the first Hatherly Challenge Cup was held and won by H.C. Bemis, with the competition continuing for many years. As noted in the Boston Evening Transcript on August 23, 1907: "Prizes will be awarded to the winner and runner-up in singles, the winners in doubles, and the winner in consolation singles. The winner in singles will be entitled to play a challenge match against the current champion, Irving C. Wright, for the Hatherly Challenge Cup. This cup will become the property of any player winning it three times (not necessarily consecutively)."

The devastating fire of 1947 that consumed the Casino shifted the Club's activities away from the area near the tennis courts toward the site where the current Clubhouse stands.

Despite these changes, tennis remained an integral part of life at Hatherly, with tournaments like the Casey Cup, the Women's Member-Guest, and the McCarthy Parent-Child Tournament keeping the tradition alive. During this period, the courts were resurfaced as hard courts, initially to reduce maintenance. However, due to the sandy soil beneath them, they eventually fell into disrepair, leading to a decline in interest in the tennis program.

In the late 1990s, a determined group of Hatherly members worked to rejuvenate the tennis program, reintroducing a robust schedule for both children and adults. The tournament schedule was revived, including club championship competitions. In 2008, the courts were converted back to clay, and the facility was upgraded to become one of the finest tennis venues on the South Shore.