



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

ISSUE 4

JUNE 2023

Top stories in this bulletin



Herts Tennis Awards Dinner



Herts winners at the Regional Awards



Moor Park Centenary



Welcome to the second Herts Bulletin of 2023. If you missed the first one you can find it here <https://bit.ly/HertsTennisBulletinMarch2023>

The Bulletin is your communication, so please do continue to let us have ideas on what you'd like to hear about and we'll cover it in a future edition. You can do that by emailing us at hertstennis@gmail.com. We're still not being swamped with requests so if you do, let's just say you'll have a pretty decent chance of seeing 'your piece' next time around. It's a communication that is aimed at the wonderful volunteers we have in the County, but we know from feedback that it doesn't reach anything like as many as we'd want. If you are somebody who receives it directly, you would be helping us enormously if you could share it with as many volunteers as you can at your venue. Thank you!

What's on the Menu this time around? Actually, it's more of an all you can eat buffet. We'll be looking at our recent Awards Evening and some of the amazing people you nominated for recognition. There's a focus on the brilliant Turnaround Tennis project, which our friends from HACRO are currently running at Bovingdon (and looking to spread their wings to other interested venues - all offers very gratefully accepted!).

We'll have glances at the reopening of a fabulous park site in Stevenage and a Muslim Community Family Fun Day at Watford FC's stadium, plus there's news on the EGM we held earlier this week and the delights of last weekend's Centenary Tennis event at wonderful Moor Park. And that's not all, I hope you're hungry!

I wish all we had to bring you was good news but it's been a terrible few months for having to say goodbye to members of the Herts family. Sadly, in that time we have lost two wonderful stalwarts of Herts Tennis over many years - former Vice Presidents, Ann Turner and Eric West – and we were devastated to learn of the tragic passing of lovely Wayne McDonald, who I'm sure a lot of you will know through his time coaching at Croxley, Cassiobury, Sarratt and most recently, Rickmansworth. They will never be forgotten and our thoughts are with all of their families and many friends.

Before I leave you to tuck in, the regular readers amongst you will appreciate me finally being able to persuade some of my colleagues on the Management Committee to join me in a photo shoot. Well, five of the eight anyway. From left to right you have terrific Tessa Terry, me, cracking Carole Draper, brilliant Bridie Amos, high-class Helen Elliott and sensational Stuart Foster. The three I've not yet managed to snag, Martin and Janet Corrie (Portugal) and Matt Willcocks (Cornwall), had tame excuses for not making the shoot but don't worry..... I'll get them!

Lee Evans

Dates for your diary

- Come and support the Herts Men's and Ladies County teams as they defend their National titles at the LTA's County Cup event at Eastbourne's Devonshire Park, 24th to 28th July
- Herts County Champs, 20th to 26th August, closing date for entries 6th August.
- Venue Forum at Welwyn LTC, 7pm on Wednesday 27th September.
- Welfare Officer Networking Event at Elliswick LTC in September, date to be confirmed.
- Tennis Volunteer Community:
 - Virtual Coffee Session, 6th September, 2-3pm and 7-8pm
 - Nottingham live event, 9th September, 11am-4pm
 - 'Pride' for clubs and venues, 12th September, 2pm and 7pm
 - Roehampton live event, 30th September, 10.30am-4pm

For more information on all of the Tennis Volunteer Community events and to register, contact Simon Spalter at tennis@eceltd.co.uk

2023 Venue Forum: Over to you!

We are delighted that Welwyn LTC has agreed to host this year's Venue Forum on 27th September. Although the date has been set, the agenda is up for grabs and we'd like your help in setting that please.

What would you like to discuss or hear about? Please let us know at hertstennis@gmail.com.

EGM goes according to plan

In the March Bulletin we told you about some governance changes that were needed in order to safeguard the Association and its membership and to allow for future development and growth. The Bulletin also told of the plan to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to secure agreement to make those changes. For a more detailed refresher, please see: <https://bit.ly/HertsTennisBulletinMarch2023>

We're very pleased to report that the proposed changes were unanimously agreed at this week's EGM and are extremely grateful to those in attendance for their support.

Moor Park celebrates 100 Years

Moor Park Golf and Tennis Club are celebrating their centenary year. Their big tennis event was held on the glorious grass courts in front of the 'clubhouse' on the 24th June. The hot day started with a fun social tournament for forty members and guests, many of whom sported dress from any era over the past 100 years. There was also a mini tennis tournament for the juniors and fun tennis challenges for all.

In the afternoon John Feaver, Dom Ingot and Paul French graced the courts giving members many tips on how to be even better tennis players.

The day concluded with a fabulous BBQ and live band for 200 members and guests.



Bjorn Borg Buckman and Suzanne Lenglen Buckman set the tone of the day!



Dress from the past and present



Dom Ingot with a few hangers on

Get Set 4 Tennis open day at Maple Cross

Get Set 4 Tennis CIC are delighted to have a brand new facility to be able to utilise both on and off court.

"We have three brand new floodlit tennis courts which will enable us to open up our courts further. We will be offering our usual range of inclusive lessons but in addition there will be walking tennis, a community family group, tots tennis and social prescribing groups to name just a few.

We will also be opening our clubhouse doors for our community to use as a warm safe space as well as offering a range of clubs such as Lego, art and craft and a specially designed SEND club.

We have a busy summer coming up with a crowdfunding week in July before our camps start at the end of the month with free places being offered through the HAPpy Camp scheme."

Get Set 4 Tennis held an open day on the 17th of June and had a fantastic turnout. With both indoor and outdoor activities available, the visitors had a really enjoyable day.



Outdoor and indoor activities were enjoyed by all

Re-opening of Shephalbury Park tennis courts in Stevenage

The tennis courts in Shephalbury Park in Stevenage were reopened in May following extensive work which should ensure they are viable for years to come. The courts have been completely resurfaced and painted, with repairs made to the fencing and a new gate installed to enable online bookings.

The improvements have been made as part of a nationwide programme of investment, refurbishing tennis courts that have deteriorated in recent times. Over 2,000 courts are receiving investment across the UK, with renovations managed and funded by the LTA and the Government. Hopefully there are several benefitting near you.

I was delighted to join our good friend, Leo Tutt of the LTA, for the reopening and it was fantastic to see so many local residents interested which, I was amazed to see, included some of the County's most promising juniors!



Stevenage's deputy Mayor, Cllr Myla Arceno, herself a very keen tennis player, opens the new look courts



A good crowd enjoyed the court opening event

Tennis takes centre stage at Watford FC

In May, Watford's Muslim Youth Community hosted their annual Family Fun day at Watford FC's Vicarage Road stadium. The event was aimed at encouraging the local Muslim community to be more physically active and was seen as a great opportunity of opening up and showcasing our sport to a new audience. And yes, tennis was played on the hallowed turf for the very first time!

The event was a tremendous success, with more than 500 families enjoying the day and a lot of younger family members in particular trying out tennis for the first time.

We were extremely fortunate to have the amazing support of Amran Malik, the CEO and Founder of STREETS and Alia Ali, the lead for the Luton Women & Girls SERVES Hub (pictured together below), who ran the taster sessions for us.

The success of taking tennis to the community in this way will hopefully now act as a catalyst for establishing some SERVES activity in the Watford area.



Honesty – Excellence – Resilience – Teamwork – Sportsmanship

Herts Tennis Awards

In April we were delighted to welcome our LTA County Award Winners and their guests to join us in celebrating their wonderful achievements through 2022. We also presented our County Player, Herts League and Harris Cup winner awards at a lovely dinner hosted at Harpenden Golf Club.

Amongst the very deserving winners we presented Jeff Wayne with our President's Award for his outstanding service as Men's County Team Captain, a position he has held and achieved so much with over an amazing 35 years, bringing the team from the relative depths of Division 4 to the Championship heights of Division 1 and winning us the national title no less than 7 times out of the last 17 years (summer) and 8 times (winter). It is unlikely we will ever see a captain like him again and we feel incredibly privileged to have had him in our team and for so long. Our heartfelt thanks, Jeff, for all you have done for Herts Tennis.

We were also delighted that two of our County Stage LTA Award winners went on to win the Regional title and are now in contention for the National Awards. These are HACRO (Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders) in the Connecting Communities category and Simon Spalter in the Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year category. A huge well done and the very best of luck going forward, we have everything crossed for you!

You can see a full list of winners here: <https://bit.ly/HertsTennisAnnualAwardsDinner2023>



2023 Award Winners



President's Award winner, Jeff Wayne

Honesty – Excellence – Resilience – Teamwork – Sportsmanship

HACRO looks to turn lives around with the help of tennis

We were absolutely delighted to award this year's Connecting Communities LTA County Award to the hugely inspirational people from HACRO.

In late 2022, HACRO began a pilot project at Bovington and Flaunden Tennis Club where, in partnership with Herts police, the club put on a weekly tennis session for ex-offenders as part of their rehabilitation into the community.

Once witnessed, it's impossible not to be touched by the potential life changing experience the tennis sessions at Bovington and the friendliness being shown by those involved offers these ex-offenders, who have had such a hard life and are desperately trying not to return to crime and instead turn their lives around.

The project, although in its infancy, has already had a dramatic impact on people who have been lucky enough to meet with those involved.

It also clearly had an impact on the panel who decided on the next level of the LTA Awards, because HACRO were recently announced as the Regional Connecting Communities Award winners. Next up is a shot at the National Award so watch this space!

The successful pilot has provided a blueprint for a wider rollout which is being developed in conjunction with Herts Tennis and the LTA. The hope is that HACRO can support the LTA in rolling out the project to other counties beyond Hertfordshire, but for now we are looking for other clubs within the county who may be keen to get involved.

Could your club help by opening up its courts? If you have some day time capacity during the week we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch at hertstennis@gmail.com or on 07963 660486 (Lee).

HACRO participants are very keen to undertake community projects at the clubs involved in the programme (or indeed at other clubs) as a way of giving back to the clubs and tennis more widely.



Jacqui and Tony from HACRO receiving the Connecting Communities Award from LTA President, Sandi Proctor

Fellow Regional LTA Award winner

In the same vein, huge congratulations to Simon Spalter, who was recently unveiled as the winner of the Volunteer of the Year category at the Regional level. Again, hugely deserved and we wish Simon the very best of luck when the National Awards are announced in July.

Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year Award winner, Simon Spalter



Supporting Tennis in Schools

Since the last bulletin, through the Herts Tennis Foundation (HTF) and Herts Schools LTA, we have been involved in supporting lots of events in schools, helping hundreds of kids to access tennis, take their first steps in competition and thoroughly enjoy building their skills or representing their school.

Back in early May (when it was still cold and wet!) Queenswood School hosted the National Girls Schools Doubles tournament. This event, which has been running for over 100 years, saw over 80 girls from the South East and as far afield as Warwick, competing in 14U, 16U and 19U doubles events. Volunteers Bridie Amos and Tom Dyball worked alongside referee Jaimie Broomfield for the one day tournament where the eventual winners were Queenswood, Wycombe House and Sevenoaks. We'd love to encourage many more schools to enter – next year's event is on Saturday 11th May 2024 so if you know of any schools who would be interested in fielding a team please do get in touch at hertstennis@gmail.com.

Staying with the secondary age group the Herts Schools LTA have been running a programme of events across the county which wrap around LTA Youth Schools structure. One of these events for years 8, 9 and 10, the Nicola Mabbitt Trophy for less experienced players, was held at Queenswood on 28th June. Boys and girls competed in 6 areas to win through to the county finals and a fantastic afternoon of tennis was had by all. Thanks to the Herts Schools LTA team of Pam Burrage, Pam Hall and Penny Kent and to the organisers in all the area events.

Tennis has been buzzing in the primary sector too with red, orange and green ball events run by the Herts Schools LTA starting in May and running until early July. Additionally tennis has been represented at the Herts School Games and the 'Tennis Compete' event for year 3 and 4 pupils was held on 27th June at Welwyn LTC. This was a great collaboration between the Herts School Games Organisers (SGOs) and the HTF, with schools winning through their area to compete in county finals. Over 40 players took part and tennis leaders from Richard Hale School's Sports Leaders program worked hard to umpire and keep control of some very competitive mini red matches! Very many thanks to Welwyn for hosting brilliantly on their mini courts, to the HTF team of Phil Martin, Marion Stephenson, Carole Draper and Bridie Amos, and to the SGO team led expertly by Tanya Angus.

But it's not only competition. Just as importantly The HTF team led by Phil Martin has also been supporting the SGO network in Hertfordshire using funding from the LTA Open Court program to open up tennis to SEND children, running events at Gosling and Batchwood where SEND children work together alongside classmate buddies getting active and enjoying tennis activities. Tennis leaders from St Albans Girls School were brilliant in helping the younger kids tackle the activities, building their confidence and skills.

If you know of a school wanting to get more involved in tennis then please do contact the HTF team via playyourwayherts@gmail.com or visit the Herts Schools LTA webpage for details of all the schools competitions they run via our website at <https://hertstennis.co.uk/hslta/>



Fabulous National Girls Schools trophies waiting to be won



SEND activities all set up and ready to go



Nicola Mabbit Finals at Queenswood

Honesty – Excellence – Resilience – Teamwork – Sportsmanship

Safeguarding and Welfare Officer Update

The LTA have improved their communications with Welfare Officers who will receive regular updates provided they have accepted marketing preferences. The first of these newsletters was distributed in April.

The Safeguarding Strategy is currently under review and County Safeguarding Officers have already had the opportunity to provide input. Welfare Officers will also be asked to complete a short survey and it is clear that there are plans underway to further recognise the importance of the role and provide additional support.

In place of a National Safeguarding Conference this year, there will be a Safeguarding Awareness Week during the first week in October with the opportunity to sign up to a number of invaluable workshops running during the day and evening on subjects to include: a safeguarding case study; venue safeguarding support visits, risk assessment process and a new interactive and immersive training experience called Izze's Story. This has been developed by the University of Kent in conjunction with the LTA, volunteers, coaches and young people and examines the dynamics of grooming and sexual abuse. Completing this will add one year to your existing basic safeguarding training. There will also be an update on the Young Person's Welfare Ambassadors Pilot which Harpenden's Jessie Hosking is involved in.

A number of venues have recently been visited by Melissa Miller, the Regional Safeguarding Officer and all have found this invaluable in moving the safeguarding agenda forward. Several unattended visits have also taken place and Tessa Terry, our County Safeguarding Officer is always available to help venues understand the self assessment process.

We have piloted a couple of daytime Welfare Officer Networking Events in June and our grateful thanks to Welwyn and Moor Park for hosting. The next session will be an evening in September in response to your feedback; our thanks to Elliswick for offering to host and as we expect places to be limited, invites will be issued shortly and more offers to host are welcomed!

These events are proving to be an excellent way of discussing and sharing common issues in a safe space, 'It was so helpful and enjoyable meeting up with other WOs ... We had a really productive session which just went its own way ... everyone was so comfortable to share experiences and queries .. I thoroughly recommend the sessions!'

Our plan is to develop a network of local 'Clusters' that will continue the initiative with the support of the CSO and establish local WhatsApp groups, again under the coordination of the CSO so that there is safeguarding 'Expert' always on call.

Useful references:

safeguarding@lta.org.uk; csohertfordshire@gmail.com;

<https://bit.ly/HertsTennisSafeguarding>; <https://lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding-protection>

<https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-week>