



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Issue 1

May 2022

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Hello everybody and welcome to the first edition of *The Herts Bulletin!*

We hope the Bulletin will become a regular and welcome addition to communication between the County Association and you, its members. It is born out of an evolving plan to improve the way we communicate with you so please do let us have any feedback, good or bad, as well as any suggestions on what to include in future editions. You can contact us at hertstennis@gmail.com.

Under the plan, to help ensure you are more aware of who sits on the County's Management Committee, of what we do and of how we may be able to help or support you, I would like to visit as many venues as possible this year. I did say 'every' venue when I was lucky enough to become President, but hindsight's a wonderful thing! If you think your venue would benefit from a visit from either me or another member of the team, please do let us know. No reasonable invitations will be turned down!

Before I leave you to enjoy the rest of the Bulletin, in what is Volunteers' Week I would just like to say something about the amazing army of volunteers we have across the county. Almost everybody reading this will be one and tennis in the county is so much better for what you do. However big or small the part you play, thank you. We couldn't do it without you.

That brings me nicely on to an event we held in Harpenden last week, where we recognised the efforts of some of the county's unsung heroes who had been nominated for an LTA Award and celebrated the achievements of a number of our brighter stars. Look out for a full spread in the next edition.

News from the AGM

It's by no means an understatement to say Herts Tennis' AGM doesn't exactly draw in the crowds and last year's was no different! Here's a snapshot of what those of you who couldn't make it missed:

The election results are in

For the first time in years nominations for a place on this year's Management Committee were oversubscribed, which led to elections on the night. You can meet your new Committee here:

2021/2022 Management Committee



Lee Evans. President; Competition lead



Helen Elliott. Honorary Secretary; Events Manager; Volunteer Engagement lead



Martin Corrie. Honorary Treasurer; Funding opportunities lead



Bridie Amos. LTA Councillor for Herts; Development and Coaching lead



Tessa Terry. County Safeguarding Officer; Volunteer Engagement



Carole Draper. Community and Office Manager; Disability and Inclusion; Venue Liaison



Matt Willcocks. Participation lead, Herts Tennis Foundation



Janet Corrie. Performance lead, Parents Representative Group



Stuart Foster. Leisure sector and Local authority lead; Padel and Beach Tennis

We would also like to thank Simon Spalter for throwing his name into the hat. A lot of you will already know Simon, who is doing some fantastic stuff as champion of the Tennis Volunteer Group, a Facebook group that invites and enables tennis volunteers to discuss their challenges. To see the group and Simon in action, visit the [Facebook Volunteers Group](#)

There are so many volunteers not mentioned here who work directly with the Management Committee to deliver so much of the good stuff that makes a county successful. We will be focussing on our wonderful sub-committees in a future edition.

Fare well Trevor



We said a fond fare well this year to our outgoing President, Trevor Adamson. Trevor now lives in Eastbourne, where he says the weather's that much better than in Hertfordshire. Hard to believe, I know! Despite being a northerner, Trevor has been a wonderful servant to tennis in the county for many, many years and leaves us with heartfelt thanks for everything that he has done.

If you want to thank Trevor personally, head down to Devonshire Park this summer and join him in cheering on our Men's and Ladies teams, who will once again be representing the county brilliantly in County Week's top division. For those who have not yet made it down to County Week, you are guaranteed amazing tennis...and it's absolutely free!

Herts Tennis Plan

Bridie Amos, Matt Willcocks and Janet Corrie gave a wonderful presentation covering a myriad of aspects of tennis in the county, all linked to our aspiration of getting more people to love playing tennis every week. You can see it here [Review of the Year and Herts Plan](#).

Highlights from 2021

In his last report as President, Trevor ran through the highlights from the last year. Those and a whole lot more can be found in the excellent Herts Tennis Newsletter [Herts Tennis Newsletter 2021](#)

Lee Evans

Hertfordshire Ladies' Captaincy



The Herts Management Committee, the Ladies' squad and all our family of loyal supporters would like to thank Alissa Ayling for her very successful Ladies Captaincy over the last 6 years. She is stepping down for exciting times ahead. She and Lisa have welcomed baby Avery into the world on May 4th. We wish them many congratulations and hope in a few years' time Avery joins our Herts tennis family. Alissa has led the team with dedication and expertise. showing her calm manner throughout.

We are delighted to announce that Amanda Elliott has accepted the role of Captaincy, supported by Kat Whiteaway in a Vice-Captain position. Both Amanda and Kat are excited to lead the team to yet more success, hoping for a hat trick this summer in Eastbourne, 3 National titles in a row.

We wish them every success for the future and they know there is a large back up team of supporters ready to help should they need it.

GO HERTS!

Janet Corrie

Supporting Ukrainian Tennis



Welwyn LTC is once again taking the lead by offering free membership to any Ukrainian refugees settling in their area and has asked the county to get behind their exciting initiative by part funding new rackets for the children of the first of their new special guests.

We were of course absolutely delighted to and are now keen to roll the offer of similar financial support out to the rest of the county. If your venue would like to get involved, please do get in touch with us at hertstennis@gmail.com. We would also love to hear your stories of how you are looking to help.

A big thank you to everybody at Welwyn LTC for leading the way on this heartwarming initiative. We are proud to say that Hertfordshire is 100% behind our friends from Ukraine.

Herts Tennis Junior Performance Headlines

County Team Results for January – April 2022

Herts Junior County teams have been busy competing in the early months of 2022 and we have seen fantastic performances and teamwork from all involved.

County Cup - Results:

Girls 18U Division 1 = 3rd place

Boys 18U Division 2 = 2nd place

Girls 8U = 2nd place

Boys 8U = 1st place

Girls & Boys 9U – Both teams qualified for the County Cup “South Zone” finals in Bath where the girls claimed 3rd place and boys 5th

Boys 14U Qualifying = 3rd Place

Girls 14U Qualifying = 2nd Place

12 Counties Trophy: October 2021 through to April 2022

We had strong performances across the age groups to finish as runners-up in division 1 just behind Essex.

10Us Boys = 3rd Place, Girls = 3rd Place

12Us Boys = 1st Place, Girls = 2nd Place

14Us Boys = 2nd Place, Girls = 1st Place

16Us Boys = 3rd Place, Girls = 1st Place

18Us Boys = 2nd Place, Girls = 1st Place

We have secured a place in the top division for next season.

Lionel Cox Trophy – April 30th – May 1st

After a two year break it was great to see the Lionel Cox event back in the calendar. Our 9U, 10U and 12U teams had a fantastic weekend of competition with great support from players families, captains and Herts coaches.

9U Boys = 3rd Place, Girls = 1st Place

10U Boys = 7th Place, Girls = 2nd Place

12U Boys = 1st Place, Girls = 5th Place

With the results from all age groups tallied **Herts finished as very respectable runners-up.**

Next junior teams in action are:

10U County Cup – May

11U County Cup – June

8U Inter-County Cup – June

The Herts Inspires My Tennis Future Programme



Launched in early 2021 and in the first 12 months we have seen over 20 young tennis players sign-up and enjoy a range of activities including on-court training sessions, work experiences, career & university workshops, discounted LTA coach qualification courses and opportunities to be involved in numerous Herts Tennis events. The programme is for Hertfordshire's most dedicated and enthusiastic tennis players and strengthens the tennis pathway for juniors in year 10 & above.

The programme provides a variety of activities designed to provide tennis experiences, raise playing levels, recognise commitment and develop a range of transferable life-skills while ultimately keeping our young players involved in tennis for the longer-term.

We have been extremely pleased with the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all involved so far and the feedback from both parents and players has been extremely positive. We have an exciting programme of activities planned throughout 2022 – 2023 and we are keen to welcome new recruits.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact teresa.lilley@ntlworld.com or visit [Herts Inspires my Tennis Future](#)

Janet Corrie & Teresa Lilley

Herts LTA have created the Herts Tennis Foundation. (HTF)



The HTF exists to welcome everyone who is not already a member of a club into the sport we love, especially those whose physical and mental health can be improved through holding a bat and hitting a ball.

Phil Martin will lead on the working with the coaches, the council, local foundations and charities to create opportunities and programmes. Marion Stevenson will be assisting HTF secure funds to grow our impact, Carole will be liaising with the club committees and Bridie will be ensuring that our activities dovetail with the LTA initiatives.

HTF are creating opportunities in schools, colleges, parks, clubs and venues, in fact anywhere where people can play. Once we have created opportunities for them to play, we are building pathways onto the courts and into the programmes at our 82 venues.

Partnerships are in place. Funding has been secured. We now need clubs and coaches.

Please contact Carole at hertstennis@gmail.com

- If you are coach that has a level 2,3,4 or 5 qualification and have an hour or more a week or month and would like to earn money to grow the game we love
- If your club would be interested in creating more opportunities for everyone to have more fun and meet more people whilst hitting a ball.

Matt Willcocks

Tennis Opened Up



In March 2019, the LTA launched a new vision for our sport: 'Tennis Opened Up'. The aim for tennis to be Relevant, Accessible, Welcoming and Enjoyable **for everyone** and so it is a vision with inclusion at its core.

We want to work with our venues to enable and drive everybody in tennis to make the choice to be inclusive every day and we also want the diversity of everyone involved in tennis to reflect the diversity of the communities in the county. By focusing on inclusion, we are recognising that everyone is an individual and everyone is different, no matter what background they come from or what characteristics they share.

I lead on the sub committee for Diversity and Inclusion in Hertfordshire and I am delighted to be supported by Anjan Chowdhury from Moor Park Tennis Club where they are doing some fantastic work in this area. We want to raise the profile of diversity and inclusion across all our venues and would invite you and your committees to consider how inclusive your venue currently is and what you could further do to increase diversity and open tennis up. Any thoughts or feedback can be sent through to hertstennis@gmail.com and we would be delighted to meet with you to support you should you find this beneficial, just let us know! Also, if anyone would like to join Anjan and me in supporting this important work we would love to hear from you!

Carole Draper, Community & Office Manager, Diversity & Inclusion Lead

Safeguarding Update

It was great to see so many Welfare Officers (WOs) attending the recent Venue Forum which was designed to raise the safeguarding profile. It is clear that more engagement would be welcomed and we plan to hold a dedicated forum later in the year for WO's, Chairpersons and other key committee members to attend.

We are delighted that Clare Smith, WO Orchard and Kamlesh Vara, WO Moor Park have volunteered to join our Herts Tennis Safeguarding Sub-Committee and their input will be invaluable in moving our planned communication and engagement forward in this important area.

If you have any safeguarding issues you would like to see included in either future Herts Tennis bulletins or WO forums, please do not hesitate to let me or Carole know.

Our grateful thanks to Alan Hodges, Regional Safeguarding Officer, for all his excellent support to the County over the last few years. We wish him well in his new ventures and look forward to welcoming Melissa Miller into the role in June, when the Venue Safeguarding Support Visiting Programme will start up again. I am always pleased to support you in your preparation for these visits and now Government Covid restrictions are lifted, will attend as many as possible.

Herts Tennis were audited in January this year through a very similar visiting process and we are proud to have been awarded the highest rating of 'Very Good'. Our sincere thanks to all our venues and your WO's for the sterling work you do in promoting and upholding the safeguarding standards that contribute towards a safe and inclusive and environment for all to play tennis.

You may find helpful general advice and guidance on our Herts Tennis website by accessing the Safeguarding Page [Herts Tennis Safeguarding](#) and are welcome to contact me, as your County Safeguarding Officer, on my dedicated email address csohertfordshire@gmail.com where I will always revert very quickly.

However, where there is a concern about abuse/disclosure from a child or adult at risk, (unless someone is in immediate danger or risk of harm, in which case the police should be called on 999), please follow the Safeguarding Report Procedure:

- Contact the LTA Safeguarding Team on safeguarding@lta.org.uk;
- complete the Online Concern Form <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk>; and
- inform the County Safeguarding Officer on csohertfordshire@gmail.com

If you are unable to contact/feel uncomfortable contacting the LTA Safeguarding Team/CSO, you may contact the Local Authority Designated Officer through Children's Services on 03001234043 or Adult Services on 0300 123 4042 or the NSPCC on 0800 500 5000.

Tessa Terry, County Safeguarding Officer