



HERTS TENNIS

The Queens of Herts Reign Supreme



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HERTS TENNIS

Issue 17 February 2024

# Herts Tennis 200 Club

## Winners 2022 - 2023

OCTOBER 2022		
£40	19	Greenwood Park TC
£30	3	Mrs J Allnutt
£20	233	Mr I Duncan
£10	188	Mr M Bowler
£10	292	Mr M Knee
NOVEMBER 2022		
£40	107	Mr J Hicklin
£30	60	Mr J Hicklin
£20	45	Mr B Dixon
£10	117	Mrs D Gaffney
£10	199	Mr M Bowler
DECEMBER 2022		
£40	16	Mr J Banham
£30	90	Mr P A Cartmell
£20	202	Mrs S Vallance
£10	231	Mr I Duncan
£10	101	Mrs C A Morris
JANUARY 2023		
£40	102	Mrs E Taylor
£30	62	Mr G Westwell
£20	47	Codicote TC
£10	75	Mr L Rapa
£10	49	Mrs S Howgego
FEBRUARY 2023		
£100	263	Mr P G Bart
£40	221	Mrs A Allard
£30	107	Mr J Hicklin
£20	198	Mr M Bowler
£10	85	Mr M Knee
£10	33	Codicote TC
MARCH 2023		
£40	60	Mr J Hicklin
£30	6	Mr B Havill
£20	266	Mr A Sheridan
£10	178	Mr N Aves
£10	36	Mr I Duncan
APRIL 2023		
£40	39	Mr C H Grigg
£30	9	Mrs P B Ayres
£20	298	Mr G Westwell
£10	77	Mrs D Gaffney
£10	72	Mr M Knee
MAY 2023		
£40	143	Mr A W Tindale
£30	148	Mr M A Jones
£20	268	Mr A Sheridan
£10	17	Mr R Mace
£10	3	Mrs J Allnutt
JUNE 2023		
£40	113	Mr G W Lamb
£30	89	Mr P A Cartmell
£20	96	Codicote TC
£10	56	Mr M Knee
£10	60	Mr J Hicklin

JULY 2023		
£40	143	Mr A W Tindale
£30	244	Mr A Sheridan
£20	233	Mr I Duncan
£10	24	Mr G Westwell
£10	267	Mr A Sheridan
AUGUST 2023		
£100	274	Mrs B M Hayward
£40	208	Codicote TC
£30	24	Mr G Westwell
£20	35	Codicote TC
£10	206	Mr M Bowler
£10	177	Mrs J L Thomas
SEPTEMBER 2023		
£40	5	Mrs C Ayling
£30	27	Mrs J Cox
£20	274	Mrs B M Hayward
£10	220	Mrs A Allard
£10	86	Mrs P Hall
OCTOBER 2023		
£40	86	Mr M Knee
£30	208	Mr M Knee
£20	75	Mr L Rapa
£10	196	Mr N Lockett
£10	138	Codicote TC
NOVEMBER 2023		
£40	218	Mrs A Allard
£30	45	Mr B Dixon
£20	163	Mrs E Mann
£10	99	Elstree TC
£10	189	Mrs C Herbert
DECEMBER 2023		
£40	86	Mrs P Hall
£30	208	Codicote TC
£20	1	Mr G Masterton
£10	196	Mrs D L Walker
£10	138	Mr A Sheridan

The County runs a 200 Club to increase the funds available to support tennis at both junior and senior level. The 200 Club is open to all members of affiliated (registered) bodies and to individuals that are interested in supporting the aims of the county.

To join the 200 Club and be entered into the monthly prize draw each member pays a subscription of £1 per month or £12 per year which is payable by standing order. A member may increase their chances of winning by holding more shares at £1 per month per share. Each month a draw takes place for prizes of £40, £30, £20, £10, £10. Twice per year there is an additional prize of £100.

To apply, the form can be downloaded from our website at <https://bit.ly/HertsTennis200ClubStandingorder> and returned to us at [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com).

### HERTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Lee Evans	President
Helen Elliott	Honorary Secretary
Martin Corrie	Treasurer, past LTA President
Bridie Amos	LTA Councillor, Development
Janet Corrie	Performance
Carole Draper	Office and Community Manager
Stuart Foster	Community
Tessa Terry	County Safeguarding Officer
Matt Willcocks	Participation

### Front cover photos:

The Lionel Cox team.

8U Mini Red East Region Inter-County team.

The Ladies Summer County Cup team.

### A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARTNERS OF HERTS LTA AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS

CJS Consultants	Debbie Simmons
ICAP PLC	John Livock
AVN Solutions	StoneX
Titan Wealth Management	Electro Tech Installations
Jonathan Lewis	

And to the variety of other companies and organisations who generously support tennis in Hertfordshire in different ways.



## President's Report

**I'm writing this report at the beginning of the New Year, which is not the normal time of the year for getting down to a contribution for our Annual Newsletter. There's nothing particularly striking about that, although it does hint that there's a change happening. Plus it gives me a chance to share my New Year's resolution with you.....to play more tennis!**

Why would I want to? Well, bear with me, but there is a (somewhat dubious) link. For those of you who have been keeping up to speed with goings-on within Herts Tennis, the change I am referring to is to the status of the county association. On 1st January we became incorporated and overnight went from being Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association, as we were formally (and formerly) known, to Hertfordshire LTA Ltd, a company limited by guarantee.

Now you're probably thinking that's hardly a massive change and in one way you would be right. However, believe me there is an awful lot that goes into making that change and particularly in doing it in a way that safeguards the Association and you, our members.

The change is just one of a suite of improvements connected with good governance which the management team has been progressing with guidance from the LTA. Some areas have involved tweaks, but others a major overhaul as we look to develop the game so that it continues to be enjoyable, safe and welcoming for everybody, which is why we are so lucky to have such exceptional people volunteering on our Management Committee and I'd like to begin by paying tribute to my colleagues, Bridie Amos, Carole Draper, Helen Elliott, Janet and Martin Corrie, Matt Willcocks, Stuart Foster and Tessa Terry, for taking us through things as painlessly as possible. Thank you, guys!

In case any of you had any doubts about the quality of my colleagues, you need look no further than the LTA, which has just taken one on as a Board Member and the ITF, which has just voted another as an Honorary Life Councillor! Huge congratulations to Bridie on her prestigious new role with the LTA and to Martin, on what is a huge honour in recognition of his contribution to international tennis affairs over so many years.

I won't lie, the governance work has been a little draining though and at times you start to question whether you are volunteering for a tennis organisation after all or instead are perhaps some form of Civil Servant and it's just a coincidence that you occasionally get to hold a racket in your hands!

There you go, that was the link. Even though I've not been a major player in the transformative work, it has nonetheless led to me playing even less tennis than I was playing beforehand....which is saying something!

These seemingly non tennis-related tasks are not exclusive to the county team of course and we are only too aware that it's been taking up an awful lot of your

time at venues as well. This is just one of the many reasons why we are so grateful to our many volunteers county-wide for everything that you do.

Everywhere I look around the county there are examples of truly incredible people. From the seemingly invincible Jeff Wayne, whose staggering achievements as our Men's captain have cemented his place in Herts folklore, to the evergreen Sue Wolstenholme, who it's been a pleasure to witness dealing so calmly with the drastic and at times chaotic changes to the Wimbledon ticketing process on our behalf, to Jamie and Maria Broomfield, who we're so lucky to have beautifully orchestrating our annual County Championships, to Rickmansworth's Mark O'Brien, whose



Mark O'Brien with his children

determination to break the World Record in a swim to raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease astounded us all, to Amran Malik (Streets) and Alia Ali (Serves), whose passion to take tennis to a brand new audience - Watford's Muslim community - was so evident on the unusual setting of the football pitch at Vicarage Road, to the humbling experience of watching Jacqui, Tony and the HACRO team turning the lives of ex-offenders round with the help of tennis.

Last year we recognised the wonderful contributions that Jeff, Jacqui, Tony and a number of other amazing people have been making to tennis in the county at an Awards evening in April (see pages 16-17). These events give us a golden opportunity to say thank you to members of the Herts family, young and old, our clubs and schools, coaches, officials and more for their contributions as well as a chance to recognise some outstanding achievements.

Please do make an effort to recognise these unsung heroes. You can do that locally of course but you can also nominate under the LTA's annual Awards scheme. The county would like to say thank you too but for that to happen, we need to hear about them! If you have put a nomination in under the recent scheme, thank you. We will be looking at the nominations that were made and announcing the winners shortly.

My colleagues and I have been given some incredibly warm welcomes on our visits by a number (not to mention a real variety) of our brilliant venues, including Elliswick, Rickmansworth, Townsend, Moor Park,

# President's Report



Jacqui and Tony from HACRO pictured with Sandi Procter

Bovingdon, Orchard and Dellcott, as well as at Shephalbury Park and the park at Maple Cross. There have been so many examples that I wish I could go on, but I had better draw a temporary line there... particularly with one eye on filling future newsletter reports!

Would you like to get involved in some way with the county scene? Some of you have already shown interest and we're extremely grateful for your patience while we get our house in order so we can seriously begin to show you what's involved and what's possible. The short answer though is... anything!

By the time you read this I'm hoping that we'll be fully up and running so that when any of you want to consider getting involved we can signpost you to what might be involved if you were to dip your toes in the water. That will become all the more important as a number of our longer serving stalwarts will be taking a thoroughly deserved rest from voluntary service over the next couple of years.

Without wishing to steal the thunder of our contributors, I must mention a few of the tennis highlights from the last year, because on the court we continue to be blessed. Our trailblazing Ladies team has now won an incredible four successive National Summer County Cup titles, while our Men finished runners-up in what was the last year of Jeff Wayne's unbelievable tenure as captain.

I've said it before but the tennis served up at County Week is of an amazing standard so why not join the seasoned bunch of Herts supporters who journey to Eastbourne every July to cheer on the teams. The support definitely makes a difference and I know that if you do get a taste, like me you will want to venture that way year after year, it's that good.

Or if you prefer your tennis indoors, the Winter County Cup in the last weekend in November is the place to be. This year, under new stewardship for the first time since the late 1980s, our Men managed to gain promotion back

to the top division, while our Ladies were desperately unlucky not to join them.

These results combined with those of our fantastic junior and O35's teams during the year saw us hit the dizzy heights of 3rd place in the overall National County Cup race, a staggering performance when you consider the giants we're up against. Huge congratulations to everybody who played their part in that feat.

Our 9U, 10U and 12U teams also turned in some fantastic performances at the regional Lionel Cox tournament in April, finishing as impressive runners-up against some very tough opposition.

The wonderful Ivan Rodriguez-Deb triumphed once again at the National Championships for Visually Impaired players in November, meaning that he is undefeated at the National Finals since 2019.

The 75th Herts League titles were won by St Albans' Ladies and Welwyn's Men, while Rickmansworth's Men and Townsend's Ladies lifted the coveted Harris Cups in front of a large, boisterous crowd at Townsend in the club's centenary year.

Our Herts Tennis Foundation, which covers our community outreach, Open Court and Schools work and which is overseen by, amongst others, the brilliant Phil Martin and Marion Stevenson, continues to thrive at venues which are keen to work with us to open tennis up to their local community and attract and welcome new or lapsed players to their clubs. If your venue is not involved yet and you want to find out more, we'd love to hear from you. Contact the county office where you'll get all the support you need.

The county office, or indeed the website, is also the place to go for details of the easy access funding scheme of interest free loans and small grants which we are delighted to offer to eligible venues.

Our close work with the county's schools network and our continued efforts in this area have once again led to the county being recognised as one of the very best counties for teachers being trained in the LTA Youth Schools programme. We also provide exceptional support in respect of school/club links which ensures young players are retained and encouraged to play at local clubs as well as their schools. Our team again played a major role at the County Sports Partnership's annual PE Conference - which is often where links are developed with teachers and PE leads, who are then hugely instrumental in giving many children their first experience of playing tennis - and in supporting the Hertfordshire Schools Games Organisers with the School Games Finals. We are extremely lucky to have such a fantastic team and to work with such fantastic people, led by the wonderful Pam Burrage. It undoubtedly makes a huge difference in this key area.

Our team has once again co-hosted a number of Coach Forums and Female Workforce networking events as well as supported our brilliant Herts Tennis Coaches Forum group, overseen beautifully by Alison Allard, in running

excellent coach education courses.

I continue to be so impressed with the young people I have seen on our Futures programme, which looks to give juniors in Year 10 and above experiences of all aspects of the game. A number of them give up their time to help out at the County Championships and what always shines through is how they embrace the values the county holds dear. A huge amount of the credit for that is due to our fantastic Performance Manager, Teresa Lilley.

Although tennis is undoubtedly still the house speciality in Herts, the menu is getting more varied by the day. This promises to be a really big year for Padel and Pickleball, both of which are really starting to take off and if you love your tennis but like me could do with it being played at a gentler pace these days, keep your eyes peeled for Walking Tennis.

I want to finish by thanking all of you who make tennis in Hertfordshire so enjoyable and welcoming, from my aforementioned colleagues on the Management Committee who play such an important role in developing all aspects of tennis in the county, to everybody who sits on one of our sub-committees for their brilliant unwavering support, to all of the wonderful people out there – too often unsung heroes - who are doing such great things. Thank you.

Right, it's high time I left you to enjoy the Newsletter in the extremely capable hands of our editor in chief, Sharon and all of our wonderful contributors. I'm off to play tennis!

**Lee Evans**

## People and Clubs

### Herts Open Court/ Disability Review 2023

**The Hertfordshire Open Court Programme has had its most successful year since it was started in 2012. There has been great work done across counties with clubs that are part of a growing network and it was confirmed that Hertfordshire is the county with the highest disabled participation in the country.**

The county's network now has 16 clubs and tennis deliverers which has allowed over 1000 participants to play and be active through tennis each month. We are looking to work with and support new clubs that would like to join the network and have an even further impact.

Sessions are run at both club venues and at schools and community venues which allows flexibility and opens opportunities for many disabled participants in the county. We run sessions for learning disabled, physically impaired, visually impaired, hearing impaired, mental health and walking tennis participants. Examples of the partners we work with are The Inclusion project, Mencap, Parkinson's UK and Live A Little. We also are building links with SEN schools and mainstream schools with SEN provision to give as many children as possible a chance to access tennis and be active as early as possible.

As a county we are very fortunate to have support from the following funders:

- The LTA
- The Graham Rowlandson Foundation
- Dan Maskell Tennis Trust
- Give it Your Max
- Sport England Awards for All.

These are some of the successes across the county in 2023:

- Top county for disability participation 2023!!

- Walking tennis projects started in Bishops Stortford and Hoddesdon through Sport England funding with more to come in 2024!
- Inclusion festivals run at Batchwood and Gosling seeing 90+children all within Disability and School Meals remits.
- Batchwood, Get set 4 tennis and independent tennis providers increasing their schools delivery to SEND children via Give it Your Max funding.
- Hertfordshire's LD and VI LTA regional tournaments having 30 players for each event.
- Strong links with Oaklands College and a pathway from schools to college for students.
- Increased link with the Inclusion Project with multiple new sessions being run.

We are always looking to work with new clubs and venues and can offer both financial and admin support in setting up new sessions and links so please get in touch with us via Phil Martin, Carole Draper or Marion Stevenson at [PYWHerts@gmail.com](mailto:PYWHerts@gmail.com).

**Phil Martin**, Open Court Lead

### In Memoriam

**Sadly, we have said goodbye to several long-standing friends from the Herts Tennis family in the last year.**

**Andy Binstead**

**Tim Boughen**

**Wayne McDonald**

**Ann Turner**

**Eric West**

**They will never be forgotten and our thoughts and sympathies are with their families and friends.**



# People and Clubs

## Safeguarding Report

### 2023 Initiatives

Please use this link to see all that went on in 2023 on the LTA Safeguarding Agenda: <https://bit.ly/3vaUu65>  
This also includes links to all the initiatives summarised below:

The **Young Persons Welfare Ambassador (YPWA)** pilot was launched and our grateful thanks to Jessie Hosking at Harpenden for taking on this role on behalf of Herts Tennis.

**Safeguarding Awareness Week** replaced the one-day National Safeguarding Conference held in previous years and the session slides and recordings are still available on the LTA website.

'**Izzey's Story**' highlights the dangers for young people of grooming in a tennis environment and Welfare Officers (WOs) are still able to complete this and extend their safeguarding training refresher course by one year. A new process was implemented by the case working team to streamline investigations.

I was determined to improve the communication with and between Welfare Officers and have attended a number of venues by kind invitation to support you in raising safeguarding awareness. A number of networking events were also held and I thank Sandra Collins, WO Welwyn, Kamlesh Vara, WO Moor Park and Andree Haxton, WO Elliswick for hosting these successful pilot events.

### 2024 Plans

The LTA will be introducing a new course for parents attending competitions and revising safeguarding training for officials.

If you have or are planning to introduce Padel at your venue, please ensure the safeguarding standards are extended to these activities.

I plan to continue to engage with all our Welfare Officers and support them in achieving the minimum safeguarding standards, so if you would like to invite me to visit your venue with a view to preparing for your Venue Safeguarding visit or would like to host a WO networking event, please email me.

I know the WO role can be challenging at times, but you are not alone and I am always available and willing to discuss any concerns and issues that may arise.

Engaging with our younger players and raising awareness of the potential safeguarding risks remains a shared priority and if your venue is interested in appointing a YPWA under this new LTA initiative, please let me know and I will keep in touch with you concerning opportunities available.

**Tessa Terry**, County Safeguarding Officer

## Small Facilities Grant

**Herts Tennis has a number of grants available for small venues that are looking to refurbish and update facilities and equipment.**

Get Set 4 Tennis was able to benefit from a grant this year to refurbish their Maple Cross clubhouse. This has enabled them to open the doors to the community to use as a warm safe space and to offer a range of clubs such as Lego, art and craft and a specially designed SEND club.



## Moor Park Centenary

**Moor Park Golf and Tennis Club celebrated their centenary year in 2023. 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 Inglot 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.



[www.hertstennis.co.uk](http://www.hertstennis.co.uk)

## Herts Ladies Summer County Cup, Eastbourne

**This summer's county week was one of the strangest I have experienced in my county career due to the exceptionally bad weather. Despite travelling down to Eastbourne knowing that the forecast wasn't looking good, there was always the hope that the famous Eastbourne 'microclimate' might work its magic throughout the week and save us, but unfortunately this didn't turn out to be the case.**

**Day 1** saw us take on Surrey, and after a rain-delayed start and the decision to play all matches in the Fast 4 format, we managed to play one and a half rounds of matches before we had to stop for rain. This rain lasted quite a while, meaning play was postponed for the day with us 2-1 up but down in all 3 matches on court. When play resumed on Tuesday morning, both Georgie and Indi's and Emily's and my matches offered match points to both teams. Georgie and Indi secured a fantastic win 14-12 in the third set allowing us to go into the final round at 3-3. We then buckled down and clinched two of the three remaining rubbers to secure the win against a strong Surrey team 5-4.

**Day 2:** Our second match on Tuesday was against Hampshire & IOW, who we have had a number of tough matches against in recent years. Having already played one and a half matches that day, we gathered our belongings and moved location to the off-site courts for the next match where our team really locked in and secured a 7-2 victory. With the Fast 4 format literally every point counts, so to come through in such a dominant way was really encouraging.

**Day 3:** On Wednesday we took on newly promoted Nottinghamshire. At our captain's meeting that morning it was decided that we should try and get through as many matches that day as we could (with the hope of potentially getting in a round of the next match against Leicestershire), as the weather forecast for Thursday was looking particularly wet with not much chance of play. We stormed through Nottinghamshire 8-1 and then managed to play the first round of matches against Leicestershire where all three pairs came through with a win. We ended the day with one victory and 3-0 up in the next match.

**Day 4:** When I woke up on Thursday and saw the pouring rain, I realised what a good decision it had been to play as much as we could the day before. It was decided that we would not be playing any matches that day. With the better weather forecast for the next day and knowing that we could fit multiple matches into one day (having done so the whole week), we found ourselves with a day off - literally unheard of at County Week! So, we went to the cinema to watch

Oppenheimer (Barbie was fully booked!) and then had a lovely evening meal with the Herts Men's team.

**Day 5,** and we know that everything is in our hands - if we can claim victory against both Leicestershire and Northumberland we will be champions again. The first round of the day was played on wet Astro courts in the wind and rain, which was not the most enjoyable (probably an understatement) for both players and supporters. Luckily, we got through those matches and then got back on the grass for the rest of the day where we beat Leicestershire 8-1. With no hanging around, we got straight back on the courts against Northumberland knowing that we only needed 3 rubbers to secure victory. With the sun shining and our girls fully determined on the task in hand, Erin and Indi, Emily and I and Annabel and Georgie Walker all won our matches, with Erin and Indi winning 10-8 in the third to finish off the week with our fourth County Week trophy in a row!

As I said previously, this was one of the strangest and most memorable county weeks due to the terrible weather and the reduced scoring system, but our team were faultless throughout with both their tennis and attitudes and it



**2023 Herts Ladies - Summer County Cup Champions for the fourth time in a row!**

was a pleasure to be part of such a great group. Congratulations again to the whole team and thank you to all the wonderful Herts supporters who braved the elements and came down to support us. We go again in 2024!

**Team: Amanda Elliott (captain), Emily Arbuthnott, Georgie Axon, Annabel Davis, Jessica Matthews, Erin, Indi Spink, Georgie Walker, Kat Whiteaway.**

## Ladies Winter County Cup, Orpington

**We found ourselves back in Bromley for Winter County Cup 2023, after coming close to promotion last year (we narrowly lost out to Northumberland 5-4 on the second day). With this in mind, we were keen to secure promotion this time!**

**Day 1** saw us play Essex, and we got off to a fantastic start with Gabby, Sophia and Hannah all winning singles to give us a 3-0 lead. After 6 singles matches, we were 4-2 up



# Teams Reports

meaning we needed one more match win to secure victory. We actually managed to win all three doubles matches so we won the day 7-2. A confident start!

On **day 2** we were up against Nottinghamshire who had lost the previous day to Kent. Again, our juniors started the day strongly and got the momentum going, before our more experienced players Emily Arbuthnott and Georgie Axon finished off the job in the singles taking us to an unassailable 5-1 lead before the doubles even went on court. We won all three doubles to beat Nottinghamshire 8-1 and bring us to a final day showdown with Kent for promotion.

We knew coming into **the weekend** that Kent was going to be the team to beat in Bromley, so we were excited to take them on. After 6 great singles matches, we found ourselves 4-2 down going into the doubles. As always, we go into the doubles feeling confident, and I just had a feeling before stepping on to court that this was going to get very close and exciting! Sophia and Hannah secured a great win to start us off and take us to 3-4, which left Emily and me and Georgie Walker and Georgie Axon on court fighting for promotion. Emily and I came through a tight doubles to get us to 4-4, by which time the atmosphere in the tennis centre was getting quite loud - my feelings pre match were correct! Georgie and Georgie played a fantastic match, and everyone was gripped by the final set tiebreak which unfortunately they ended up losing 15-13 - it could not have been closer!

So, despite being one point away from promotion, our team came away from the Winter County Cup feeling proud of our performance and ready to go again next year. This is a fantastic event mixing juniors and seniors and it is an important step on the pathway of our Herts Ladies team progression. Well done to all team members and thank you for all your efforts in representing Hertfordshire!

**Amanda Elliott**, Ladies Captain

**Team: Amanda Elliott, Emily Arbuthnott, Georgie Axon, Sophia, Georgiana, Erin, Hannah, Gabby, Georgie Walker, Kat Whiteaway.**



[www.hertstennis.co.uk](http://www.hertstennis.co.uk)

## Herts Men's Summer County Cup 2023, Eastbourne

**I'd be fibbing if I didn't start this report - my last as Men's County Captain - with full transparency, that I've written a large part of it with a bit of a lump in my throat - as my reports over 35 years of Summer and Winter Cups have always been far more than statistical recaps, but private moments of reflection after the dust has long settled - recalling our players that without question gave everything to the Herts Men, and as the saying goes, left it all on the court, win, or lose, individually or as a team.**

As a Captain, I couldn't have ever asked for more, and our Supporters and County Execs having attended over the years, knew that too,

OK - the 'mushy' bit's done!



Last Summer's 2023 Group 1 Championships proved another nail-biter. But unlike in 2022 where our Men won the title by a rubber count of 2, this year we got pipped by Surrey by 3 rubbers, even though we achieved a comfortable win over them - demonstrating that the title isn't over until it's over, and all you have to do is look at the final Group 1 standings to prove that.

In all the years I've been responsible for the Herts Men, I couldn't recall a Summer Cup so disturbed by the weather. Always meant to be competed on grass, last Summer due to daily changing weather conditions we wound up playing more away from Devonshire Park than playing there, including at a David Lloyd indoor centre, and having to reduce the Best of 3-set competition to a Fast 4 Format, with certain counties having to play two matches on the same day - that's a big ask for any player.

But with the best of spirit, I was unaware of any resistance from the teams who simply accepted what we all knew - that the weather is King and we always have to accept its command.

Men's Group 1 - Eastbourne		
	W	R
Surrey	4	29
Hertfordshire	4	26
East of Scotland	2	23
Kent	2	21
Yorkshire	2	20
Suffolk	1	16





The Referees too came to the fore each day, calmly and professionally, with changing plans on most days.

And for dinner on Thursday, as in recent years, the Ladies, Men and Herts Execs enjoyed a dinner together, helping to set the tone for the final day's play.

The week saw our Herts Men face Suffolk, Kent, East of Scotland, Yorkshire and ultimate Champions Surrey.

Our only loss came on Day 2 to a Kent team who were on fire from the first ball, with that loss being the difference to a clean sweep for the week, and the loss of our title.

But it wasn't for lack of effort, and a very Special 'thank you' to: Neil Bamford, Neil Roskilly, Charlie Broom, Finn Bass, Ed Corrie, Oliver Tarvet, Dan Clegg, Ben Feltham and Lewis Evans for their outstanding efforts and excellent results: no matter the pairings for each match, their tennis shone, unlike the weather!

At the trophy and medal presentations, just as the Herts Men were to be called to receive their Runners-Up medals, our county President, Lee Evans, asked me to hold back – which left me rather puzzled as to why – but I found out soon enough, when I was asked to come up on my own, and saw a 'Guard of Honour', waiting for me.

I was truly overwhelmed, having had no idea that this was planned for me, and it hit home how special my time representing the Herts LTA and its Men has been.

If that wasn't enough, last November, in the Presidents Room at Queens Club (a club I've been a member of since age 9), I was given a wonderful dinner by the Herts LTA with great assistance from Mark George, Nick Lester and Simon Bramwell, and attended by players and execs spanning the 35 years of my captaincy.

The evening was filled with great memories, super banter and a look to the future with our new Men's Captain, Hamid Hejazi starting his journey.

**Thank you, Hertfordshire LTA.**



2023 Herts Winter County Cup team



Farewell to Jeff after 35 fabulous years as Herts Men's Captain

**Thank you to every player who has played for the Herts Men who I've come to know, along with their families.**

**To the future then – COME ON HERTS!**

**Jeff Wayne**, Herts Men's County Captain

## Men's Winter County Cup 2023 (Edgbaston - Group 2b)

**This was my very first time captaining the team and I felt very proud arriving in Edgbaston with Neil Bamford, Finn Bass, Charlie Broom, Albert Calin, Freddie Simpson, David Stevenson and Enrico.**

On day one we took a tough 5-4 loss to North of Scotland and I said to the players that night that we must plan to stay in this division. Relegation simply wasn't an option.

Day two saw us playing Warwickshire, a team who had won their first match meaning that if we could win, we still had the tiniest of chances of promotion. All the players fought so hard and we took a 6-3 win.

Day 3 started with so many possibilities. 3 teams could go up and 3 teams could go down. We knew that if we could beat Bucks and have a better rubber score than Warks then we were up. We beat Bucks 6-3 but Warks also won 6-3. The Warks team celebrated thinking they were up but there was still some maths to be done. We were equal on rubbers and on sets won. The referee had to look up the rules to see what was the next count back and fortunately for us it was head to head and we had beaten them the day before. Herts were promoted back to Division 1. Each and every player did their bit and it was such a great event to be a part of.

**Come on Herts.**

**Hamid Hejazi**, Men's Captain

# Teams Reports

## Hertfordshire Junior County Team Report 2023

2023 has been another fantastic year for the Hertfordshire County junior teams with numerous successes across the age groups from 8Us through to the 18Us.

We have seen our players travel up and down the country to represent their county with their teammates. There have been lots of great individual and doubles performances and our players have had fun both on and off court, we've battled through many nail-biting moments (we love a tie-break shoot out!) and all have worked hard to display the Herts Tennis values throughout - **GO HERTS!**

### JUNIOR TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

**8U Boys "Spring" County Cup** – Winners

**8U Girls "Spring" County Cup** – Winners

**8U Boys "Autumn" County Cup** – Runners-up

**8U Girls "Autumn" County Cup** – Winners

**8U Mini-Red East Region Inter-County Competition** – Champions

**9U Girls County Cup Group Winners & South Area Finalists** - placed 5th

**9U Boys County Cup Group Winners & South Area Finalists** – placed 3rd

**10U Boys County Cup Group Winners & South Area Finalists** - placed 5th

**11U Boys County Cup Division 2** – Winners

**14U Boys County Cup National Finalists** – placed 4th

**14U Girls County Cup National Finalists** – Runners-up

**18U Boys & Girls** Group Winners to earn promotion to Division 1

**Lionel Cox Trophy** – Runners-up

**12 Counties Championships – Division 1** – Runners-up

### LTA COUNTY CUP RACE \*THIRD PLACE\*

The LTA County Cup Race recognises a County's performance in all County Cup

events. Points are allocated after each event, starting with the 18U event in March concluding with the adult Winter County Cup in November. The County with the most points across all events is recognised as the County Cup Race Champion with placings for all other counties. This year Hertfordshire finished \*THIRD\* which is a fantastic achievement and a well-earned reflection of everyone's superb contribution to our teams.

### COUNTY CUP 2023 – RESULTS & TEAMS

**Boys 18U** - Division 2 Winners & Promoted to Division 1  
Albert Calin, Freddie Simpson, Ivan Raath, Enrico, Luke, Oliver, Brandon, Matthew McCree. Captains: Ben Roberts-Law, Dave Airey

**Girls 18U** - Division 2 Winners & Promoted to Division 1  
Hannah, Marelle, Erin, Dina, Georgiana, Gabby, Arabella, Siana  
Captains: Sammie Williams, Jamie Fallis

**Boys 14U** National Finalists – 4th  
Brandon, James, Noah, Samuel, Kaaviyan, Adam  
Captain: Chris Martin,  
Support: Lewis King

**Girls 14U** National Finalists – Runners-up  
Gabby, Tara, Rose, Katie, Erika.  
Captain: Teresa Lilley,  
Support: Chloe Hughes

**Boys 12U** Qualifying - 4th  
Leo, Jet, William, Finlay, Max  
Captain: Christian Colvin,  
Support: Joe Johnson

**Girls 12U** Qualifying - 4th  
Amaya, Evie, Alexandra, Amber, Harmony  
Captain: Ian Zellner,  
Support: Teresa Lilley

**Boys 11U** Division 2 - Winners  
Thomas, Alexander, Rafi, Vihaan, Freddie,  
Captain: Fran Ruiz-Lopez,  
Support: Madalina Alexe

**Girls 11U** Girls Qualifying - 4th  
Mylic, Amaya, Amelie, Ivy, Sareenah  
Captain: Sammie Williams,



Support: Teresa Lilley

**Boys 10U** Qualifying Winners – South Area Finalists – 5th

Noah, George, Leo, Ari, Riyan, Louis  
Captain: Craig Blythe,  
Support: Andrew Farrow

**Girls 10U** Qualifying – 3rd  
Amelie, Theresa, Ivy, Yoyo, April  
Captain: Sammie Williams

**Girls 9U** – Qualifying Round - Winners. National Finals – 5th  
Yoyo, Annabelle, Kim, Mya, Helena, Giselle

**Boys 9U** - Qualifying Round - Winners. National Finals – 3rd  
Roc, James, Thomas, Brandon, Leonardo  
Captains: Stavros Vlavianos, Sarah Jackson, Teresa Lilley

**Boys 8U** – "Spring" Winners  
Eric, Seth, Abir, Hayden

**Girls 8U** – "Spring" Winners  
Natalia, Lucinda, Amelie, Tamara

**Boys 8U** – "Autumn" Runners-up  
Jacob, Ben, Thomas, Alessio

**Girls 8U** – "Autumn" Winners  
Zoe, Marie, Mikaela, Tamara  
Captain: Monica Beccera / Assistants:  
Ben Feltham & Herts Future  
Participants: Youka T, Daniel A

For information about the LTA County Cup visit - [www.lta.org.uk/compete/junior/county-cup/](http://www.lta.org.uk/compete/junior/county-cup/)

### LIONEL COX TROPHY 2023 – HERTS FINISHED AS RUNNERS-UP

The Lionel Cox is a valued part of the East Region competition calendar; the event sees ten counties compete in singles matches over the May bank holiday weekend in the 9U, 10U and 12U age categories. Points from each age group are tallied to see who lifts



the historic Lionel Cox Trophy. With considerable organisation and efforts from both the refereeing team and County organisations the event gives our young players the experience of playing in their own age group while looking beyond their peer group. Hosted by Queenswood School it is a friendly, exciting and competitive team event that brings players, coaches and families together to share the experience of representing their county.

### AGE GROUP FINISHING POSITIONS & TEAMS

#### 9U Boys – 1st

Roc, James, Thomas

Captain: Stavros Vlavianos / Ben Stockley

#### 9U Girls – 2nd

Yoyo, Annabelle, Kim, Mya, Helena

Coach: Sarah Jackson

#### 10U Boys – 2nd & 3rd

Noah, George, Ari, Leo, Riyan, Rufus

Captain: Craig Blythe / Javier Lee

#### 10U Girls – 5th

Amelie, Ivy, Theresa

Captain: Tony Staley

#### 12U Boys – 3rd

Leo, Jet, Finlay

Captain: Christian Colvin

#### 12U Girls – 2nd

Macy, Aداugo, Lilia, Charleigh

Captain: Ian Zellner

To note - Herts fielded two 10U boys teams and extra 9U girls participated to support other counties who were short of players to field teams.

Link to results -

<https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=6C5D759C-1971-4916-888B-53FCCA1B5CDA>

### 12 COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023 – HERTS FINISHED AS DIVISION 1 RUNNERS-UP

The 12 Counties Championship continues to be a popular winter event for county players in the 10U through to 18U age groups. As in the name there are 12 Counties competing, placed in three divisions; 640 players compete in 720 singles matches from October through to March. The finishing positions of each age group are tallied to determine overall positions with a



18U Girls



9U Boys



9U Girls



10U Boys



14U Boys

promotion and relegation system. For 2022 – 2023, Herts competed in the top division 1 with Middlesex, Essex and Buckinghamshire. It proved to be strong competition and after a terrific battle, Middlesex were crowned champions and Herts pipped Essex into 2nd place by 1 point to maintain their position in Division 1 for 2023 – 2024.

### AGE GROUP FINISHING POSITIONS & TEAMS

**18 & Under Teams** - Boys – 3rd / Girls – 3rd

Boys = Enrico, Freddie Simpson, Luke, Oliver. Captain: Greg Quesnel

Girls = Sianna, Charlotte, Gabby, Dina. Captain: Sammie Williams

**16 & Under Teams** - Boys – 4th / Girls – 1st

Boys = Alexandru, Kevin, Luke, Daniel. Captain: Chris Martin

Girls = Georgiana, Gabby, Michaela, Dina.

Captain: Jamie Fallis

**14 & Under Teams** - Boys – 2nd / Girls – 3rd

Boys = Noah, Samuel, Adam, Harry. Captain: Chris Martin

Girls = Erika, Sophie, Ava-Rose, Catherine.

Captain: Teresa Lilley

**12 & Under Teams** - Boys – 2nd / Girls – 2nd

Boys = Matthew, Leo, William, Jet. Captain: Christian Colvin

Girls = Macy, Catherine, Aداugo, Lilia. Captain: Ian Zellner

**10 & Under Teams** - Boys – 2nd / Girls – 3rd

Boys = Leo, George, Noah, Rufus. Captain: Craig Blythe

Girls = Amelie, Theresa, Ivy, Claudia. Captain: Sammie Williams

And a special mention to Luke and Riyan who joined up with the Northamptonshire team for the day to help out the event organiser!

Link to results -

<https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=c2c710ce-37b9-49aa-8900-9829f17a8f1a>

# Teams Reports



## MINI-RED EAST REGION INTER-COUNTY COMPETITION- HERTS CROWNED AS CHAMPIONS

This inter-county competition is a high-energy and busy event that sees 8U players come together from across the east region to compete in singles matches on one day in Cambridge. The Herts girls team started the day with strong and focussed performances in their qualifying group; they won all their qualifying matches to progress to the main draw as group winners where they then notched up a convincing win versus Buckinghamshire to set up a final versus Essex. After some very close matches, which kept everyone on the edge of their seats the girls took the win 5 – 1 to be crowned champions! The boys were up next and followed the girls lead by winning their qualifying group where they played the semi-final versus Essex. The boys channelled their enthusiasm very well and competed with great determination, they won the tie 4 – 2 to progress to the final where they faced Cambridgeshire; this proved to be a very close tie with 3 of the matches going to a sudden death decider! After brave performances by all players Cambridgeshire took the win and Herts boys claimed silver medals. With both girls' and boys' results tallied Hertfordshire finished in first place overall. The enthusiasm of our players, captains, supporters and parents was fantastic and it was great to see everyone enjoying working together to earn and lift the trophy - All involved can be very proud!

### Girls – Winners

Natalia, Amelie, Lucinda, Tamara, Chloe, Sophie

**Boys – Runners-up:** Eric, Seth, Abir, Hayden, Blake, Zayn.

**Captain:** Monica Beccera / **Assistants:** Ben Feltham & Jessie Hosking

Link to results -

<https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/winners.aspx?id=6EA9D3DC-6BEA-4D09-960D-67AE1EBBD4A3>

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Hertfordshire teams throughout 2023. The efforts and commitment of travelling players, reserves (some of whom came in very last minute!), parents, team captains, county coaches and supporters has been excellent. We hope you have enjoyed being part of the Herts Tennis family. Preparations for the 2024 season are already underway and we look forward to seeing our young players continuing to learn, develop and give their best efforts in the coming months.

### GO HERTS!

**Teresa Lilley** - Herts County Performance Manager

**Honesty - Excellence – Resilience – Teamwork – Sportsmanship**

## The Herts Inspires My Tennis Future Programme

The Herts Inspires My Tennis Future Programme continues to provide Herts junior players access to on-court training sessions, work experiences, career and university workshops, discounted LTA coach qualification courses and opportunities to be involved in a variety of Herts Tennis events.

Throughout 2023 we have seen Herts Futures participants gain LTA coaching qualifications, support Herts players at county team events, court supervise at LTA competitions, attend Wimbledon qualifying and train on grass courts (many for the first time!). There are lots of activities planned for 2024 including an on-court strength and conditioning session, pickle ball training, county session hitting and more. For 2024 we have opened the programme to juniors in school year 9 and above.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like to know more, please contact us at [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com).

**Teresa Lilley**

## Inter-Club Competition

### Rickmansworth and Townsend claim the 2023 Harris Cups

**A bumper crowd were treated to scintillating tennis and tasty fare as they bathed in the early October sunshine at Townsend LTC for the conclusion of the 2023 Harris Cup Men's and Ladies competitions.**

Named in honour of two of the County's greatest ever servants to tennis, John and Val Harris, the Harris Cup is the county's prestigious 2 pair knockout cup event.

The Ladies final saw the home favourites and holders take on

local rivals St Albans, who had shown their credentials having recently been crowned Herts League champions for the second year in a row.

On this occasion it was the Townsend Ladies who hit the heights, producing tennis of real quality to continue the club's centenary celebrations and ensure The Harris Cup would reside in the club's trophy cabinet for at least another year.

The Men's final that followed was a hugely entertaining clash



## Thanks to all the partners of Herts Tennis



The triumphant Townsend Ladies team

between two teams who clearly have bright futures ahead. Townsend and Rickmansworth had both beaten more fancied opponents on their way to the final and it was easy to see why.

The Townsend team played beautiful tennis to delight the home crowd, but urged on by its large and boisterous bunch of away supporters led by Men's Captain Mark O'Brien, it was Rickmansworth who roared their way to their first Herts title since winning the Herts League in 1998.

Huge thanks to all four teams for treating the lucky spectators to some superb tennis and to Townsend and its members for being such welcoming hosts.

### Lee Evans



Harris Cup Men's Finalists with Rickmansworth on the left

## Herts National League Summer 2023

The National League Summer Competition saw 160 teams take part with 667 players taking to the court. This was the first summer season in recent years to be free of restrictions meaning that most fixtures took place.

Congratulations to all teams who took part and thank you to all the captains for all your hard work. There was close competition in many of the divisions with Gosling (Men) and Welwyn (Ladies) progressing to the regional round in the Open event.

Age	Group	Division	Winning Club
8U	Mixed	1	Legends
8U	Mixed	2	Harpenden
8U	Mixed	3	ACE Tennis
8U	Mixed	4	Cassiobury
9U	Mixed	1	Legends
9U	Mixed	2	Harpenden
9U	Mixed	3	ACE Tennis
10U	Mixed	1	Letchworth
10U	Mixed	2	Bishops Stortford
10U	Mixed	3	Royston
11U	Boys	1A	Bishops Stortford
11U	Boys	1B	Rickmansworth
12U	Boys	1	Harpenden
12U	Boys	2	Elliswick
12U	Boys	3	Hertford
12U	Girls	1	Rickmansworth
14U	Boys	1	Rickmansworth
14U	Boys	2	St Albans
14U	Boys	3	Cassiobury
14U	Girls	1	Rickmansworth
14U	Girls	2	Royston
16U	Boys	1	Rickmansworth
16U	Boys	2	St Albans
16U	Boys	3	Royston
16U	Girls	1	Rickmansworth
18U	Boys	1	Moor Park
18U	Boys	2	Townsend
18U	Girls	1	St Albans
Open	Men's	1	Gosling
Open	Men's	2	Elliswick
Open	Men's	3	Orchard
Open	Women's	1	Welwyn

## The Herts League: St Albans and Welwyn the teams to beat in 2024

**Huge congratulations to St Albans' Ladies and Welwyn's Men on coming out on top of the Herts League in 2023. In doing so, they cemented their positions as the clubs to beat when the 2024 competition gets under way in the spring.**

St Albans had only ever won the Ladies event once in its 75 year history prior to 2022, but their latest success means they have now won two Championships in a row. The race to the title was far closer than in 2022 though and Gosling's 1st team in particular appears to be shaping up nicely for another shot at the title which they won for the first and only time in 2018.

Welwyn meanwhile once again showed their pedigree by capturing the Men's title for the 4th time out of the last 6 competitions played. Although they are likely to be favourites again in 2024, extremely encouraging first seasons in the 2023 top flight by Hertford and Townsend suggest they might feature in the running. This season they will be joined by two clubs with vastly different Herts League pedigrees, Elliswick and Rickmansworth, in what promises to be an exciting Championship Division.

Although Rickmansworth have not sat at the top table for a long time and even dropped out of the league for a few years in 2016, they are former winners of the competition (in 1996 and 1998). For Elliswick however, this is a historic moment. That much was made abundantly clear to me when what must surely be the biggest crowd ever seen for a Herts League match turned out at the club in September for a crunch promotion decider against West Herts. As a West Herts member it was never going to be easy being a neutral that day but let's just say the better team won...and at least the vast majority of the huge crowd went home happy!

There was some fantastic competition throughout almost every division in 2023 and thankfully far fewer walkovers awarded than in previous years, including a magnificent zero in the Ladies event. Congratulations to all the divisional winners and promoted teams and a huge thank you to everybody who played a part, whether big or small, in the competition in 2023. There can be a lot of responsibility in being a match secretary or in captaining a club or team, which often goes unnoticed or certainly unrecognised, but your efforts make the difference.

[www.hertstennis.co.uk](http://www.hertstennis.co.uk)

Hertfordshire players continue to shine on the International and National stage. We are very proud of all their achievements. These statistics are accurate as the newsletter went to press.

**Key:**

**ATP** - Association of Tennis Professionals

**ITA** - Intercollegiate Tennis Association

**ITF** - International Tennis Federation

**TE** - Tennis Europe

**WTN** - World Tennis Number

**LTA** - Lawn Tennis Association

**WTA** - Women's Tennis Association

**GB** - Great Britain, **S** - singles, **D** - doubles, **W** - win,

**r/u**- runner up, **s/f** - semi final, **BT** - British Tour

### MEN/BOYS

**Charlie Broom:** ATP: S - 328, D - 227; GB - 23.

S Title 25k Saint Augustine; r/u 25k Sheffield.

D Titles 25k Roehampton, Nottingham and Loughborough '24;

r/u 53k Calgary, 25k Saint Augustine, Edgbaston,

Roehampton, Sweden, Switzerland.

**Finn Bass:** ATP: S - 1324, D - 938; GB - 122. Title 25k Glasgow.

**Oliver Tarvet:** ATP: S - 889; GB - 133. Title 15k Tunisia,

r/u 15k Tunisia.

**David Stevenson:** ATP: D - 714; GB - 335. Titles 25k

Sunderland, 15k Egypt, r/u Edgbaston.

**Joel Pierleoni:** ATP: D - 781; GB - 431. Title 15k Egypt,

r/u 25k Nottingham, r/u 15k Egypt.

**Ryan Storrie:** ATP: S - 1070, D - 1407; GB - 125

**Ed Corrie:** AELTC Men's Club Champion.

**Fabio Nestola:** GB - 202

**Ivan Deb:** National Visually Impaired GB Champion.

IBSA World Games S silver, D bronze

**Enrico:** ITF - 877; GB - 208; 18U - 48. Titles J30 Liverpool.

Germany.

**Henry:** ITF - 1508. D r/u Norway

**Rhys:** GB - 128; 18U - 14,16U - 2; TE 16U - 33. 10 S Titles Cat 1

Roehampton, WCB14 Germany, D Titles Cat 1 Roehampton,

Cat 2 Wrexham, r/u Cat 1 Slovakia, Czech Republic. TE 14U GB

Winter Cup Title, 14U GB Summer Cup 3rd. Wimbledon 14U

invitation tournament. LTA National 14U S W, D W.

**Pavana:** ITF D - 2879; GB - 167. 18U - 32, 16U - 5.

TE D r/u Cat 2 Wrexham, LTA National 14U D W and r/u.

**Brandon:** LTA National Indoor 14U D r/u.

### LADIES/GIRLS

**Katy Dunne:** WTA: S - 371, D - 815; GB 28. Title 25k Foxhills,

D r/u Cyprus.

**Joanna Garland:** WTA S - 254, D - 1211; GB - 15.

Titles 25k Japan and Swan Hill Australia, r/u 60k Playford.

**Anna Popescu:** WTA D - 833; GB - 50.

**Mimi Bland:** Northern Arizona University.

**Indianna Spink:** University of Arkansas.

**Annabel Davis:** WTA D - 1376

**Jessica Matthews:** WTA D - 1515.



**Hephzibah:** ITF – 79; GB - 35,18U – 5. S r/u J200 Dom Rep, D Title J200 Dom Rep, r/u J500 Italy, J200 Columbia, Ecuador. LTA 16U Nat D title. Wimbledon Junior event S 2nd rd, D 2nd rd.

**Hannah:** ITF – 86; GB - 38,18U – 7. Titles S J60 Poland, J100 Slovakia, r/u Loughborough. Titles D J200 Spain and Germany, J100 Spain, S r/u J200 Germany, J100 Loughborough. Wimbledon Junior event S 1st rd, D 1st rd.

**Marelie:** ITF – 181; GB - 59, 18U – 14. D Title J100 Cyprus and Zimbabwe, r/u J200 Durban

**Erin:** ITF – 508; GB - 101, 18U – 38. S r/u J60 Liverpool, D J100 r/u Slovakia.

**Sophia:** ITF – 541; GB 88, 18U – 32, 16U – 8. TE 16U – 345. S Title J60 Liverpool, J30 Edinburgh

**Arabella:** ITF – 1221, GB – 130, 18U – 57, 16U – 20. TE – 997. D Title J30 Bradfield, r/u J60, Edinburgh, J30 Liverpool.

**Georgiana:** ITF – 1238, GB – 156, 18U – 78, 16U – 32

**Dina:** ITF – 1988, GB – 273, 18U – 166. D r/u J60 Israel.

**Gabby:** ITF – 2557, GB – 229, 18U – 132, 16U 159, TE – 831, 14U Cat 2 r/u London, LTA Nationals 14U D W

**Rose:** GB – 438, 18U – 289, 16U – 153; TE 16U - 592

**Tara:** GB – 250, 18U – 148, 16U – 69, 14U – 5; TE 16U – 349

**Grace:** GB – 136, 18U – 61, 16U – 23; TE 16U – 159

**Macy:** GB 14U – 81. TE 16U – 2767, 14U – 1107, LTA Nationals 12U D r/u

**Yoyo:** represented GB 10U v Belgium

**Janet Corrie,**  
Performance Chairman.



Joanna Garland



Charlie Broom

### Herts County Championships winners and runners-up 2023

Event	Winners	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Michael Mouskides	Luke
Men's Doubles	Andre & Michael Mouskides	Luke & Oliver
Women's Singles	Sophia	Roberta
Mixed Doubles	Michael Mouskides & Chloe Hughes	Stuart Foster & Natalia Ilkow
50+ Men's Singles	Stephen Jones	Mick Hooker
50+ Men's Doubles	Stuart Foster & Mick Hooker	Yusuf Bankole & Clive Bedwell
50+ Mixed Doubles	Paul & Julie Guppy	Andrew & Philippa Parkes
35+ Men's Singles	Dimitris Koronakos	Martin Beecroft
35+ Women's Singles	Clare Price	Laura Rigo
35+ Mixed Doubles	Richard Wilson & Helen Lloyd	James Morris & Danielle Gardner
18U Boy's Singles	Brandon	Oliver
18U Boy's Doubles	Pavana & Brandon	Kevin & Oliver
18U Girl's Singles	Michaela	Sophia
16U Boy's Singles	James	Brandon
16U Girl's Singles	Michaela	Gabby
16U Boy's Doubles	Pavana & Brandon	James & Kaaviyan
16U Girl's Doubles	Gabby & Michaela	Sophie & Emily
14U Boy's Singles	Ace	Noah
14U Boy's Doubles	Kaaviyan & Noah	Daniel & Brandon
14U Girl's Singles	Lilia	Sophie
14U Girl's Doubles	Adaugo & Lilia	Catherine & Ava-Rose
12U Boy's Singles	William	Leo
12U Girl's Singles	Mylie	Layla
12U Boy's Doubles	Leo & Finlay	Thomas & Max
12U Girl's Doubles	Layla & Lilia	Amber & Amy
11U Boy's Singles	Rafi	Freddie
11U Girl's Singles	Isabelle	Alexandra
10U Boy's Singles	George	Roc
10U Girl's Singles	Amelie	Yoyo
10U Boy's Doubles	Riyan & Ari	Andrian & Roc
10U Girl's Doubles	Ivy & Amelie	Sophie Lin & April
9U Boy's Singles	Thomas	James
9U Girl's Singles	Annabelle	Natalia
8U Boy's Singles	Abir	Seth
8U Girl's Singles	Lucinda	Ruby

The feel good factor was in abundance as the County Championships rolled back into town in August at the wonderful Rickmansworth LTC.

Highlights in the junior events were arguably the performances of Brandon, believed to be the youngest ever winner of the 18U Boy's Singles and Lilia, who scooped a handful of titles, but the new format for the Open and Seniors events also led to some superb tennis on show from the not so young, with the stand-out performance coming from Michael Mouskides, who won three fantastic matches on Finals Day to take the Open Men's Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles.

# Herts Tennis Awards 2023



Chloe Hughes



St Albans Tennis Club



Martin Corrie



Jeff Wayne

The annual Herts Tennis Awards Dinner was held at Harpenden Golf Club in April. The event is an opportunity to thank all our dedicated clubs, players, coaches and volunteers for the outstanding efforts throughout the previous year in supporting tennis in the county.

After dinner the 2022 awards were presented, firstly to the County stage winners of Awards under the LTA's scheme- the winners of these advance as nominations in the regional awards round and, if successful on to the national awards round. We were delighted that two of our County Awards winners went on to win Regional Awards - 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. Simon even went on to receive the LTA President's Award at the National Finals!



Mary Ford



Devon Moore

Then it was the turn of the winners of Awards specific to Herts Tennis, which included the presentation of the Herts President's Award to Jeff Wayne for his unbelievably successful 35-year stint as our Men's County Captain. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate Jeff's achievements and those of the other winners with them on the night.

Suffice to say, it was a hugely enjoyable evening for everyone involved!



Simon Spalter



Erin



Townsend Tennis Club



Harpenden LTC





Berkhamsted Tennis Club



Amanda Elliott



Ben Feltham

### LTA Tennis Awards - County Stage Winners

- Club of the Year – Welwyn Tennis Club
- Development Coach of the Year – David Lawlor
- Performance Coach of the Year – Chloe Hughes
- Connecting Communities Award – HACRO
- Tennis for All Award – Devon Moore (Gosling)
- Competition of the Year – The Datchworth League
- Official of the Year – Alan Cope
- Volunteer of the Year – Simon Spalter
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Mary Ford



David Lawlor

### Herts Tennis Award Winners

- Herts Tennis President's Award – Jeff Wayne
- LTA Councillor's Recognition Award – Martin Corrie
- Mark Seymour Award – Ben Feltham
- The Laing Award – Erin
- County Colours – Charlie Broom
- Winning 15/15 at County Cup – Amanda Elliott and Emily Arbuthnott
- Harris Cup Winners 2022 Ladies – Townsend
- Harris Cup Winners 2022 Men – Berkhamsted
- Herts League Winners 2022 Ladies – St Albans
- Herts League Winners 2022 Men – Harpenden



Welwyn Tennis Club



HACRO



The Datchworth League

# Seniors Tennis

## Herts County Ladies Seniors

### Ladies 35s

The Hertfordshire Ladies over 35s team narrowly missed out on promotion back to Group 1 at a rain interrupted Devonshire Park in early August.



Herts Ladies 35s Team

We arrived on Saturday morning in torrential rain and with little hope of any play on the first day. This was confirmed by lunchtime and the team took the opportunity to spend some very enjoyable time together off the court for the rest of the day, celebrating Sian's birthday!

On Sunday morning the start of play was again delayed, and the format of all matches was shortened to Fast4. When we finally managed to get on court, the team of Katharine Dearing, Kate Elliott, Louise Storey and Holly Bagshaw swiftly wrapped up a 4-1 win over South Wales, just as the dark clouds reappeared. Having been due to play 2 matches on the Sunday to catch up, play was suspended for the day and we were to return on Monday for matches against Essex and Middlesex.

The format was further shortened on Monday, so each match was now Fast4 and best of only 3 rubbers (2 singles, 1 doubles) rather than best of 5. We comfortably beat Essex 3-0 and as the wind picked up we went into battle against the also undefeated Middlesex for the top spot in the group and promotion to Group 1. The singles were split 1-1 and after an extremely close battle which could have gone either way, Middlesex narrowly won the doubles to secure a 2-1 win and promotion.

Huge thanks to the team of Katharine Dearing, Louise Storey, Holly Bagshaw and Sian Southwell-Sander, and also to our amazing supporters who braved the weather to cheer us on through the weekend. We may have missed out on promotion by the narrowest of margins, but we win best team spirit award hands down!

We will return in August 2024, hopefully in better weather, positive about our chances of promotion and a chance to play for the title the following year.

**Kate Elliott**, Captain

### Ladies 40s

The Ladies 40s had a tricky season contending with injuries, availability issues and a draw that gave us several long away trips in spite of the regionalisation introduced this year and as a result finished last in group 1A. Nonetheless we have enjoyed some lovely, high-quality tennis both home and away. Our two

home matches brought strong opposition in the form of Leicestershire and Cheshire; in both cases we lost close matches 3-2 and were left rueing being on the wrong end of crucial championship tie breaks. Other results were Herts v Lincolnshire, Warwickshire and Lancashire, all 0-5.

Thank you to my players this season - Rachel Sheridan, Caitrin Roskilly, Louise Storey, Katie Hill, Rebecca Gates, Pippa Parkes, Alice Eggleston, Kelly McHugh, Lisa Hawken, Anca Camen - and here's hoping for more matches closer to home in 2024.

**Rachel Sheridan**, Captain

### Ladies 50s

The Ladies over 50s team faced strong opposition in Division 1 and despite the absence of some key players from previous years (due to injury and moves up to the 55s) acquitted themselves well. All the games were played in great spirit with lots of quality tennis. The team whitewashed Buckinghamshire 5-0 but went down fighting in the other matches against strong teams from Hampshire 0-5, Surrey 1-4, Sussex 1-4 and Middlesex 0-5. The game against Middlesex was particularly memorable for being played away on clay courts on a scorching hot day in September! Jenny Webster spent almost 5 hours on court that day!

**Team players: Pippa Parkes, Rebecca Gates, Jenny Webster, Olga Blecher, Louis Grubb, Alison Felton, Mandy Bishop, Emma Wilson, Nicola Buckwald, Kirstie Caneparo.**

**Kirstie Caneparo**, Captain

### Ladies 55s

The O55s played in Group 1a and finished the season as runners up to Surrey.

Hertfordshire beat Buckinghamshire and Hampshire very convincingly 5-0 and Leicestershire 4-1, only losing a match by the narrowest of margins in a 3rd set championship tiebreak 10-8.

Surrey realised that they needed their strongest team against Hertfordshire and fielded 3 Team GB players on the day, winning 5-0.

Thank you to the team for an incredibly fun and successful season. Thank you also for your availability and commitment to the team - **Jenny Stokes, Miranda Hosking, Hazel Lupton, Mandy Bishop and Emma Wilson.** Looking forward to seeing everyone next season.

**Patricia Watson-Miller**, Captain

### Ladies 60s

Following promotion to the top division last season, singles was back for the Over 60s ladies' team which was a bit of a shock to some of us!

My team has been a wonderful, supportive group and we have had a fantastic time - we've even been described by one opposition team as "an elegant team"!

We started at Oxfordshire away and won 5-0 (Jude, Jane, Ali & Claire), an excellent moral boosting start; then away to the eventual league winners Hampshire/IOW a close 1-4 loss (Jude, Jane, Margaret & Wendy). Then our first home fixture (at West Herts) vs Middlesex, a 4-1 win, unfortunately one of the opposition was injured in the first singles, so Jane was the only



one to play both rounds (and lost her singles on the 10 point tie break) ... (Jude, Jane, Ali & Claire).

Next, we were home (at Radlett) to Surrey which again we lost 1-4 but it was nip and tuck and could have been a win either way, with Ali valiantly stepping up to the vacant singles spot (Ali, Jane, Margaret & Annie) and our final match was away to Kent on a glorious day on the grass courts at Walmer but unfortunately lost 5-0 (Jude, Jane, Ali & Annie).

Despite the topsy turvy results we have managed to remain in Division 1, so thank you to all my team for all their hard work and humour.

Finally, huge thanks go to West Herts and Radlett tennis clubs for the use of their courts, we really appreciate their generosity.

**Squad: Jane Walker (Captain), Jude Allnutt, Ali Williams, Claire Booth, Margaret Shamir, Annie Hemsie and Wendy Randall.**

**Jane Walker**, Captain

### Ladies 65s

Once again, we've had an excellent season of tennis playing in the First Division, and at the last minute it was confirmed that we had to play singles and doubles.

Alison, Joy and Wendy stepped up to the mark for singles after a long break of 10yrs or in Wendy's case more than 20yrs!! We surprised ourselves and I even had to admit I enjoyed playing the matches.

As for doubles it was a season of tie breaks and very close matches. We were beaten soundly by Surrey 1-4, but although we

lost to Dorset 1-4 and Hampshire 0-5, matches could have gone either way. We had a great close win against South Wales 3-2 all resting on a final doubles championship tie break.

Most importantly we are a great group of ladies playing good tennis, so pleased to have the opportunity to play and at the same time enjoy ourselves. Here's to '24 and another great season of tennis!

**Players: Alison Allard, Joy Allsopp, Wendy Cottenden, Gill Dickey, Kay Roantree.**

**Alison Allard**, Captain

### Ladies 70s

We have an enthusiastic cohort of ladies who are willing to play in this age group. I organize practice sessions throughout the off season as we come from many different clubs in Hertfordshire.

Our first match against Suffolk played at Ipswich indoors on a hot afternoon was a win for us 4-0 and proved crucial in the group. We lost another match indoors against a strong team from South Wales 0-4. Matches away to Sussex 1-3 and Hampshire 0-4 were enjoyable but we did not win.

I would like to thank the 7 Ladies who played but also the other 5 who come to practice and make team selection so easy.

**Players: Maguerite Defriez, Penny Kent, Jennifer Madden, Lorraine Oliver, Patricia Rayner, Christine Robinson, Deborah Walker.**

**Debbie Walker**, Captain

## Overview of Herts Ladies Seniors Winter League

**The 2023-2024 season is now underway and most clubs are to be congratulated managing to play 2 matches before Christmas despite bad/cold/wet weather.**

Entries continue to hold up this season showing the interest remains. The format works well and it continues to be a lovely friendly league.

### DIVISIONS:

40+ 9 divisions and 51 entries

50+ 7 divisions and 44 entries

60+ 5 divisions and 33 entries

And new for 2023 we had 5 teams for a 70's Division but being played during the summer. This just shows that ladies are everlasting and fit. We hope to get a few more clubs to take part for the upcoming season for summer 2024.

### Group Results for 2022-2023

Great to see a mix of clubs winning their divisions and groups. Some clubs winning by just one point.

### Over 40s Winning Teams

Group 1 Harpenden A

Group 2A Rickmansworth A

Group 2B Hoddesdon

Group 3A Barnet 1

Group 3B Broxbourne

Group 4A Potters Bar

Group 4B Radlett B

Group 5A Northwood

Group 5B Townsend C

### Over 50s Winning Teams

Group 1 St Albans A

Group 2A Radlett A

Group 2B Welwyn A

Group 3A Rickmansworth A

Group 3B Moor Park B

Group 4A Elliswick B

Group 4B Townsend B

### Over 60s Winning Teams

Div 1 Harpenden A

Div 2A Potters Bar A

Div 2B St. Albans A

Div 3A Welwyn 60B

Div 3B Codicote A

### 70s+ Division

Five teams entered, Bishops Stortford, David Lloyd Bushey, Rickmansworth, Welwyn and with Potters Bar "Golden Oldies" winning! What fun!

**Patricia Rayner**

# Seniors Tennis

## Herts County Men's Seniors

### Men's 35s

This year's Over 35s team consisted of Ed, David and Tom Corrie, Neil Roskilly, Neil Bamford and me, Hamid Hejazi.

Our opponents were Cheshire, Dorset and Derbyshire. It was a real rollercoaster of a weekend with 3 counties each winning 2 of their 3 days of matches. This meant the final standings came down to sets and games percentages won. Unfortunately Cheshire pipped the group getting promoted to Division 1 whilst we came second remaining in Division 2. We will be back stronger in 2024 striving to get back to the top division.

**Hamid Hejazi**, Captain

### Men's 45s

A tough year for the team started with a loss to a strong Surrey team. Straight sets losses in the singles for Dave King and Steve Jones accompanied a tight 3 set loss in the doubles for Venki Sundaram and Jon Meredith. With the match now lost Venki and Jon combined again to win the second doubles for a 4-1 loss.

Our second match against Middlesex saw Dave and Steve lose their singles, both in 3 tight setters. Rob Slack and Mick Hooker, playing down from the 50s and 55s respectively also lost to a quality doubles pairing. Injuries resulted in the remaining rubbers being forfeited.

With the team all but relegated following two defeats and with two teams to be relegated, that theme of injuries was to come up again. With the remaining matches arranged for September, injuries combined with previously unplanned holidays and a clash of dates with the older age groups meant that we were unable to field full teams for the remaining matches.

**Players: Mick Hooker, Stephen Jones, David King, Jon Meredith, Robert Slack, Venki Sundaram.**

**Steve Jones**, Captain

### Men's 50s

We were looking to bounce back after narrowly missing out on promotion last year.

The first match against Cornwall saw two new faces playing in the singles for the team, Mark Behan and Matthew Kleiner-Mann. Both performed heroically, winning their singles in straight sets, whilst David Reed and Rob Slack brought home both their doubles. Final score 4-1.

In the second match against Sussex, two gladiatorial final set tie break performances in the singles from David Shann and David Gray left us at 1-1. David Reed and Rob Slack again gained wins in both doubles and with the last doubles won, a 4-1 victory.

The final decider match to Staffordshire proved a journey of endurance and stamina both on and off court. Matthew Kleiner-Mann demolished his opponent in the singles whilst Greg Kraushar was edged out in a thrilling final set tie-break. David Reed and Rob Slack continued their dominance as a pairing winning both doubles and remaining undefeated throughout the campaign. Greg and Matt brought home the final doubles for a 4-1 win so promotion was gained to the top division.

A fantastic squad effort and Herts are back in Group 1 where they belong.

**Players: Mark Behan, David Gray, Matthew Kleiner-Mann, Greg Kraushar, David Reed, David Shann, Robert Slack.**

**David Reed**, Captain

### Men's 55s

Mick Hooker took over the 55 team as captain with the aim of getting promoted to Division 1, with Devon, Berkshire, Wiltshire, and Middlesex all in the way. A long journey to Devon started the season and in a hard fought match Herts won 3-2 with Mick and Greg Kraushar winning the deciding final rubber.

Next was Berkshire, which was played indoors in a bubble with temperatures you would find in the Sahara Desert. However, the team managed to survive the heat and beat Berkshire 4-1. Hats off to Neil Grassick who won a very very long singles match in a champions tie break.

The match with Wiltshire at home was in much more pleasant surroundings than the Berkshire match. The team played very well, winning 5-0, which meant promotion to Division 1, mission accomplished.

So, to the final match at home to Middlesex. Having already gained promotion this was the title decider against the other undefeated team. In a very tight first round both singles went to a championship tie-break but David Gray just lost after playing so well. Matt Foster and Neil Grassick played well and won both doubles comfortably. The team were now 2-1 up going into the last round. Matt and Neil lost a very close match, so it was down to Mick and Greg to win their doubles to win the match and the Division 2 title which they did emphatically. Mick Hooker and Greg Kraushar remained undefeated all season.

**Thanks are due to the whole team of Greg Kraushar, Neil Grassick, David Gray, John Garland, Matt Foster and Mick Hooker.**

**Mick Hooker**, Captain

### Men's 60s

As in previous seasons ten different players were used in the four matches. Unfortunately though, this season the team was relegated from Division 2 winning only a single match of the four, against Wiltshire 3-2, to come fourth out of five in the division.

The match against a strong South Wales team was lost 5-0, but in the other two matches against Oxfordshire and Somerset, which were both lost 4-1, there were a number of very close matches which with a slice of fortune we could have won and stayed up, but it was not to be.

**Players: Michael Clegg, Colin Davis, Malcolm Fraser, Peter Godfrey-Evans, Johannes Malan, Michael Sarson, Mike Seymour, David Smith, Paul Thompson, Derek Walker.**

**David Smith**, Captain

### Men's 65s

This year we were playing in Division 1a following our success of getting to the national finals last year.

This season proved harder where we lost four of our matches, three of which were in the final rubber to record 3-2 losses. In the end we recorded one win against Lancashire 3-2 with the losses against Warwickshire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, and Buckinghamshire.

My ongoing thanks to our excellent squad of players which consisted of eight of our top over 65's county players,



Neagle Cathcart, Dave Stanton, Farrokh Shamir, Paul Ware, Stuart Walker, David Thomas, Jan Malan and myself.

The good news is that we all remain relatively fit and well and are looking forward to the 2024 season albeit in Division 2.

**Martin Corrie**, Captain

### Men's 70s

The team had a successful season losing only to Cambridge and should be promoted to Division 2 for next season.

The first home match was against Avon with a 3-1 victory. Malcolm Fraser and John Conway won both rubbers with Martin Home and Lee Ding narrowly losing the last match in 3 sets. The next match away against Wiltshire was close finishing 2 rubbers all with Herts gaining the points on countback. The team was Paul Ware, John Conway, Lee Ding and Peter Ormrod.

The last match was a long trip to play Somerset at Burnham on Sea. Again, a close match ending 2 rubbers each with Herts getting the points on countback. Paul Ware and John Conway winning both rubbers and David Thomas and Lee Ding losing 2 close 3 set matches.

**Players: William Cathcart, John Conway, Lee Ding, Malcolm Fraser, Martin Home, Peter Ormrod, David Thomas, Paul Ware.**

**Malcolm Fraser**, Captain

### Men's 75s

Lincolnshire withdrew before any matches were played, so there were only 3 matches. The division was decided in the first match against Yorkshire where Herts lost 3-1.

The team was Peter Harding, Malcolm Fraser, Tom Parsons, Barry Skelding and Peter Morton.

Injury affected the remaining matches and two of our best players were not able to compete. There was a close match with Essex which ended in a 2-2 draw, but Essex gained the points on countback. The team was Barry Skelding, Malcolm Fraser, Rex Poulter and Chris Owen.

The success of the season then rested on the final match away to Norfolk. Win and we could gain promotion, lose and be relegated. However, fortune was on our side as we won 3-1. Malcolm Fraser and Peter Morton, playing down from the 80's team, won both rubbers with Rex Poulter and Barry Skelding winning against their opposite numbers.

Every single game won in all three matches proved important with Herts, Essex and Norfolk all winning just one match, so it was fortunate that Herts ended second in the division and should gain promotion.

**Players: Malcolm Fraser, Peter Harding, Peter Morton, Chris Owen, Thomas Parsons, Rex Poulter, Barry Skelding.**

**Malcolm Fraser**, Captain

### Men's 80s

This age group was played for the first time. Herts won against Kent 2-2, Dorset 3-1 and Avon 3-1 and lost to Essex 1-3 and Hampshire 2-2. **John Barnett and Richard Rowlandson** won 7 matches and Peter Morton with different partners won 4. They were ably assisted by **Lennie Lawrence (aged 94), Darryl Tant and Trevor Sargeant.**

**John Barnett**, Captain

## Overview of Herts Men's Seniors Winter League

As expected, the League continues to thrive and remains as competitive as ever. A special mention for Malcolm Fraser – my very valued colleague – whose help in administering our league is invaluable, and so appreciated by all who know how dedicated he is. Our league seems to grow each year, and long may it last.

Our main winners in the Over 45s were Harpenden 1, with several new players brought into their team.

In the Over 55s, the surprise winners were Townsend 1, who did the double having won the Over 55 Division 1 in 2021-22 on their way to promotion to the Championship Division.

They carried on in 2022-23 by beating Harpenden to the winning post by 2 points!

**Basil L Wein**, Organiser – Herts LTA

### Group Results for 2022-2023

#### Over 45s Winning Teams

Championship Division: Harpenden 1

Div 1A: Rickmansworth 1

Div 1B: Elliswick 1

Div 2A: St Albans 1

Div 2B: Radlett

Div 3A: Pirton

Div 3B: Hertford 2

Div 4A: Sarratt

Div 4B: Cassiobury 1

#### Over 55s Winning Teams

Championship Division: Townsend 1

Div 1A: Elliswick 1

Div 1B: West Herts 1

Div 2A: Townsend 2

Div 2B: Leverstock Green 1

Div 3A: Moor Park

Div 3B: Northaw & Cuffley

#### Over 65s Winning Teams

Div 1: Harpenden 2

Div 2: Welwyn 1

Div 3: Elliswick 2

#### Over 70s Winners

Townsend 70s

# Schools



2023 Mini Red competitors

## Mini Red Year 3

### 6th May Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club

Schools local to Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club were invited to take part in a mini red tennis tournament on Friday 6th May. Chorleywood Primary School, The Russell School, Cassiobury Infants and Nursery School and Bushey Heath Primary School all took part. We had such fabulous weather for a fabulous event! The children came along with competitive energy and played some brilliant tennis despite it being the first time for many of the children. It's the taking part, the fun, the learning and progress the children make during a tournament that is the reason we run these events. A huge well done to each and every child involved. A huge well done to every member of staff, parents and volunteers at the club who enabled this event to take place.

Results: **1st Gold medallists:** Bushey Heath,  
**2nd Silver medallists:** Russell 1, 3rd Chorleywood 2

### Welwyn Mini Red Welwyn Tennis Club

Unfortunately, our mini red date and our reserve date were both rained off this year. It is a hazard of all outdoor sports! This meant we didn't run a min red final either. Sadly, we are not powerful enough to control the weather. We hope for better luck next year!

## Mini Orange Year 4

### 10th May St Albans Tennis Club

We trialled a new format this year, doubles rather than teams of 4. They were divided into experienced and less experienced players and played timed tiebreaks. The standard of tennis and behaviour was high and the teachers and parents did an excellent job of umpiring. We were lucky with the weather too considering how wet the summer had been. We will keep this new format for 2024.

The results were as follows:

**Experienced:** 1st Haberdashers 1, 2nd Aldwickbury 2, 3rd Aldwickbury 1

**Less Experienced:** 1st Aldwickbury 3, 2nd Aldwickbury 4, 3rd Cassiobury

Our thanks go to St Albans Tennis Club our generous hosts and to teachers and parents for supporting the players and the players for competing in the spirit of the game.

## Mini Green Year 5

3rd July, Cassiobury Lawn Tennis Club

On Monday 3rd July 13 teams from seven schools: 4 from Aldwickbury; 1 from Codicote; 1 from Cassiobury Juniors; 1 from Duncombe; 2 from Haberdashers Boys; 2 from Heath Mount and 2 from Sarratt Primary competed at Cassiobury LTC in this year's Mini Green Doubles Competition. An increase of 4 pairs and one additional school on last year's entry. The teams were divided into Experienced and Less Experienced boxes. The children then played Round Robin FAST4's resulting in a full and fun afternoon of tennis with some very close matches.

The results were as follows:

**Experienced:** 1st Haberdashers Boys A; 2nd Heath Mount, 3rd Codicote

**Less Experienced:** 1st Aldwickbury B, 2nd Cassiobury Juniors, 3rd Heath Mount A

Certificates were presented to all the children and medals were awarded to the Winners and Runners-up of each box. In addition, two medals were also awarded to Heath Mount B, the only girls team taking part in the competition. My thanks to Cassiobury LTC for hosting the event and to all the parents and staff who assisted with the scoring and tea making.

## Yellow Ball Year 6

### 8th June, Royal Masonic School

The Year 6 Tournament was held on a sunny afternoon on Thursday 8th June, kindly hosted by The Royal Masonic





2023 Mini Green competitors

School. We had an excellent entry of 6 pairs in each section, with 6 Schools represented. We welcomed the following Schools: Aldwickbury, Berkhamsted Prep, Cassiobury, Godstowe, RMS and Sarratt C. of E. The afternoon got hotter and hotter and the standard of tennis similarly improved. It was so encouraging to see some pairs who had started off losing their matches gradually gaining confidence and winning. The 'A' Section consisting of the more experienced players were on court first, with the 'B', less experienced, ready to play in quick succession. The sudden death deuces and 'speedy' tennis made the games most exciting.

The results were as follows:

**Experienced:** Girls - 1st RMS: Amaya & Hannah,  
2nd Godstowe: Ella & Libby

Boys - 1st Aldwickbury I: Ted F & Ted G  
2nd Aldwickbury II: Yipeng & George

**Less experienced:** Girls - 1st Godstowe I: Aurora & Katie  
2nd Godstowe II: Elodie & Muyu

Boys - 1st Cassiobury: Stanley & Harry.  
2nd Aldwickbury II: Finlay & Bennett

Thank you to Royal Masonic and especially to Mrs Booth for hosting the Tournament.

### Year 7 Boys Doubles Tournament

22nd June, Haberdashers Askes Boys School

On Wednesday 22nd June over 40 boys from a mix of state and independent schools competed in the annual Hertfordshire Year 7 Doubles Tournament in the late afternoon sunshine. Richard Hale topped Group A after dominant displays against Sandringham and St Albans Boys. Haberdashers Boys edged first place in Group B after overcoming strong challenges from Verulam and the other St Albans Boys and Sandringham pairs. In the final, Richard Hale took an early lead before being pegged back by Haberdashers Boys. With a large crowd of parents, teachers

and participants watching on, Richard Hale raised their level to ease to a 6-1 win after some superb shot-making and real determination. Sandringham were victorious in an exciting 3rd/4th place play-off. In the less experienced competition, there were fine performances from St Columba's, Hitchin Boys and Verulam, but Haberdashers Boys' other pair came through to take the win. The event was a real success providing a fun competition for Year 7 schoolboys from across the county, with all teams showing great sportsmanship throughout. We look forward to next year's tournament!

### Year 7 Girls Doubles Tournament

20th June, Royal Masonic School

The Year 7 Tournament was held on a dry afternoon on Tuesday 20th June at The Royal Masonic School. We had an excellent entry of 10 pairs in one section and 12 in the other! We welcomed the following Schools: St Margaret's, Haberdashers Girls, Dame Alice Owen, Chancellor's, St Albans High School and Royal Masonic School for Girls. The 'A' Section consisting of the more experienced players were on court first, with the 'B', less experienced, ready to play in quick succession. All players improved their game throughout the matches and those who won their pool went through to a final game to decide the winners. Well done to all participants, we look forward to seeing you again next year.

The results were as follows:

**Experienced:** 1st: Dame Alice Owen, 2nd: Chancellor's

**Less Experienced:** 1st: St Albans High School:  
2nd Haberdashers Girls

### U14 & U18 Boys' County Schools Championships

26th April, Welwyn Tennis Club

8 courts were brimming with play at Welwyn Tennis Club on the 26th April for the Boys County Doubles. Sixty boys from

# Schools

over ten schools competed in a two-way knockout. Results were very competitive in the first round of the U18 competition and there was some excellent tennis on display. Within two hours, we had the plate and main draw semi-finalists, but not without some tight battles to get there.

The U14 main draw semi-final between Haberdashers Boys and Sandringham was a great contest with Haberdashers just coming out on top, setting up a final against their second pair. After a very entertaining final, the U14 main draw was won by Haberdashers first pair.

The U18s main draw was won by Sandringham this year. Their semi-final against St Christopher's was a much closer battle than the score line suggested and Marlborough began to mount a comeback in the final but weren't quite able to break back in time.

The plate was keenly contested and saw a very entertaining match-up between two U18 Dame Alice Owens teams. Their first pair got to the final but lost to Haberdashers second pair 6-4 in a good match. The U14 plate was contested by Sandringham's second pair and another Dame Alice Owen side, it was won by Sandringham 6-3.

The afternoon really was about all the players who played competitively, whilst demonstrating the highest levels of sportsmanship throughout. It was a joy to watch - thank you.

Congratulations to all teams. Many thanks to Welwyn Tennis Club for the loan of the club and courts for the afternoon, the schools for coming and the support of the teachers for this competition.

## U14 & U18 Girls County Schools Championships

### 4th June, Haberdashers Girls' School

The County Schools Doubles Tournament was played on Thursday 4th June at Haberdashers Girls' School. After a very wet week we were pleased that the event could go ahead. Our numbers were up this year - 15 pairs in each event - a Herts Schools record for this event. After a strong afternoon of tennis, played in great spirit, Sandringham retained the Under 18 title with Dame Alice Owen second and St Albans

third. St Albans won the Under 14 title with Sandringham second and St Albans 2 third.

**Congratulations to all competitors and thank you to their teachers and parents for their support.**

## Nicola Mabbitt 2023

### 28th May, Queenswood School

On May 28th the winning teams from six areas of Herts arrived at Queenswood to play the Nicola Mabbitt Trophy finals. The players, in teams of 4, had all won their local area leagues to qualify for the finals. Each team played the winning teams from the other areas. There are six separate areas of Herts and six separate Leagues - for Years 8, 9 and 10, Boys and Girls. This is the biggest competition we run and is a real celebration of grass roots tennis. It is only for less experienced players.

This year we had 32 teams in the finals and they played 200 matches during the afternoon. Congratulations are due to all the players and staff who made the event run so smoothly.

### Winners:

<b>Year 8 Boys:</b>	<b>Immanuel College</b>
<b>Year 8 Girls:</b>	<b>St Albans High School for Girls</b>
<b>Year 9 Boys:</b>	<b>Monks Walk School</b>
<b>Year 9 Girls:</b>	<b>St Clement Danes School</b>
<b>Year 10 Boys:</b>	<b>Croxley Danes School</b>
<b>Year 10 Girls:</b>	<b>Presdales School</b>

## Thank You!

Herts Schools would like to thank all the volunteer teachers who run our events, all the schools and clubs who provide our venues and Sherrardswood School who host our meetings. We would like to thank Herts Tennis for their help and for all round support to our programme. We also receive an annual grant from the Tennis Foundation for our work.

This is a team effort and we simply could not run this programme without you all!

**Pam Burrage**



2023 Year 7 Girls

## Thanks to all the partners of Herts Tennis