

# HERTS TENNIS

Judy Murray at the She Rallies training held at Legends Tennis Centre



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# Herts LTA 200 Club

## 200 Club winners HERTS LTA 2016-2017

### OCTOBER

£40	229	Mr I Duncan
£30	29	Mr A Sheridan
£20	49	Mrs S Howgego
£10	17	Mr R Mace
£10	195	Mrs A Mulé

### NOVEMBER

£40	1	Mr G Masterton
£30	47	Codicote TC
£20	216	Mr B Hosier
£10	166	Mrs J Childs
£10	13	Mr G Westwell

### DECEMBER

£40	225	Mr E Tate
£30	296	Mr M Knee
£20	254	Mr M Morgan
£10	266	Mr A Sheridan
£10	132	Mr S Clay

### JANUARY

£40	82	Mr A Sheridan
£30	200	Mr M Bowler
£20	195	Mrs A Mulé
£10	237	Mr I Duncan
£10	106	Mr J Hicklin

### FEBRUARY

£100	138	Mr A Sheridan
£40	81	Mr G Westwell
£30	105	Mrs P Danks
£20	71	Mr M Knee
£10	171	Mrs J Marlow
£10	139	Mrs P Hall

### MARCH

£40	31	Mr R Sneesby
£30	230	Mr I Duncan
£20	260	Mr C Saunders
£10	88	Mr C Grigg
£10	9	Mrs P Ayres

### APRIL

£40	132	Mr S Clay
£30	5	Mrs C Ayling
£20	227	Mrs P Danks
£10	92	Mr A Sheridan
£10	231	Mr I Duncan

### MAY

£40	293	Mr M Knee
£30	197	Mr M Bramwell
£20	28	Mr J Cox
£10	230	Mr I Duncan
£10	283	Mrs P Danks

### JUNE

£40	273	Mr J Stone
£30	85	Mr M Knee
£20	148	Mr M Jones
£10	254	Mr M Morgan
£10	233	Mr I Duncan

### JULY

£40	13	Mr G Westwell
£30	173	Mr R Greenwood
£20	208	Codicote TC
£10	201	Mrs S Vallance
£10	270	Mr A Sheridan

### AUGUST

£100	111	Mrs S Astley
£40	221	Mrs A Allard
£30	22	Mrs S Langley
£20	225	Mr M Tate
£10	32	Mr R Sneesby
£10	79	Mr N Aves

### SEPTEMBER

£40	293	Mr M Knee
£30	229	Mr I Duncan
£20	195	Mrs A Mulé
£10	115	Mrs V Harris
£10	48	Mr B Hosier

## Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association '200' club Direct Debit mandate

To \_\_\_\_\_ Bank

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay	Bank	Branch Title	Sorting Code Number
	HSBC	Harpenden	40-23-11
For the credit of:	Beneficiary's Name		Account Number
	Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association '200 Club'		31233556
the sum of	Amount in figures	Amount in words	
	£		
commencing	Date of first payment	Frequency	until further notice in writing
		and thereafter every	

and debit my/our account accordingly

**PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER MANDATES IN FAVOUR OF THE  
HERTFORDSHIRE LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION '200' CLUB AND '500 CLUB'**

Account to be Debited (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### HERTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2018

Trevor Adamson

Chairman

Bridie Amos

Janet Corrie

Martin Corrie

Carole Draper

Helen Elliott

Lee Evans

Stuart Foster

Matt Willcocks

Hicks & Co Treasurer

Office Manager

Secretary

LTA Representative



## Welcome to the annual Herts Newsletter

We started this year celebrating the appointment of the new LTA President, our own Martin Corrie. He will serve a three year term in the position.

The LTA is teaming up with Judy Murray in launching She Rallies (front cover). This is a new initiative to attract and retain more women and girls into tennis. Herts were one of just three East Region counties leading the launch with the appointment of our own She Rallies Ambassador and we further supported this launch by holding a training event at Legends Tennis Club which was led by Judy. With over 50 ladies attending it has created a great starting point in Herts for further development of this project and fully complements our own Girls in Tennis/Women into Coaching initiative.

In March we held our Awards Dinner, where we presented the British Tennis county award winners with a gift and wished them well in moving onto the regional and hopefully the national final. We also had our own additional County Awards and all the winners can all be seen in the annual newsletter. It is important that clubs or individuals nominate people in their club or community who have done invaluable work to promote tennis. Ring the Herts Office if you need any support with this.

The 2017 report is produced just before the Inter County Winter Cup event and I should report that The Men's team who were in Group 2 gained promotion back to Group 1, the Ladies who were in Group 1 were relegated to Group 2. The Ladies had a very young team, as most of their players are at University and are not available at the time of the event.

The summer Inter-County Event held at Eastbourne in July had both our teams in Group 1. The Men had a superb week and won Group 1. The Ladies losing a very close match to Kent 5-4 (the eventual winners) finished 2nd. This was a great effort by both teams.

In Herts we pride ourselves on helping Herts Juniors to try to progress in the game of tennis.

All County training for 9U-18U is free. All County teams are funded with all expenses for County Cup, 12 Counties Championships and other matches. Travelling Captains are paid and we supply all kit. For the County Closed Championships we supply free clothing, a festival fun day and lunch for all players and supporters on the final day. We give individual funding to



**Martin and Janet Corrie at the Wimbledon Champions' Dinner pictured with Ladies Singles Champion Garbine Muguruza**

selected players between the ages of 13 and 18. We support mini tennis and have a programme which is a club based funded programme to develop talent.

Try Tennis for Free (the Great British Tennis Weekend) continued this year in a large number of clubs and with success in getting new members. The county also support these weekends with a grant to help our clubs with marketing and advertising costs.

The newly formed Herts Tennis Coaches Working Group is now well established and has already provided several excellent workshops and courses which are heavily subsidised for coaches working in registered Herts venues. We look forward to continuing working with them and hearing how the County can help and support further with their future plans.

We have a number of funding schemes to help Clubs. Interest free loans up to £5000, £1000 facility grants to clubs for small improvements in their club. We have a member of the Management Committee who works for a local Authority and is skilled in advising the best way to get planning permission for various projects. We have a school club link programme to engage schools in tennis and we supply funding for a coach for the children to get taster sessions. We also have grants for disability programmes, to increase tennis participation and we are running schemes to try to get more girls and women into tennis. Information on all of these schemes is available from the County Office.

The County Leagues are now completed and the winners this year of The Championship are Letchworth Ladies (historically for the 10th year in succession) and Moor Park Men.

**Trevor Adamson, President**



**LTA President and Herts Tennis Treasurer Martin Corrie welcomes the Duchess of Cambridge to the NTC.**



# Herts Awards 2016



Teresa Lilley



Kathy Hunt



Gosling TC



Jennifer Keates



Mia Palmer

## Herts Tennis Awards Dinner

The annual awards dinner was held in March this year at Harpenden Golf Club. The dinner was an occasion to acknowledge and applaud the hard work of our wonderful volunteers, coaches and players whose invaluable efforts make Hertfordshire the fantastic county it is.

The evening featured the presentation of the British Tennis Awards – the winners of these go forward to nominations in the regional awards round and if successful on to the national awards round. Also presented on the night were the Herts Tennis Awards given to those who have made significant contributions to tennis within the county.

A great evening was enjoyed by all.

### British Tennis Award winners:

Aegon Coach of the Year

Education Award

Highland Spring Club of the Year

Community Venue Award

Outstanding Achievement

Young Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

Disability Programme

Teresa Lilley

Kathy Hunt

Gosling Tennis Centre

Parktennis

Jennifer Keates

Mia Palmer

Roger Killick

Gerald Bloohn

### Herts Tennis Award winners:

Lifetime Achievement

Mark Seymour Award

Laing Award

County Colours

15/15

15/15

15/15

15/15

Championship Winners Men

Championship Winners Ladies

Jenny Thomas

Charles Broom

Amelia Campbell

Emily Arbuthnott

Neil Bamford

Amanda Elliott

Emily Arbuthnott

David Rice

Welwyn Lawn Tennis Club

Letchworth Tennis Club



Amelia Campbell



Jenny Stokes on behalf of Charles Broom



Jenny Thomas



Gerald Bloohn



Parktennis



Roger Killick



# People and Clubs

## Small Facilities Grants

Thanks to the Small Facilities Grants available from Herts Tennis a number of clubs have been able to receive financial help towards refurbishment projects.

Herts Tennis is able to offer an amount of grants up to the value of £1000 per grant to small venues looking to refurbish and update facilities and equipment.

The following clubs were able to benefit from grants this year:

**Salisbury Tennis Club** – funding towards new clubhouse furniture

**Welwyn Tennis Club** – funding towards refurbishment of the club's Kids Zone

**Knebworth Tennis Club** – funding towards construction of toilet facilities

**Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club** – funding towards refurbishment of fencing and paths



## West Herts & Watford LTC

**Serve for Support** is an annual tennis fun day held to raise money for the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre, a charity supporting people affected by cancer which is based at the Mount Vernon Cancer Clinic in Northwood, Middlesex.

The fun day is held at West Herts & Watford LTC in central Watford on the afternoon of the middle Sunday of Wimbledon each year and is open to the public. There are professional coaching sessions for all ages and abilities and anyone who attends is given the opportunity to play competitive and social tennis or if they prefer, just watch! Other activities include cardio tennis sessions, speed gun competitions and the pinnacle event, the grass court exhibition match featuring a number of the county's best players.

All funds raised on the day go to the charity with further opportunities to donate via sponsorship and the Virgin Money Giving website.

I hope to see you there next year!

**John Malpas** Fun Day organiser



Welwyn TC Kids Zone refurbishment



Salisbury TC clubhouse refit



## Orchard TC

Orchard Tennis Club played host to another successful charity tournament on Sunday 1st of October.

A huge number of members turned out to play for the Stuart West Trophy named after one of the club's most popular and active members. The tournament is now in its sixth year of fundraising for good causes and this year's beneficiary was Myeloma UK. The charity was nominated by the family of club stalwart and past President Roger Freeman who sadly passed away earlier this year after a long battle with multiple Myeloma.

Four teams from the 29 players taking part competed for the West trophy over a full afternoon of friendly but competitive

tennis which was hugely enjoyed by all. Three of the teams were captained by a member of Stuart's family including his wife Sue whose team emerged victorious. Fittingly the winning team also included Roger Freeman's daughter, Kate.

Dave Wesson, Club President, said, "It is wonderful to see so many of our players take part in this annual charity event, year after year, with all the matches being competed in good spirit for a worthy cause."

A cake stall and raffle added to the occasion and total proceeds from the afternoon's fundraising reached £590.

## Congratulations to the Dearing family



Herts Ladies co-Captain Kat Dearing and her husband Rob were delighted to welcome baby Isabella into their family on 8 May 2017. Weighing 7lb 3oz at birth she is growing fast and her big sister Millie is very excited to have a future Herts doubles partner! Welcome to the Herts Tennis family Isabella!



# People and Clubs

## Disability Report



In addition to the thriving wheelchair programme we also have a total of 180 players participating in the programme across the 4 impairments - visually impaired, hearing impaired,

learning disabled and physically impaired. These include the programmes in the centre, schools and outreach sessions.

Our Learning Disabled regional event attracted its biggest number this year with 35 players from across the country competing. We again run this in conjunction with the Tennis Foundation.

We have been part of the delivery team to the visually impaired, hearing impaired and physically impaired county schools day. These are when local children from mainstream schools get the opportunity to try a range of sports and see the opportunities on offer.

We ran our yearly National wheelchair series event for the Tennis Foundation. Philip Fielding who trains with us was runner up in the singles and won the doubles. We also had a guest appearance from Marc Mc Carroll a former world top ten player.

The Herts wheelchair team recently competed in the Dan Maskell team tennis finals that took place in Gloucester finishing in 3rd place. The team were **Marc Francis, Ben Crabbe, Phil Fielding, Martyn Baker and Sophie Barnett.**

## Herts Tennis - Charity Cluster Team Challenge!

Watch out for a brand new event in Spring 2018 - the Herts Tennis Charity Cluster Team Challenge; a bit of a mouthful but hopefully a whole lot of fun on a tennis court, whilst raising money for your favourite charity.

- Teams formed within cluster areas - contact your cluster leader if you would like to take part
- Club players aged 8-80 welcome for a doubles based event
- Cluster leaders will be in touch in the next few weeks to get nominations for your favourite charity and, nearer the day, to sort out teams
- It'll run as a one day event at an indoor venue in Feb/March time with a definite emphasis on having fun - think team

T-shirts, friendly team competition, food & drink available!

Look out for an email from your cluster leader with more details and in the meantime, get your thinking caps on in terms of which charity you would like to nominate. You can get more information from your Club's Main Contact or get in touch with your cluster leader via the Herts Office - email: [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com) or phone 01707 393372.

## Herts Teams Reports

### Herts Ladies

#### Winter County Cup 2016

(Bath Group 1)

As we headed back to Group 1 in Bath, we were still high on our efforts from the Summer County Cup competition where we won group 2, and were promoted to group 1 for 2017.

Our first opposition of the weekend was Surrey who on paper had an extremely strong team. Surrey got off to a strong start taking the first three singles rubbers at 6, 5 and 4. Mollie battled hard at number 3 and pushed her opponent to a third set, resulting in her opponent retiring due to injury which was a shame as we had the momentum - none the less, this gave us our first point of the day. With some of our more experienced players then battling it out at numbers 1 and 2, we knew the day would be tough. This did prove to be the case, and we grasped one more win from Kat and me at number 3 doubles to take the day to a 7-2 final result.

As always, every day is a new day, and we were up against Middlesex who had suffered an 8-1 defeat the day before against Kent. The pressure was on to get a win on the board, and the team was raring to go. Kat got us off to a great start in singles, with Danielle losing a close match at number 5. Both Indianna and Mollie played excellent tennis to grasp both first sets of their matches 7-5, this proved to be crucial and tipped the momentum in our favour, with the two of them dropping only two games between them to clinch their matches and a point each on the scoreboard. With a 3-1 lead

going into our last two singles matches, we were in a good place. Amanda and Anna faced some tough opponents at the top of the singles line up and battled well, but unfortunately their opponents were a bit too tough on the day. It was now 3-3 as we entered the doubles, and here we showed some true Herts fight as we converted matches at number 2 and 3 by winning a 10 point deciding tie-break third set. Our first pair then won in a close two set match which finished the day for us unbeaten in doubles and with a 6-3 win under our belts.

Heading into Sunday is always make or break, and we knew we needed 5 rubbers to get past Kent and secure our place in Group 1 for another year. Kent had beaten Surrey in a surprising 5-4 win the day before, so we knew that they had great depth in their team and were in a position to battle with Surrey for the title. Kat started off the day well with a swift win at number 6 in just under 50 mins. We were soon at 1-1 in matches and the next round consisted of two matches lasting over 2.5 hours each! Both Indianna and Mollie fought tremendously well, and showed some great maturity on the court. We were victorious in both matches taking us to a 3-1 lead, however, the top two players for Kent were extremely strong and despite some fantastic tennis from Amanda and Anna, the competition was too much this time. With everything to play for in our 3 doubles rubbers, we used the confidence from the previous day's clean sweep. The tactics of the Kent team proved too strong for the 3rd and 2nd pairs, and before we knew it, the two matches were over with the final result not going our way.



It was a tough weekend with some great performances, and true grit from our Herts Ladies – all of whom I'm extremely proud of. Well done to all the girls as always – Amelia Campbell, Mollie Crouch, Amanda Elliott, Danielle Latter, Anna Popescu, Indianna Spink and Katherine Whiteaway.

## Summer County Cup 2017

### (Eastbourne Group 1)

It's fair to say we were all very excited for this year's competition – we were back in Group 1 in Eastbourne after being promoted last summer, and with many of our team in the USA and living/working outside of Hertfordshire, it's always enjoyable having the 'Herts Family' back together.

With some familiar counties from the Winter County Cup event, we were ready for some re-matches, and were hungry to prove how strong we are. The Summer event is physically and psychologically very demanding, and when we sat down for our team meeting the night before the competition, I could feel the energy of the ladies who were raring to go!

Day 1 was against Kent who we knew would be strong given their performance against us in the winter competition. They were tactically clever, with three different playing styles across their pairings. We got off to a great start which is always important on the first day, and were up 2-1 in matches heading into the second round. The next round was extremely close resulting in winning two matches out of three, including a great 3 set win for our first pair of Amanda and Emily. As we entered round three, we were tied at 3-3 in matches with both teams keen to secure a win on the first day. Despite a local seagull dropping some good luck on Emily as it flew past, it wasn't quite enough for us, and we ended the day with a close 5-4 loss overall.

Day 2 saw us take on Lancashire – a very vocal team...which was matched by all our Herts supporters! Today saw the debut of Joanna Garland who teamed up with Jennifer Brown who despite losing their first match to the number 1 pair, they confidently took the other two matches of the day. This was also another successful day for Emily and Amanda, as they found their groove and took all three of their matches. With Kat Whiteaway and Georgie Walker winning against their opposing pair at the start of the day, we had reached 5 rubbers after the second round giving us a win for the day, the final result being 6-3.

With our spirits high, our bodies feeling good and the Herts pink t-shirt out for #powerwednesday we were feeling good! We were facing Warwickshire who were yet to win a day, but were starting to go with the mantra of 'nothing to lose', which sometimes can take all the nerves and pressure away resulting in swinging freely. Wednesday is always a hard day as the body starts to ache, and we used our substitution rule to rest some players and sub those with minor niggles. Again, we started well and went into the second round leading 2-1 where we then picked up another two matches leaving us with one in the last round to secure the win. The momentum felt very much in our favour and it was a clean sweep for Amanda and Emily as well as rookie Jo and Jen taking us to another 6-3 winning day.

At this point, we knew that we had a chance at the title, and my goodness we were keen! With spirits high, and ambition soaring, we felt ready to take on Surrey on Thursday. Due to

the refurbishments taking place at the Eastbourne grounds, we headed off site to a school venue not far away. In true Herts style, our dedicated supporters came with us and we created a great atmosphere for what was going to be a tough day of tennis. For the fourth day we headed into the second round 2-1 up which always feels good. As a bit of tiredness hit us, we struggled in the next round with Amanda and Emily managing to keep us on an even keel at 3-3. As Amanda & Emily won their 12th match of the week, both remaining pairs were having long rallies and we ended up in two 10-point deciding third set tiebreaks (a rule imposed due to the weather which had been bad overnight). Tension was high and we needed one of the matches to take us over the line for the win. Anna & Kat fought hard, but just missed out in the tie-break with Jo & Jen now battling away in a third set tiebreak decider. I could barely watch as the rallies got longer, and the risk taking got higher – Finally with some gutsy tennis, the girls came through and it was smiles all round, a fantastic win and a match clinching 5-4 result for the day.

After some calculation (and some what ifs) we knew we were definitely safe in group 1, and still had a chance at the title. We were ready for the battle, but unfortunately the weather was not! After torrential rain in the morning, the clouds appeared at 2pm and we had no choice but to head to the back-up astro turf courts – certainly not the same tennis that is played on grass! This was the same for everyone and we remained positive, focused and united as a team – something that proved important when the day got tough. We kept our energy up, and this paid off as we made it to the last round 4-2 ahead. After some controversy around the format for the last round, we stuck to our guns and kept ourselves focused as emotions were running high. It was very fitting for Amanda & Emily who so nearly achieved an undefeated week of tennis (14 out of 15 wins) securing the win for us which stopped play on the other courts (as it was raining and a result had been reached).

We ended this year's campaign coming runners-up and once again I'm so immensely proud of the team. The tenacity, teamwork and determination were a pleasure to be a part of, and I'm sure it's not long until we can go one better. Our supporters were fantastic in the challenging weather and across multiple venues – we are all extremely grateful as always. Here's to next year...

Well done to the team of **Emily Arbuthnott, Jennifer Brown, Mollie Crouch, Amanda Elliott, Joanna Garland, Anna Popescu, Georgie Walker and Katherine Whiteaway.**

**Alissa Ayling & Katharine Dearing**, Ladies Captains



The 2017 Ladies Team

# Herts Teams Reports

## Herts Mens

### AEGON Summer Inter County Cup

Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. JULY 18 - 22nd, 2016

#### Surface – Grass (weather permitting)

Last summer, the Herts Men returned to the grass courts of Devonshire Park, Eastbourne for the 13th consecutive year with a proud track record of 5 national titles won and 4 Runners up.

Our team consisted of:

**Neil Bamford, George Coupland (3 days), Ben Davis, Jake Munns, David Rice, Josh Rose, Lewis Roskilly, Neil Roskilly, Harvey Shackleton and James Wilkinson.**

The previous summer, we arrived at Eastbourne with a very solid team with a mixture of established pairings new players that only by competing would we learn how strong our team would be in Group 1. An exciting challenge.

As it turned out, not only did we fare very well, by Day 5 we were the only undefeated County, having secured wins over South Wales, Derbyshire, Essex and Surrey, with only Kent standing in our way on the Friday.

We thought we had the very best shot considering Kent had already lost once earlier in the week, but what couldn't be predicted was a fired up Kent, that snatched the title from Herts and gaining them the title on rubber count.

Ironically, the summer of 2017 had similar drama, with the Herts Men facing off again versus Kent on the last day. But this year both counties went into the match with 1 loss, plus the maths of two other counties that meant unless Herts won its match, and with it the title, we would actually be relegated, the vagaries and excitement of down-to-the-wire results.

Indeed, no one could have predicted that by the end of Round 2, Herts would be leading 4-2, but by the end of the first set of Round 3, Herts would have lost its first sets, turning a dominant Herts position into a nail-biter and for the second year in a row, Kent looking they might snatch the title from Herts once again, and worse, with the added potential of being relegated to Group 2.

No-one in fact could recall a county with four wins going into the last day ever facing relegation if they lost, but that's how the maths worked out! What turned the match round was the partnership of Jake Munns and David Rice in third pair. For the first four days Neil Bamford and David Rice partnered in first pair, and who over a number of years had hardly ever lost a rubber, and going into Day 5, had already won 11 of 12 rubbers.

But strategically, following our post dinner team meeting on the Thursday evening, it was decided to split them up for the last day with Neil (Bamford) partnering Lewis Roskilly in first pair, and Jake partnering David in 3rd pair. Ben Davis and Neil (Roskilly), who were rock solid over the week, remained in 2nd pair.

But with Herts 4-2 up, but a set down in each of the 3 matches, the result was hanging in the balance. But the comeback started with Jake and David coming back from a set down to win their second set and then go on to win an incredibly exciting Champions tie break to get Herts the all-important fifth rubber, and the national title.

At the moment of their victory, our first and second pairs were still battling hard, and looking like they had turned the corner of both their matches, but when Herts secured that 5th rubber,

Kent conceded, shaking hands with our two remaining pairs on court.

Incredibly, it was only then that the reality struck that Herts were the national champs once again, our sixth in Group 1.

Kent's Captain, Andy Burgoyne and I exchanged warm congratulations and commiserations – Kent over the years had provided Herts with some of its toughest battles and without doubt, had some of the best supporters, year after year – second only, of course, to Herts! But now, for at least one year, they will be missed in Group 1, and for all the counties, Herts included, next summer, we start all over again – fighting for the title or trying to avoid relegation.

My personal thanks go to each member of the Herts 2017 Summer Inter County Cup team. By the end of the week, every member had played and contributed their very best. On and off the court the camaraderie was significant adding to the pleasure of our victory – with celebration on the Sunday evening at London's Trader Vic's.

Congratulations too to all the Men and Ladies who fought through poor and changing weather conditions throughout the week, the battles fought with great commitment playing at 3 different locations and surfaces – very difficult for all the competitors.

I'd also like to congratulate Josh Rose and James Wilkinson for making their debut in last summer's County Cup, following on from their debut in last winter's Cup. I hope there will be many future campaigns they will participate in again for Hertfordshire.

### AEGON Winter Inter County Cup

#### GROUP 1

**DATE:** Friday, November 24 through Sunday, November 26.

**VENUE:** University of Bath

After last winter's Group 2 win, the Herts Men are back in Group 1, where we will be competing for our 8th National Indoor title.

As of this writing, the team is still being completed, so I'm unable to confirm who will form the team.

Finally, our teams are always about the players, who have shown their passion and desire to be playing for their county, something that is so different for the touring professional month after month.

And when they do come out for the county, it is always deeply appreciated by me, and all those who are the Herts LTA.

Long may that 'spirit' continue – on, and on, and on.

COME ON HERTS!

**Jeff Wayne** Herts Men's Captain



The 2017 Mens Summer County Cup team



## Aegon Team Tennis

### Hertfordshire 2017

39 Hertfordshire clubs entered this year with 237 teams between them. Amazingly 94% of results were submitted so well done to all captains. The fixed match dates in this league help with organisation.

Congratulations to the following clubs for winning one or more divisions:

Letchworth, Harpenden, Northaw & Cuffley, Brookmans Park, Broxbourne, Bishops Stortford, Chorleywood, Batchwood, Gosling, Royston, Radlett, Elliswick, Welwyn, St Albans, West Herts and Watford, Rickmansworth, Townsend, David Lloyd Bushey, David Lloyd Hatfield, Moor Park, Greenwood Park, Berkhamsted, Sawbridgeworth.

## Herts Winter Singles League & Chiltern League

62 hardy teams braved the winter weather and inevitable reorganisation of matches to compete in singles matches (Open and Junior events), and doubles in the Chiltern League

for the less experienced juniors. The Chiltern League is currently a doubles only competition with teams comprising 2 girls and 2 boys who each play a girls/boys doubles rubber and a mixed doubles rubber. The players enjoyed the format and more teams have entered this year.

Winning clubs were: Radlett, Welwyn, Bishops Stortford, Orchard, Hoddesdon, Rickmansworth, Barnet, Elliswick, St Albans, Brookmans Park, Letchworth, Townsend/Wheathampstead.

## Herts Junior Summer League 2017

Unfortunately there were very few entries for the league this year. Nevertheless, it gave 156 juniors the opportunity to represent their club teams over the summer months. Many teams managed to get all of their matches played despite the league running into the school holidays when captains are faced with unanswered emails and no players! Well done to the following clubs for winning one or more divisions:

Croxley, Bishops Stortford, St Albans, Townsend/Wheathampstead Tigers and Radlett.

### Claire Thandi

## Hertfordshire Junior County Team Report 2016 – 2017

Herts have had yet another superb year with numerous successes across the age groups from the mini's through to the under 18's and at the time of writing this report, Herts Tennis are sitting at the top of the National County leader board. The leader board recognises performance in the seven County Cups including both junior and senior events and our position at the top of the table is a key indicator of how successful our teams have been over the last year.

In the 2016 – 2017 season we saw 5 teams qualify for County Cup national finals; the under 9's won the South East County Cup and our under 18 boys & under 18 girls competed in the top national division. The girls finished third nationally and the boys second and they will have another shot at being national champions in February 2018. We won our group in the 12 Counties competition gaining promotion to the top division for 2017/18. The mini-reds won the Inter-County competition in April and we were very close runners up in the Lionel Cox competition missing out on retaining the trophy by only 3 pts.

## Results

Under 18s Girls County Cup	3rd nationally
Under 18s Boys County Cup	2nd nationally
Under 14 Girls County Cup	National Finalists 3rd nationally
Under 14 Boys County Cup	National Finalists 4th nationally
Under 12 Girls County Cup	National Finalists 5th nationally
Under 10 Girls County Cup	National Finalists 5th nationally
Under 10 Boys County Cup	National finalists 2nd nationally

Under 9 County Cup	Winners
Under 8 Red Inter County	Winners
12 Counties Division 2A	Winners
Lionel Cox Trophy	Runners-up

## County Cup

The under 18's kick started the 2017 County Cup campaign with both the Boys and Girls teams competing in the country's top division in Bath and the under 9's finished the County Cup season by winning the East Region trophy in August.

### U18 Boys - 2nd place nationally

Team: Finn Bass, David Stevenson, Joshua Rose, Daniel Martin, James Wilkinson, Matthew Carroll, Jake Penny, Louis Gibbard. Captains: Jamie Evans and James Buswell.

### U18 Girls - 3rd nationally

Team: Indianna Spink, Arabella Moen, Amelia Campbell, Danielle Latter, Alexandra Hildreth, Mimi Bland, Rachel Cranley, Rosie Carr. Captains: Sammie Williams & Ben Roberts-Law

### U14 Girls - 3rd nationally

Team: Rachel Cranley, Annabel Davis, Francesca Franchi, Catherine Hodge. Captain: Teresa Lilley

### U14 Boys - 4th nationally

Team: Oliver Tarvet, Andre Raath, Reece Farrow, Christopher Smith, Sam Harris, Ben Feltham, Michael Broner. Captain: James Thomas

### 12U Boys - 4th in qualifying group

Team: Sean Neveling, Ivan Raath, Freddie Simpson, Sam Jordan. Captain: Ben Wilsher

### 12U Girls - 5th nationally

Team: Ekua Youri, Dascha Brazier, Hannah Read, Sofie Pickard, Jessica Matthews  
Captain: Ian Zellner

# Performance & Results



U8 East Region Inter-County Champions

## 10U Boys – 2nd nationally

Team: Alex McKenzie, Theo Mcilvenna, Enrico Franchi, Nicholas Fisk

Captain: Tom Lambert.

## 10U Girls – 5th nationally

Team: Erin Pearce, Jody Neveling, Marelle Raath, Hephzibah Oluwadare, Duru Akaya, Madeline Lightfoot

Captain: Sammie Williams.

## 9U East Region County Cup – WINNERS

Team: Daniel Bennett, Rhys Lawlor, Spencer Bramwell, Michaela Yeung, Georgiana Mititelu, Tamara Kutl

Captains: Andre Mouskides & Sammie Williams.

## U8 Inter-County Competition – Winners

Our fantastic mini-red team showed great spirit and enthusiasm to win this year's East Region Inter-County event... with this team of strong mini-reds the future is looking bright!

**Girls:** Michaela Yeung, Georgiana Mititelu, Erika Whyte, Scarlett-May Matthews, Gabby Read, Rose Clifton

**Boys:** Spencer Bramwell, Pav Nrshinga, Kaaviyan Pradhaban, James Hedge, Rhys Lawlor, Daniel Austin. Captains: Monica Becerra and Ben Wisler.

## Lionel Cox – Runners-up

The May bank holiday saw 18 of our top juniors competing at Queenswood School in the annual Lionel Cox competition. Our young players showed great commitment, determination and focus throughout and this year's event was an extremely closely fought competition with Herts missing out on retaining the title by a mere 3 points behind Essex.

## Hildon 12 Counties – Division 2A Winners

The 12 Counties Championships is the only County Team competition where the 10U's are part of the same team as the 18U's. Each age group competes between October – March with their accumulated points added together to determine finishing positions. This year saw Herts competing in Division 2A against Cambridgeshire, Nottinghamshire and Oxfordshire. We had great commitment from our players with strong performances consistently finishing as winners or runner-up in all age groups meaning we won our division and gained promotion to the top division for the 2017 / 2018 event.

Herts Tennis continues to be dedicated to raising the standards of players across the age groups from mini-reds through to under 18s and the 2017 – 2018 season will see a number of new initiatives being piloted including the introduction of county training sessions for mini-reds and

## Lionel Cox Results

Team	Result	Players	Captain
9U Boys	5th place	Edward Dunn, Luke Dunham, Daniel Bennett	Andre Mouskides
9U Girls	2nd place	Hephzibah Oluwadare, Michaela Yeung, Georgiana	Sammie Williams
10U Boys	1st place	Alex Mckenzie, Theo Mcilvena, Enrico Franchi	Chris Martin
10U Girls	1st place	Erin Pearce, Jody Neveling, Marelle Raath	Tony Staley
12U Boys	2nd place	Fabio Nestola, Sean Neveling, Ivan Raath	Ben Wilsher
12U Girls	1st place	Ekua Youri, Dascha Brazier, Jessica Matthews	Ian Zellner

## Hildon 12 Counties Results

Team	Result	Players
10U Boys	Winners	Dylan Warren Cafferty, Ben Lim, Theo Mcilvenna, Alexander McKenzie
10U Girls	Winners	Erin Pearce, Jody Neveling, Marelle Raath, Ava Williamson Captain: Sammie Williams
12U Boys	Winners	Christopher Smith, Fabio Nestola, Sean Neveling, Ryan O'Sullivan
12U Girls	Runners up	Catherine Hodge, Dascha Brazier, Hannah Read, Sofie Pickard Captain: Ian Zellner
14U Boys	Winners	Andre Raath, Reece Farrow, Vitushan Balamurali, Ben Feltham
14U Girls	Winners	Annabel Davies, Sophia Underwood, Anya Kotecha, Catherine Hodge Captain: James Thomas
16U Boys	Runners up	David Latter, Joel Pierleoni, Alex Watts, James Weller
16U Girls	Winners	Joanna Garland, Mineli Cooray, Rachel Cranley, Sophia Underwood Captain: Chris Martin
18U Boys	Runners up	Daniel Martin, Louis Gibbard, Carl Pearce, James Lee
18U Girls	Winners	Mimi Bland, Amelia Campbell, Alexandra Hildreth, Rosie Carr Captain: Scott Paxton



under 16s, extra training sessions in the summer season and friendly matches versus other counties. These initiatives will provide additional support to players and clubs and we hope will further advance our successes in both individual and team performances.

As we look forward to the 2017 – 2018 season I would like to say thank you to all players, captains, parents and reserves for your commitment and loyalty to Herts tennis. The enthusiasm and professionalism shown both on and off court has been fantastic and we look forward to seeing you in Herts action very soon. **GO HERTS!**

**Teresa Lilley** Herts Junior Teams/County Training Manager

## Herts Individual Successes 2017

### MEN/BOYS (as at Nov)

**Aljaz Bedene** GB no 2 ATP singles 47 48W/18L Herts -1. R/U Budapest ATP 250, Won 3 challengers. Highlights - marathon 1st rd win Wimbledon over Ivo Karlovic, 3rd Rd Wimbledon

**Ed Corrie** GB no 9 ATP singles 362 32W/28L Herts -2 S/F Budapest ATP 64K . Final of 2 25K futures. 1st rd Qs at Wimbledon singles and doubles. Highlights - win over Ilya Ivashka 177 and took Jeremy Chardy 80 to 3 sets at Queens Qs. 1st ATP doubles points for **Tom Corrie** with Ed at 15K Caldas Da Rainha.

**Finn Bass** ITF 18U no 142 LTA 18U - 3 Herts -3.

**Ryan Storrie** GB no 20 ATP singles 707 29W/24L Herts -4.

**Neil Bamford, David Rice** won 14/15 rubbers at County Week Group 1 Eastbourne.

**Daniel Martin** LTA 16U 4 18U 11 Herts -5 British Tour Final Tipton, 16U Gr 2 Sutton Winner.

**Matthew Carroll** ITF 18U 2126 LTA 18U 20 Herts -6 British Tour Exeter S/F, Gr 2 18U Bath R/U Scotland Gosling S/F

**Jake Penny** LTA 18U 21 Herts -7 British Tour Tipton S/F, Gr 2 18U Bath and Scotland S/F.

**James Wilkinson** LTA 18U 25 Herts -8 British tour Loughborough S/F Gr2 18U Gosling R/U

**David Stevenson** Herts -9. Starts at The University of Memphis in Jan 2018. LTA 18U Nationals Q/F. British Tour S/F.

**Joshua Rose** ITF 18U 526 Herts -10 Notts 18U Gr 2 Winner.

## Herts County Closed winners and runners-up 2017

Event	Position	Name(s)
Womens Doubles	Winners	Jasmine Dedakia and Alexandra Hildreth
	Runner Up	Francesca Franchi and Anya Kotecha
Mens Doubles	Winners	Luke Barker and Gregory Kraushar
	Runner Up	Andre Raath and Marcus Stapleton
Womens Singles	Winner	Jasmine Dedakia
	Runner Up	Annabel Davis
Mens Singles	Winner	Max Mcilvenna
	Runner Up	Ross Alexander
Men Singles Consolation	Winner	William Davis
	Runner Up	Ben Stevenson
18U Girls Doubles	Winners	Annabel Davis and Jessica Matthews
	Runners Up	Mineli Cooray and Alexandra Hildreth
18U Boys Doubles	Winners	Max Mcilvenna and Andre Raath
	Runners Up	Vithushan Balamurali and Joe Randall
18U Girls Singles	Winner	Annabel Davis
	Runner Up	Francesca Franchi
18U Boys Singles	Winner	Max Mcilvenn
	Runner Up	James Weller
18U Boys Singles Consolation	Winner	Jamie Gall
	Runner Up	William Davis
16U Girls Doubles	Winners	Francesca Franchi and Catherine Hodge
	Runners Up	Jessica Matthews and Ekua Youri
16U Boys Doubles	Winners	Joshua Ben and Andre Raath
	Runners Up	Jamie Gall and Joshua Imber
16U Girls Singles	Winner	Catherine Hodge
	Runner Up	Jessica Matthews
16U Boys Singles	Winner	Joshua Ben
	Runner Up	Reece Farrow
14U Boys Doubles	Winners	Vithushan Balamurali and Joshua Ben
	Runners Up	Danny Anderson and Reece Farrow
14U Girls Singles	Winner	Catherine Hodge
	Runner Up	Jessica Matthews
14U Boys Singles	Winner	Joshua Ben
	Runner Up	Joe Randall
14U Boys Singles Consolation	Winner	Freddie Simpson
	Runner Up	Adam Gemmell
12U Girls Doubles	Winners	Mafalda Almela-Lozano and Hannah Read
	Runners Up	Jody Neveling and Erin Pearce
12U Boys Doubles	Winners	Elliott Lowe and Freddie Simpson
	Runners Up	Theo Mcilvenna and Alexander Mckenzie
12U Girls Singles	Winner	Hannah Read
	Runner Up	Erin Pearce
12U Girls Singles Consolation	Winner	Dina Lipovski
	Runner Up	Kashish Bhasin
12U Boys Singles	Winner	Sean Neveling
	Runner Up	Freddie Simpson
12U Boys Singles Consolation	Winner	Justin Tracy
	Runner Up	Odinn Atherton
10U Girls Singles	Winner	Hephzibah Oluwadare
	Runner Up	Jody Neveling
10U Boys Singles	Winner	Theo Mcilvenna
	Runner Up	Alexander Mckenzie
9U Mixed Singles Extra matches	Winner	Xanthe Babcock
	Runner Up	Alannah Michael
9U Girls Singles	Winner	Hephzibah Oluwadare
	Runner Up	Erika Whyte
9U Boys Singles	Winner	Daniel Bennett
	Runner Up	Kaaviyan Pradhavan
8U Mixed Singles	Winner	Damian Trubilowicz
	Runner Up	Raphael Kuti
8U Girls Singles	Winner	Alannah Michael
	Runner Up	Rose Clifton
8U Boys Singles	Winner	Kaaviyan Pradhavan
	Runner Up	Rhys Lawlor
8U Boys Singles Consolation	Winner	Aidan Garcia-Ghuran
	Runner Up	Sam McCree

# Performance and Results

- **Joel Pierleoni** TE 14U 12 LTA 16U -10 Represented GB. European Championships 14U Doubles Champions. Rd To Wimbledon Doubles Champions. LTA Nationals 14U S/F.
- **Oliver Tarvet** LTA 14U -5 Nationals 14U Q/F TE 14U Dublin Winner, Notts R/U, Hungary S/F. LTA Gr 2 Sutton R/U, Bolton Winner.
- **Fabio Nestola** LTA 12U -2 Nationals 12U Q/F Gr 2 Winter Tour Q/F. TE 12U Gr3 Gradignan France R/U
- **LADIES/GIRLS (as of Nov)**
- **Katy Dunne** GB no 6 WTA singles 301 19W/22L Herts -1. Winner Kyoto 15K. 2nd rd Q's Wimbledon singles.
- **Joanna Garland** GB no 24 ITF 18U 59 LTA 18U 5 16U 2 Herts -2 Chinese Taipei
- **Emily Arbuthnott** GB no 20 WTA singles 710 15W/7L Herts -4 Winner Tunisia 15K. Winner of 14/15 rubbers at County Week Gr 1 partnering
- **Amanda Elliott.** Stanford University. Represented GB in The World University Games in Taipei won Bronze.
- **Mollie Crouch** Herts -3 British Tour 2 Winner Loughborough Edgbaston R/U Woking
- **Anna Popescu** Herts -5 British Tour Glasgow S/F.

- **Indiana Spink** GB no 80 LTA 18U 40 16U 13. Herts -6 LTA Nationals 16U S/F Winter Tour Finals 18U S/F. British Tour S/F. Gr2 18U Gosling Winner and Winter Tour S/F. Represented GB at The Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas S/F.
- **Mimi Bland** ITF 18U 1807 LTA 16U 19 Herts -7
- **Arabella Moen** ITF 18U 1049 LTA 18U 59 16U 23 Herts -8. Rd To Wimbledon 14U R/U. Notts Gr 2 16U R/U.
- **Amelia Campbell** Herts -13.
- **Georgia Walker** Herts -23 1st year at Furman University. British Tour S/F. Captained Queenswood Girls to Bronze at The World Schools Ch'ships in Brazil.
- **Georgina Axon** Herts -38. Auburn Uni.
- **Rachel Cranley** LTA 16U 36 Herts -10
- **Annabel Davis** LTA 14U 12 Herts -19
- **Sophia Underwood** LTA 14U 26 Herts -21
- **Catherine Hodge** LTA 14U 31 Herts -24
- **Hannah Read** LTA 12U 17
- **Hephzibal Oluwadare** LTA 10U Winner National Summer Tour. 10U Gr 2 Winner Notts and Sutton.
- **Janet Corrie** Performance Team.

Please can players keep [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com) informed throughout the year of your highlights.

## Herts Mens Seniors Tennis Winter Season 2016-17

### Over 45s

All the Divisions in the various groups were very keenly contested with one of biggest surprises coming from THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION. Last year's winners Bishops Stortford found themselves in a real "dogfight" to save themselves from relegation - only to lose out by One POINT hence they were relegated to Group 1a. New Champions - TOWNSEND 1 were worthy winners dropping only 3 rubbers through the season in winning all SIX matches.

### GROUP 1a

A rejuvenated WEST HERTS 1 bounced back from being relegated last season they too won all their SIX matches dropping only 2 rubbers throughout the season. In other groups the winning pattern was very similar where ALL the winning teams dominated their various Groups by winning ALL their matches.

### GROUP 1B - LEVERSTOCK GREEN 1

### GROUP 2A - ST ALBANS 2

### GROUP 2B - POTTERS BAR 1

### GROUP 3A - BERKHAMSTED

### GROUP 3B - ELLISWICK 2

### GROUP 4A - DAVID LLOYD - BUSHEY

A particular mention goes to BERKHAMSTED who joined the league last year running away with GROUP 4a - then served up a repeat performance winning Group 3A. BERKHAMSTED, under the guidance of Steven Passmore, have not been beaten over 2 years and even more impressive is they have yet to drop a set!! So we will now see that they will do in Season 2017-18 in 2A.

The Over 45s welcomed ONE new entrant - ST. MARGARETSBURY.

### Over 55s

THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION Dominated by DAVID LLOYD - BUSHEY who successfully retained their title by registering a

heavy defeat over nearest rivals Harpenden 1. DAVID LLOYD were very strong throughout season in winning the Championship, by winning all SIX matches winning 28 rubbers and conceding only 2.

**GROUP 1A** Won by RICKMANSWORTH in a very close-fought contest with Radlett, Rickmansworth make a welcome return to the Championship where hopefully they can retain their place, and avoid yo-yoing between the 2 divisions.

**GROUP 1B** Won comfortably by TOWNSEND 1.

**GROUP 2A** A very close situation developed between LETCHWORTH 1 and ELLISWICK 2 with LETCHWORTH winning the group by 2 points.

**GROUP 2B** BARNET proved to be just a bit too strong winning the group with 26 points from nearest rivals POTTERS BAR - 21 points.

**GROUP 3A** Saw new boys THE DRIVE - EDGWARE giving a good account of themselves in their maiden season winning all SIX matches and amassing 26 points along the way with TOTTERIDGE 2 5 points adrift on 21.

### Over 65s

This was the Inaugural year of our new age group competition which was very competitive indeed with three main contenders battling it out. Harpenden, Townsend & Potters Bar.

Townsend beat Harpenden 3-2, but looking at the league final table HARPENDEN ran out as the eventual winners with a better Sets & Games percentage. Congratulations to winning Captain Malcolm Fraser and his team.

	Rubbers	Sets	Sets%	Games	Games%
<b>Harpenden</b>	26-9	43-16	72.9%	292-190	<b>60.6%</b>
<b>Townsend</b>	26-9	44-19	69.8%	293-199	<b>59.6%</b>

**Basil Wein, League Organiser**



## Mens 35s

We had approached the weekend feeling very positive about our chances of winning Group One for the first time, particularly given that this year we had two 35 year old “spring chickens” in the team.

One of these two ruddy youths had only just left Eastbourne, not only as a winning member of Mr Wayne’s “real men’s” Group One winning team, but also as the player with the best stats of anyone that week! With the other new boy being a regular triathlete and future “iron man”, the overall average fitness of the squad was also given an injection of vitality!

We knew that day one could be the defining day of the weekend - straight up against last year’s victors, North of Scotland. Ultimately, a brave debut ended in an 11-9 defeat.

With the reduced three-rubber format this year, defeat in the first match left us needing victory in the doubles to keep us in with a chance. A 1-2 loss on the first day that was actually only a few points away from being a 3-0 victory!

We approached the second day’s match v Dorset full of both positivity. Sadly, day two was almost a carbon copy of the previous day’s match... A really excellent performance from our fresh and vibrant no.2 brought out the very best in his classy opponent - a championship tie-break defeat again the outcome but a standard of tennis that left no-one disappointed.

Our doubles team had a slightly different look about it but the opposition’s pair was familiarity itself. With years of experience in partnering each other and with numerous national titles to their name, ultimately they won the day. In the final singles some spell-binding wand waving from our no.1 wizard bedazzled his adversary and, in almost no time, that match was over - if only we could have conjured up a victory in one of the other two matches!

So there we were at the end of Saturday, already relegated.

Sunday’s fixture against the West of Scotland had a slightly “the morning after the days before” feel to it, but rather that, with two teams going down from Group One, both teams were already relegated and that due to injury our opponents were unable to field a player in the no.2 singles.

Another defeat on a breaker in the doubles and another very comfortable win in the no.1 singles felt like “déjà vu”, but with the walkover given to us initially we at least ended the weekend with a match win.

Having had the privilege of captaining the Herts Men’s 35s team these past eight years it is now time to hand over the reins to Hamid Hejazi. Although it was not to be this year, I know that the future is bright with Hamid at the helm and with the young guns that have come in to the team.

This year’s team was: **Neil Bamford, Simon Bramwell, Hamid Hejazi, Johan Prins, Venki Sundaram, James Thomas.**

Finally, thanks to all the team and committee of Herts Tennis for all the support that they give even us old guys. When we look back, sometimes a little wistfully, at our younger days in tennis we remember that many of those who gave up hours and hours of their time and expertise to help us along the way are still doing that very same thing not only so that we can continue to enjoy the game with grey hairs, but so that Herts Tennis does all that it can to maintain its reputation as the premier county tennis outfit of this millennium!

**Simon Bramwell**

## Mens 45s

The Hertfordshire 45s team, captained by David Reed, had a very successful 2017 season in the top division. Wins against Middlesex, Shropshire, Kent and Hampshire secured the team a very impressive 2nd place behind Surrey.

The strong squad consisting of **David Shann, Steve Jones, David Reed, Mick Hooker, Neil Grassick, Rob Slack, Steve Walters and Tony Illingworth** showed great spirit and flexibility as selection was rotated to manage injuries and to ensure the best team could be chosen for each fixture.

A special acknowledgement should be made of David Shann who again remained undefeated in singles which at this level is an incredible achievement and he has proved once again to be the lynchpin of the team.

We hope for more of the same in 2018.

**David Reed**

## Mens 55s

This year we were in division 1A and had to play some of the best teams in the country, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Oxfordshire were all very strong. We won 2 matches, having a great win against Devon in our final match.

I would like to thank all our team for playing:

**Paul Thompson** who played in all 6 matches, **Terry Johnson, Ian Portal, Mike Seymour, John Bennet, and myself.**

**Steve Clay**

## Mens 60s

We suffered with an early comprehensive loss against a strong Surrey team however recovered well to beat Kent and Sussex. We lost a close match against a good Derby team, despite having a point to win which left us needing to beat Essex in the last match in order to retain our Division 1 status. This proved just out of our reach losing 3-2.

The team was led by ever present **N. Cathcart** with **D. Stanton, C. Weatherhead, M. Corrie, T. Boyle, D. Thomas and S. Walker** playing some matches

**David Stanton**

## Mens 65s

Squad for the season: **Bob Birchley, Peter Leary, Dave Thomas, Lee Ding, and Chris Owen** with guest appearances from **Tom Parsons and Malcolm Fraser**

**Playing in Division 2B**

**First match v. Lincolnshire at Grantham Tennis Centre**

There was a point in the first round when I thought we were going to lose all three rubbers but Bob and Tom managed to turn their games around and Dave found some blistering form in the second set of the doubles with Peter to win the set and the tie-break. They then went on to easily beat the second doubles pair while Bob and Tom teamed up to win their doubles, so we started with a confidence-boosting 10-0 win.

**Second match v. Leicestershire at Letchworth Tennis Centre**

Leicestershire have a player who beat Rod Laver, the number one seed in the Australian Open in 1971, without taking his track suit top off, so it wasn’t surprising that Mark Cox, now well into his seventies, kept it on against Bob while beating him 2 and 3.

# Seniors Tennis

Fortunately, their second-string player wasn't quite up to that standard, with Peter winning 0 and 0. Our doubles pair of Dave and Malcolm won their match quite easily but lost to Mark and his partner, although both said what a great experience it was to play someone of that standard. Bob and Peter won their doubles so we registered a 6-4 win.

## Third match v. Cumbria at Letchworth Tennis Centre

Unfortunately, I had to play in this match, so Dave and I duly lost both our doubles but Bob and Peter came to the rescue easily winning their singles and doubles. Another 6-4 win.

## Fourth match v. Somerset at the Blackbrook Tennis Centre, Taunton

This was an easier fixture with the team, which now included Lee Ding as a doubles player with Dave, winning all the rubbers even though two of them went to championship tie-breaks. 10-0.

## Fifth match v. Warwickshire at Edgbaston

This was a tight match with Peter losing his singles for the first time. But Bob prevailed yet again in his singles and he and Peter won their doubles while Dave and Lee, having lost their first doubles, won their second, which went all the way to a championship tie-break with the match resting at 2-2. Result 6-4.

## Chris Owen

## Mens 70s

It has been a disappointing season playing in Division 1B, with only one win against Suffolk. Our fate was sealed early in the season with a 3-2 loss to Bedfordshire. This was compounded away against Kent with a 4-1 loss. Each rubber in the first round was poised, but all three rubbers were lost at one set each, losing the championship tie breaks, 10-8, 10-8, 10-7.

There was no better luck playing at home against Yorkshire with a 4-1 loss, and the final match against Warwickshire, who won the division 4-1. We were one good player short of being competitive in the top division, so next season in division 2, which is doubles only, we should fare better.

Thanks to the team of Tom Parsons, Peter Morton, Barry Skelding, Doug Cheese, and Rex Poulter

## Malcolm Fraser

## Mens 75s

Our first game was away against Surrey at the LTA indoor centre in Rayners Park where we lost 3 - 1 with John Barnett and Richard Rowlandson beating the Surrey first pair on 3rd set tie-break.

Our second game was at home against Staffordshire at Watford where Graham Downes and Richard Rowlandson won their two doubles. Colin Chambers, on his debut with Peter Gosbell lost their two matches but won a vital set to gain victory.

Our third match was away against Warwickshire where John Barnett and Richard Rowlandson won their two matches. Graham Downes and Colin Chambers won one match to achieve a result of 3 - 1.

Our last match was away against Lancashire at Preston where John Barnett and Vic Israel (who was a last minute substitute when Richard Rowlandson had to have an operation) were able to win one set but the match was lost 3½ - ½

## John Barnett

## Overview of Seniors

At county level we field 6 teams in the Inter-County championships.

The final results were:

	2017 Match Results				Captain
	Played	Won	Pos.	2016 status	
45+	5	4	2	div. 1	David Reed
55+	5	2	5	div. 2	Steve Clay
60+	5	2	5	div. 2	Dave Stanton
65+	5	5	1	div. 1	Chris Owen
70+	5	1	5	div. 2	Malcolm Fraser
75+	5	3	3	div. 1	John Barnett

For the fifth consecutive year all our teams were able to complete all of their matches - never the easiest task with long distances to travel and injuries calling for late changes in team selection.

Every captain worked hard to achieve the above results with Chris Owen leading the 65+ team through an unbeaten season and promotion to division 1. David Reed nearly went one better with a second place for his 45+ team in division 1A.

Steve Clay (55+) and Malcolm Fraser (70+) found the division 1 standards particularly high and bounced down after just 1 season.

Dave Stanton (60+) and John Barnett (75+) both had key players missing for long periods of time. Despite this the 75+ team finished in a respectable mid table position. However the 60+ team went down and will play in division 2 in 2018.

My thanks to all the captains and players for 2017.

## FILA World Ranking Event

BETTER Gosling Sports Park welcomed the 2nd FILA ITF World ranking event in April. The event saw a strong field of players competing in age categories from 35 through to 80 years old.

The tournament has established itself as one of the best on the 17 event British Senior Tennis Circuit attracting over 250 players battling for World Ranking points and making it second only to the UK National Championships. Events featured were Singles, Double and Mixed Doubles categories with top Hertfordshire players battling it out against players from all over the world.

This year the Tournament was expanded to include a Wild Card Qualifying weekend where local Club players from around the South East Region were able to compete prior to the main event. The winners of each age category received direct entry into the FILA Seniors Main Draw competition.

Local players David Shann and English International Jennifer Stokes took part in the action, with David reaching the Finals in the 50 plus Singles and Jennifer taking the 50 plus Women's Singles Title with a win over Liana Vafeiadou of Greece 6-2, 6-4.

LTA President and Hertfordshire local Martin Corrie visited the event and said "The standard of play was extremely high and demonstrates that tennis is a game that can be played for life, I congratulate all those involved to bring the event to Gosling and organise such a successful tournament for so many players".



## Ladies 35s

25-27 August, Devonshire Park - Eastbourne

Team: Anca Camen, Kate Gowar, Pippa Simmonds, Sian Southwell-Sander, Meg Zalewski

Day 1: Yorkshire 2 - Hertfordshire 1

An extremely close match with our doubles pair losing 12-10 on a champs tie break after two match points!

Day 2: South Wales 2 - Hertfordshire 1

South Wales ended up winning the group.

Day 3: Hertfordshire 2 - Lancashire 1

A fantastic end to the weekend with the Ladies securing their place in Group 2 for next year.

Congratulations to Kate, who was undefeated and to Anca and Meg for their debuts at the event.

**Sian Southwell-Sander**

## Ladies 40s

We have indeed stayed in the first division, but just. It all came down to the last match against Gloucestershire. We came into the final match with two victories (against Lancashire and Berkshire) and two defeats (against Devon and Sussex), but due to a strange result between Devon and Berkshire, the only option for us to stay up was to beat Gloucestershire, and we did just that, beating them 4-1 at home (Gosling) and in the end finished 2 out of 6 in our division.

I would like to thank all players who joined it - a rather large squad of 10 players coming from a variety of clubs in the county: **Bridie Amos, Miranda Hoskings, Alison Felton, Pippa Walker, Olga Blecher, Jeanine Stanton, Carla Birks, Sarah Ward, Sarah Austin** (I hope I am not forgetting anybody!) and myself as a playing captain.

**Delphine Rive**

## Ladies 50s

This has been a tough year for the Over 50s Team. With the introduction of an Over 55 team we found ourselves with a completely new team against very tough opposition. In the first match against Kent we won the 2nd singles and very narrowly lost the first. The Hertfordshire doubles pair struggled against Kent's very strong doubles specialists.

We enjoyed a good day out to Wimbledon to play against a very strong Surrey team. Their number one singles player had been the Canadian number one. We did manage to win the number 2 singles. Overall the Surrey team was too strong for us winning 5-1.

For the next match we travelled to Norwich. They again had a very strong team and Hertfordshire were white washed by 5 rubbers to 0. We did not manage to win a single rubber against Norfolk.

After a lengthy break we stirred ourselves for a couple of matches in September. We travelled to Loughborough with little expectation but our singles players rose to the occasion winning both matches to give us a 2-0 lead. In the doubles we surged to a 4-1 lead in the first set. One of the Leicestershire players suffered an injury and had to concede giving

Hertfordshire their first victory of the season. We went on to win the match 4-1.

Our final match of the season was at home against Warwickshire. Our side was bolstered by the introduction of a very classy player. It made all the difference with her winning both her matches. We were really disappointed to lose 3 championship tie breaks and hence lose by 3 rubbers to 2. This was a match we really should have won. However they were a really friendly team and we enjoyed their company.

We will finish the league second from bottom but since Surrey had to concede a match they will go down with Leicestershire. The Over 50 team will struggle again next year in the top division.

The following players represented the County this season:

**Mandy Bishop, Claire Booth, Karen Curran, Alison Felton, Wendy Job, Jenny Stokes, Rowena Tott, Ali Williams, Emma Wilson**

**Wendy Job**

## Ladies 55s

Herts entered a team in the 55s age group for the first time. Winning our first 4 matches 5-0 guaranteed us at least runner up slot in Division 2 before playing our final fixture against a very strong Derbyshire team. Great tennis produced a narrow 2-3 loss but should see us promoted to Division 1 next year.

The team was an absolute pleasure to captain and I thank everyone in the squad for their support and great team spirit which undoubtedly contributed to the results achieved. We had so much fun posing as students at Loughborough University and trying on outfits in Louth!

Those who played were **Judith Allnutt, Claire Booth (Capt), Wendy Cottenden, Annie Hems, Margaret Shamir and Jane Walker.**

**Claire Booth**

## Ladies 60s

Herts Ladies 60s have once again completed a season of excellent tennis playing in Division 2. For the third year running we had a day trip to Scotland! Playing West of Scotland in Glasgow we had a 3-1 win which got our season off to a great start.

We managed two further wins playing Oxfordshire and Shropshire. These were both home fixtures, managing with Gill's help, to switch the Shropshire match indoors with 24 hours to spare. We lost our two other fixtures, playing Gloucester in Cheltenham and Hampshire in Southampton, although they were closely fought matches. We lost 4-0 to the Division winners Hampshire but 2 very close championship tie breaks made it a disappointing result,

Most importantly we have a wonderful team spirit which always makes for a great day out and we are always looking for the opportunity to slip in a hotel stay! I know we will all look forward to seeing where we are due to play next season so we can start planning a few trips away!

**Alison Allard (Captain), Joy Allsopp, Sue Birchall, Janet Corrie, Gill Dickey and Tricia Rayner**

**Alison Allard**

# Seniors Tennis

## Ladies 65s

2017 was the season of 'almosts' for the 65s Ladies! We lost all our matches but had 5 championship tie-breaks and IF we had won 3 of those, our results would look a lot better! It is said, a few points can make a difference – we have certainly known that this year!!

We have also had a number of the 'squad' unable to play because of injury which has been unfortunate.

Everyone has been committed, willing to be flexible as to who they partner and given their best – often against tough opposition.

We hope to have new players moving into our age group in 2018.

Those who have played this year: **Audrey Adams; Pam Burrage; Margi de Friez; Pam Hall; Jenny Madden; Lorraine Oliver; Chris Robinson; Sheila Vaughan; Debbie Walker**

**Sheila Vaughan**

## Ladies 70s

The senior ladies over 70s had a very enjoyable if somewhat injury affected season against good opposition. Our best result was against Scotland at home which we won 3-1 involving 2 matches with ten point tie breaks, one of which we lost!

Suffolk away was another match which we lost 3-1 but which was closer than it looks. The remaining matches were against a very well turned out and strong team from Cambridge away, Lincolnshire away and Northumberland at home, all of which we lost but only after some very exciting tennis in all the matches.

I thank the following who played with great enthusiasm and supported me in running the team with their cooperation:-

**Janet Morgan (4 matches), Teresa Deverell (3), Dilys Buckley (5), Meta Kelly (3), Clare Brittain (3), Lynne Moxon (1), Audrey Pollard (1) and myself (3).** I also obtained support and contributions to practices etc. from half a dozen other players which made all the difference to team spirit, thank you all very much.

**Jennifer Israel**

## Herts 3-Pair Summer League

2017 was a good year for the Herts league, with plenty of excellent competition throughout the divisions and walkovers down (just) for the second year in a row.

This year the Championships were won by Letchworth 1 (Ladies) and Moor Park (Men). You certainly wouldn't have got great odds if you'd placed a bet on Letchworth to win the Ladies title at the start of the competition – this latest win makes it an amazing 10 championships in a row – however I don't think anyone could have predicted the manner in which they did it. Against what is undoubtedly strong opposition they somehow lost just 2 rubbers all season out of the 54 they played. Frightening!

By contrast the Men's competition was a lot closer, with the mid-season clash between the holders, Welwyn 1 and the 2015 champions, Moor Park proving pivotal. Moor Park managed to win the match 5-4 thanks in no small part to edging the 10 point championship tie-breaks played on the day 2-1 and as a result they become the second most successful club in the Men's competition's 71 year history. No prizes for guessing who is the most successful. Did I hear somebody say Harpenden? Yes...absolutely right!

In next year's Men's top flight they will be joined by the winners of Divisions 1a and 1b; Letchworth 1 and Barnet 2, while the Harpenden 2 and St Albans 1 Ladies return to the Championship division after short stays in the divisions below. Congratulations to all four teams and to every other divisional winner and promoted team on their achievements.

I've alluded to a little of the history of the Herts league, which has helped to set it apart from other county competitions and I make no excuses for doing so. That's because these are testing times for the league and it's time to tackle the biggest hurdle in the way of history in this very special competition from continuing to be made. That, of course, is the continuing decline in the number of entries, which if we sit back and do

nothing, who knows, may end with us deciding not to hold the competition at all. I don't believe anybody wants that to happen, but the numbers game tells us it must be a very real possibility.

In 2011 we had 112 Men's teams and 91 Ladies teams competing in the league, a total of 203 teams. Six years later, in 2017, the numbers were down to 82 and 53 teams respectively. In just 6 years a third of teams have therefore decided the competition is no longer for them.

Why? The evidence is that an increasing number of people don't want to spend a whole afternoon playing matches these days. We have had considerable feedback on the subject and the news is by no means all negative. You still want a 3 pair competition and large numbers of you still enjoy playing in this particular competition.

While we therefore clearly need to arrest the decline in numbers, equally important is retaining the still considerable number of players and indeed clubs who tell us they love the existing format. We therefore need to find a compromise.

We believe we have that in a proposal to reduce the length of matches which is being put to the AGM in December. However, we need enough of you to vote to introduce it otherwise the format will remain the same, with the very likely scenario that more teams and no doubt clubs, will leave us as well. Ideally we'd have a compromise that suits everyone. Oh ok, perhaps not everyone...we're never going to manage to do that...but the majority. That will rely on us coming together to vote for a change which might not be what we all wanted but which may give us the best chance of continuing to play in such a great competition for the next 71 years. So please come out in numbers at the AGM on 7th December and vote for something that allows us to do that. And if you're reading this on the evening of the AGM, when it comes to your opportunity to vote on the proposal, please do so with the competition in mind and make the rest, as they say, history!

**Lee Evans**



## Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter Team League 2016-2017

**Finals Day - Sunday 19th March 2017**

The Mini League is an established activity in the Herts Tennis calendar. Its origins go back to the 1990s and this year has seen a record number of young Hertfordshire club players participating - 496 to be precise playing in 74 teams. The league is set up in two stages. The Challenger Draw starts in September through to December providing less experienced club players with the opportunity to represent their club and gain experience. The successful teams join in the Main Draw which starts in January and includes experienced players from the bigger clubs, culminating in an exciting Finals Day event.



Mini Tennis Finals Day

Each year it seems that the young players get better and better and this last year was no exception. One particular encounter between the Batchwood Greens and the Gosling Green Giants had us all on the edge of our seats. The four singles matches ended all square and the two nail biting doubles matches were so exciting and went down to the wire and were played in the best of spirits. The results were as follows:

### RED MAIN DRAW

Winners	Batchwood Red Buffalos 1
Runners Up	Batchwood Red Bears 2
3rd Place	Letchworth Red A
4th Place	Red Legends V

### ORANGE MAIN DRAW FINALS

Winners	Batchwood Orange Bulldogs 1
Runners Up	BSLTC Orange 1
3rd Place	Harpenden 9u
4th Place	Letchworth Orange A

### GREEN MAIN DRAW FINALS

Winners	Batchwood Greens
Runners Up	Gosling Green Giants

### League Statistics

Number of clubs entered:	24
Number of Teams:	74
Number of players who competed:	496

Jennifer Keates

## Pathway to Tarbes

You are all very familiar with the Pathway to Tarbes programme which Herts Tennis has supported since 2007. The £100K of support from Herts Tennis to the young players of Hertfordshire demonstrates a huge contribution to the British Tennis scene.

Each year more players are invited to represent Great Britain from the county's two Performance Centres at Batchwood and Gosling. This programme is the envy of many players and parents have even moved Counties to benefit from the outstanding coaching that both centres provide.

Jon Meredith heads up the programme at Batchwood. The changes at Gosling have seen Sam Bruce move into management at the centre and Francisco Ruiz Lopez step into the role of organizing the Pathway to Tarbes programme there.

Not satisfied with the success of Pathway to Tarbes, Herts Tennis introduced the Herts Inspires Tennis Programme (HIT) and four clubs are now included. Red stage invitation squads are supported by Herts Tennis at Langley, Legends, Letchworth and Harpenden clubs, under the banner of 'make better players better'.

The squads include at least two sessions each week supported by individual technical tuition. The most obvious result is at a very young age the technical ability of these young players is outstanding and starts players on the right path to achieve peak performance.

## Hit Venues

The Herts Inspires Tennis Red Tour has also been introduced to provide a good standard of competition for the young Red players at the six venues.

The six venues organise Grand Slam and World Finals events throughout the year including the Hertfordshire Championships.

A leaderboard has been introduced for this year and prizes will be presented at the Hertfordshire Championships.

Jennifer Keates

The opportunities that these programmes offer are available to any Hertfordshire club player. I am happy to discuss the possibility of accessing this additional tennis activity to support your current club programme.

Jennifer Keates



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# Herts Schools 2017

The aim of Herts Schools Tennis is to provide opportunities for players of all levels to enjoy playing tennis, competing, being part of a team and representing their school.

Our events vary from the top level schools who go on to compete in Regional and hopefully National Finals to those starting out who are encouraged to compete, to do their best and to enjoy their experience (whether or not they win)! We would like to thank Herts Tennis and the Tennis Foundation for their ongoing support.

## Teachers' Course

This was held at Gosling with the support of Herts Tennis. David Lawlor was lead coach and Pam Burrage assisted. This meant we were able to cover the differing needs of teachers attending. We had 8 schools and 12 teachers and we used the new TF teaching materials which are excellent. We used a workshop format with teachers encouraged to develop the activities and to identify learning outcomes. David also provided some low key, but important technical input. All the teachers were very appreciative. A slight problem with getting the course onto the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning impacted on the numbers - we could accommodate more teachers next year.

## Mini Red 2017

There were two mini red competitions this year followed by a semi-final and final at Welwyn Tennis Club:

## Mini Red Cassiobury

On Monday 12th June five schools competed at Cassiobury LTC in the Herts Schools Mini Red Doubles Competition. Nine Teams took part from five schools: One from Wheatfield Infants; two from Broxbourne CE Primary; one from Nascot Wood; one from Cassiobury Juniors and four from Cassiobury Infants.

Four teams made it through to the final round robin with the results as follows:

Winners: Wheatfield  
Runners Up: Broxbourne  
3rd place: Nascot Wood  
4th place: Cassiobury

Certificates were presented to all the children and medals were awarded to the Winners and Runners-up. Our thanks to Cassiobury LTC for hosting the event and to all the parents and staff who assisted with the scoring or made tea.

## Mini Red Welwyn

On Thursday 8th June players from local schools competed at Welwyn Tennis Club. The weather was fine and the matches were played on the fantastic outdoor red courts. The teams were divided into two boxes and played in a Round Robin doubles format. Each team played one further match to decide their final standings. The standard of play was excellent with many close matches. All the children conducted themselves well both on and off the court and had an enjoyable afternoon of tennis. All players were awarded certificates with the winners and runners up each receiving a medal.

The winners went on to compete in the County Schools red finals - also at Welwyn Tennis Club

## Mini Red Finals

The winners and runners up of the two mini red competitions played a Round Robin format in the County Schools Mini Red Finals, there were 8 pairs from 7 schools.

In a really close match Wheatfields won the Fulton Shield by 12 points to 11. Roundwood won the silver medal and Woolmer Green beat Cassiobury for the bronze.

Huge thanks to Mark Howard organising and to Welwyn Tennis Club for hosting.

## Mini Orange 2017

Nine teams of enthusiastic Year 4 tennis players representing schools from all over Hertfordshire took to the courts at St Albans Tennis Club for the Herts Schools annual Mini Orange Competition. Each team consisted of two pairs who played doubles against the other teams in their group. The Tie Break format was used and every single point the players won was counted for the team's score. After some really exciting matches, and some amazingly long rallies the scores were counted.

In the second half the teams were regrouped based on their results and everyone played further matches, some of these even closer than in the first half.

Everyone enjoyed a full and exciting



2017 Nicola Mabbitt finalists



afternoon of tennis. Thanks to the adults who umpired (no young people this year!) and to St Albans Tennis Club for supporting the event.

Winners: Roundwood Primary School  
Runners Up: Aldwickbury

### Mini Green 2017

On 7th June, Broxbourne LTC played host for the 3rd successive year to the Mini Green Herts Schools LTA doubles tournament. The weather was fine and 14 pairs of girls and boys competed to a high standard with good sportsmanship. Like last year, the boys and girls winners came from the same school but this year the trophies went to Wheatfields Junior, St Albans: Sebastian J and Ben T and Marelle R and Olivia A. Other awards included Best Forehand (Emma Mc, Wheatfields Junior), Best Backhand (Kiran M, Berkhamsted), Best Serve (Declan, Edge Hill) and Determination (Tillie W, Broxbourne).

Our thanks to Broxbourne Tennis Club for hosting

### Year 6 Tennis Tournament

The Year 6 tennis tournament took place at the Royal Masonic School for Girls on the 14th June 2017. It was a beautiful sunny night and 30 children took part: 14 Girls and 16 Boys from 5 different schools. We were very pleased to welcome two new schools to the Tournament: Fair Field Junior School and Christchurch C of E School.

We provided two new trophies for the winning Girls' and Boys' pairs and they

also received gold medals with the runners up receiving silver medals. All participants received certificates for taking part. The standard was very high and all competitors worked hard to challenge their opponents. In the end we had some very close deciders.

Boys Winners: **Fairfields**  
Runners up: **Berkhamsted Prep School**  
Girls Winners: **Wheatfields**  
Runners up: **Berkhamsted Prep School**

### Year 7 Girls

The annual Year 7 tournament was played on Tuesday 20th June at Haberdashers' Elstree on a very hot afternoon. 20 pairs from five different schools entered the tournament so all the entrants had a great time playing lots of matches. The tournament was, as in previous years divided into two groups: an Experienced category for those girls who play schools team tennis and represent a club and an Inexperienced category for those girls just learning tennis at school. In the Experienced category, Haberdashers' 1 finished in 1st place with Haberdashers' 2 in 2nd place. In the Inexperienced category, St Albans High School 1 beat St Albans High School 2 in the play-off.

### Year 7 Boys

On Tuesday 20th June in glorious sunshine 8 teams competed in the annual Hertfordshire Year 7 Doubles Tournament, hosted by Habs' Boys

School. Sandringham's first pair topped Group A after close battles with Habs' Boys and Watford Grammar. After overcoming a strong challenge from Chancellors Sandringham's second pair finished first in Group B. In the finals, Sandringham's first pair beat their second pair without losing a game, with Habs Boys winning the 3rd/4th place play-off. A special mention goes to Parmiters who competed bravely with an inexperienced line-up. The event was a real success providing a fun competition for Year 7 schoolboys from across the county. We look forward to next year's tournament!

### Nicola Mabbitt 2017

On a sunny afternoon 31 winning teams from six areas of Hertfordshire arrived at Queenswood to play the Nicola Mabbitt Trophy finals. The players, in teams of 4, had won their local area leagues and played the winning teams from the other areas. There are six separate Leagues – for Years 8, 9 and 10, Boys and Girls.

This year the Girls Leagues played their finals on the 12 courts and the Boys on the 12 Astroturf courts. In all 124 players completed over 100 matches in the afternoon.

Winners:

Year 8 Boys	Richard Hale
Year 8 Girls	Sir John Lawes
Year 9 Boys	Monks Walk
Year 9 Girls	Monks Walk
Year 10 Boys:	Richard Hale
Year 10 Girls	St Albans High School





## County Schools Boys

Nine pairs were contesting this year's U18 competition and twelve the U14 competition at Welwyn Tennis Club. Several teams that had joined us for the first time the year prior were back in force and with some real challengers for the trophies. The U18s played three preliminary pools and then based on their performances in those were entered into another pool to play for their final place. St. Albans boy's first pair didn't drop a game in their preliminary round making them the hot favourites. Playing for first, second and third were the top pairs from Haberdashers, St. Albans Boys and



2017 Year 7 winners

Monks Walk. Not one of the final matches was a walk over, but Monks Walk managed to clinch victory over Haberdashers in a tense tie break. Well done to all nine pairs for playing so fairly, but also with great aggression and effort!

In the U14, we saw a return to a standard knock out and plate competition. On paper, Sandringham's first pair looked to be favourites and cruised through their first match comfortably against their fourth pair. Elsewhere, St. Albans second pair was narrowly defeated by Sandringham's third pair in a very close tie break and they eventually went on to meet Sandringham's first pair in the final. The thirds salvaged two games, but the first pair was just too strong and left with the title.

Thank you to all the players, teachers and Welwyn Tennis Club for the use of their courts. We look forward to another close competition next year.

## County Schools Girls

We had a lovely day for the Girls County Schools Doubles Tournament, held at St Albans High School for Girls on Friday 16 June.

We had 10 pairs enter the U14 competition but only three in the U18. St Albans High School for Girls had a very successful day, winning both the U14 and U18 categories.

They were also runners-up in the U18's and Haberdashers finished as runners up in the U14 competition.

Lots of high quality tennis played throughout the afternoon.

## Team Tennis Schools Year 8 and Year 10 Competitions

We had a fantastic day at Queenswood on the 6th of July. It was sunny and very hot and we managed to just complete all the matches before the thunder and lightning began! Thanks must go to Catherine Sluter and Queenswood for hosting the event and to Hugo Allen for providing the match balls via his Connected Clubs Company who are a Hertfordshire Tennis Equipment provider.

### Boys

#### Year 8 Division 1

Richard Hale defeated Sandringham 7-6 in a very exciting doubles championship tiebreak shootout after their match was tied at 3 rubbers each after 4 singles and 2 doubles!

#### Division 2

Watford Grammar proved too strong for Parmiters with an 8-4 win.

#### Year 10 Division 1

Another match that was too close to

call. All square after 4 singles and 2 doubles, it went to a tiebreak shootout with Haberdashers beating Parmiters by the closest of margins to become county champions.

#### Division 2

Ashlyns beat Watford Grammar in the final after Ashlyns narrowly defeated St Columbas in the semis.

### Girls

#### Year 8 - Division 1

Queenswood won the Division with the loss of only one set across both the semi-finals and the final. They proved too strong for St Albans High School for Girls in the final.

#### Division 2

St Albans Girls School A beat St Albans High B team 10-2 to reach the Regional finals next term.

#### Year 10 - Division 1

Queenswood play Parmiters in the Y9 & 10 Division One final, this is scheduled for the first week of September, due to Parmiters being unavailable for the finals day.

#### Division 2

Monks Walk had a terrifically close tiebreak shootout win against Watford Girls, with Monks Walk's star player proving the difference between the two sides.

## Tennis festival at Queenswood

On 4th May children from 9 Primary and Prep schools visited Queenswood for an afternoon of tennis. In all 244 boys, girls and Queenswood pupils were involved in the annual Tennis Festival. Our Queenswood Sports Leaders, Tennis and Sports Scholars and team players ran the event. They lead their groups of Year 5 & 6's round a series of workshops led by our Queenswood coaches.

The day's main aim was getting young people enjoying tennis with many being beginners or girls and boys new to Tennis. It is also an opportunity for our older girls to develop their leadership and organisational skills. It was a huge success and an event that our girls love doing every year.

**Pam Burrage**

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