

From the Archives – 8th May 2025

Davis Cup Tennis at Roehampton Club

100 years ago



In May 1925, the clay courts at Roehampton Club were used to host an elimination round in the Davis Cup between Denmark and Romania. The competition had been founded in 1900 by American; Dwight F Davis and fellow members of the Harvard Tennis Club.

It was Davis who personally donated the trophy and the competition was originally called the International Lawn Tennis Challenge only involving players from the USA and Great Britain. The first event in August 1900 was held at Longwood Cricket Club, Boston, Massachusetts (image right) with the United States securing a 3-0 victory.

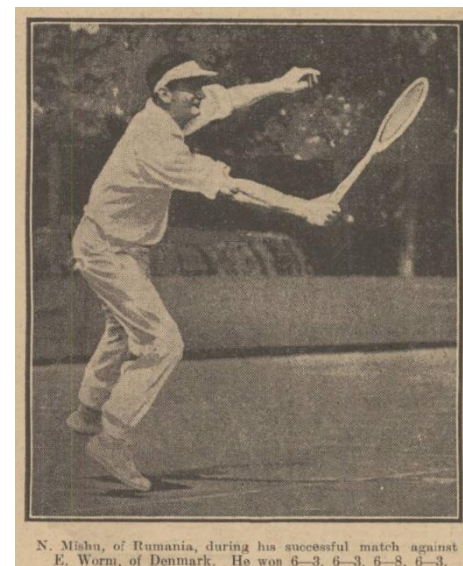
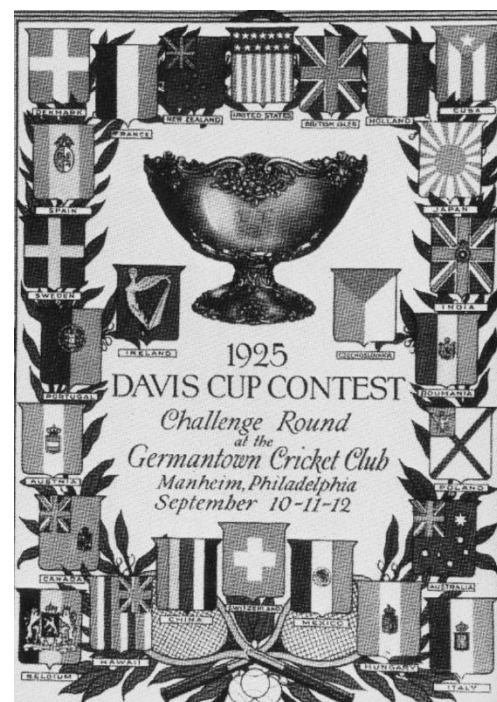
From this first challenge match between two countries, the event has since grown into the largest annual team competition in tennis with 155 nations competing in 2023. By 1925 the competition had already attracted teams from twenty three countries with Portugal, Poland and Spain competing for the first time. There were sixteen countries competing in the Europe Zone and nine countries in the America Zone.

Roehampton Club was one of many locations where matches were played between nations with the final played at Germantown Cricket Club in Philadelphia, USA. The format for the match between Denmark and Romania involved four singles matches and one doubles match with the winner going through if they had won three or more of their matches. All games involved the best of five sets. The Singles Match at Roehampton Club on the first day involved Nicolei Mishu from Rumania (image right) and Erik Worm from Denmark.

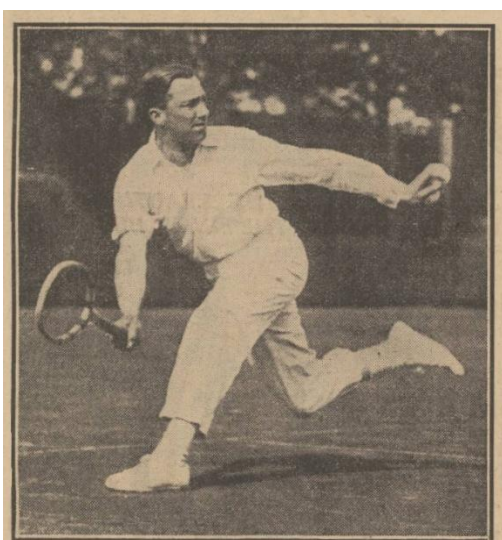
Mishu was known for his strong baseline play and strategic shot placement. His success on clay courts suggests he was comfortable in long rallies and had a solid defensive game. While there were no commentaries on Worm's

playing style, Danish tennis players at this time typically excelled on grass courts which encouraged net play.

He was three-time National Danish National Singles Champion (1922, 1923 and 1924) and also won multiple doubles titles. On this occasion, it was the Romanian clay court specialist Mishu who won the day with a four set victory 6-3, 6-3, 6-8, 6-3. The following match between Einar Ulrich of Denmark (image left) and Dr Luppe from Romania restored parity with a straight sets win for the Dane 6-1, 6-2, 8-6. Denmark went on to win the remaining matches for a convincing 4-1 win over Romania to go forward into the next round.



N. Mishu, of Rumania, during his successful match against E. Worm, of Denmark. He won 6-3, 6-3, 6-8, 6-3.



E. Ulrich, of Denmark, in a swift run across the court during his match with Dr. Luppe (Rumania). Ulrich won 6-1, 6-2, 8-6.

It was some time before Romania had their best years in the Davis Cup with the advent of Ilie Nastase and Ion Tiriac when they reached the final in 1972 losing to the USA 3-2. Meanwhile, Denmark were beaten in the next round of the competition in 1925 by Great Britain. Their best performance in the competition had taken place in 1921 when they reached the semi-final losing to a combined team from Australia and New Zealand. The competition itself grew in stature and in 1945, the event took the name of its founder.



The Club is also truly proud of its Members Joe Salisbury (top) and Henry Patten (left) for making the Davis Cup GB teams in 2021 and 2024 respectively.

Steve Riedlinger

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