



## QUARTERLY BULLETIN

ISSUE 7

JUNE 2024

### Top stories in this bulletin



What a night!



What a week!



What a century!



Hello everybody. A warm welcome on behalf of my colleagues on the Management Committee and I to the early summer edition of The Herts Bulletin. Until a few short days ago it was due to be called the spring edition, then suddenly out of nowhere that unfamiliar but very welcome yellow thing re-appeared in the Hertfordshire sky!

Have you got anything to look forward to in this edition? Of course you have! There's a feature on this year's Awards Evening, there's news from

March's AGM, we dabble into what wonderful Elliswick LTC has been doing to celebrate their Centenary, there's a deep dive into what makes everybody's favourite Herts Tennis member, Carole Draper, tick when she's not helping us all out with our tennis issues and there's news of big recent success for Herts players young and old...and more!

Before we rush headlong into all that, a wee reminder that The Bulletin is a communication aimed primarily at our wonderful volunteers. You're getting fed up with me saying it and I'm getting pretty fed up with myself too, but as I go on my travels around the county it's clear it's still not reaching as many as we'd like. So if you have received this directly, I beg of you, please share it with as many as you can at your venue. Thank you!

It's particularly important that our volunteers see the Thank You video that was put out by the LTA President, Sandi Procter to celebrate National Volunteers Week earlier this month. It's aimed at all of you who are doing your bit (or indeed your lot!) at making this wonderful game of ours even more enjoyable. Having seen a professional at work, you can also see an amateur in action! Warning, it comes complete with background buzz for effect.

You can see both messages here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdrS7hdMCQ\\_IN272h4-YA1A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdrS7hdMCQ_IN272h4-YA1A)

For the two or three of you who have been wondering who won our Christmas quiz, I'm delighted to say it was the wonderful Chris Rice, Elliswick royalty and the former Chair of our Ladies Seniors Tennis committee. Congratulations Chris. Delighted to hear that you and Alan enjoyed the chocolates! Most bizarrely, second prize went to one of my oldest friends, Tim, who has no tennis background whatsoever and who only got two of the nine questions right. That's how popular my quiz was!

What would you like to see in future bulletins? No more cheesy quizzes obviously. Email us at [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com). We're all ears.

We're still looking to visit venues to find out more about you and for you to find out more about what we do or could do for you, so please keep the invitations coming.

Right, that's enough from me. Enjoy the bulletin, enjoy the grass court season and have a wonderful summer generally!

*Lee Evans*

## **Dates for your diary**

- Come and support the Herts Men's and Ladies County teams in Group 1 of the LTA's Summer County Cup event at Eastbourne's Devonshire Park, 22nd to 26th July
- Hoddesdon Mixed Doubles Open event, 28th July
- Herts Junior County Champs, 25th to 31st August. Closing date for entries 11th August
- National Safeguarding Conference, 5th October
- Harris Cup Finals Day at Codicote LTC, 12th October, timings to be confirmed. Opening for entries soon.

## **Tennis Volunteer Community:**

- Q&A on Legal Structures, allowing for good governance in clubs; 16th July 2pm and 7pm.

For more information on all of the Tennis Volunteer Community events and to register, please go to <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisCommunitiesHub> or contact Simon Spalter at [tennis@eceltd.co.uk](mailto:tennis@eceltd.co.uk)

**TENNIS VOLUNTEERS:  
HOW WE SUPPORT YOU**

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE TENNIS VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY**

**We set up the FREE community to provide a dedicated hub of information generated by tennis volunteers around the country. Diverse clubs, venues and volunteer teams are represented, sparking discussions on a variety of topics.**

**Who can join?**  
Anyone who volunteers in a tennis venue or help at county level can join.

**Do I have to be on Facebook to be part of the community?**  
Although we started the Tennis Volunteer Community on Facebook, it has now grown to include emails, an online newsletter, a YouTube channel and a website. You can be part of the community in a number of ways.

**What benefits are there of being part of the community?**

- Share experiences, knowledge and best practice for yourself and your club.
- Ask (and answer) questions without judgement.
- Get inspiration, air ideas and gather views.
- Gain a broader perspective, looking beyond 'local'.
- Find solutions and hacks including funding and budgeting.
- Build a nationwide network.
- Create a solid 'business case' to take back to a committee or stakeholders.
- Get up to speed on emerging trends and technology.
- Tackle tennis and facility challenges without feeling alone.
- Make more informed decisions.
- No requirement to be an active participant; you can observe and benefit passively.

**Is the community part of the LTA?**  
We are independent of the LTA but work in partnership with them wherever possible and act as a conduit.

**What's included once you're part of the community:**

- Facebook group to ask and answer questions 24/7
- Live Q&A online events with industry-leading experts
- Live "Virtual Coffee" sessions where we discuss specific topics and challenges affecting us all
- Access to a video library of past online events
- Receive our digital newsletter
- Access to our Floodlight and Padel specific groups

**Tennis Volunteer Community**

**"This group has been brilliant for bouncing ideas off people and gaining valuable and relevant experience of others."**  
Tamsin Hemming, community member

**VOLUNTEERS – MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO BRITISH TENNIS**

**WAYS TO JOIN US:**

Connect to our Facebook group here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/517145319449476/>

Email us here if you would like to be included in our group:  
[tennis@eceltd.co.uk](mailto:tennis@eceltd.co.uk)

Scan the QR code with your mobile device to join the Facebook group

**"Many local club volunteers don't have the luxury of frequent insight into other venues, coaches and practices. If you feel you're making decisions in a bit of a vacuum, the forum offers a window into how clubs all over the country operate..."**  
Kay Gilbert, Avon Tennis

## Hoddesdon Mixed Doubles Open Tournament

Hoddesdon Tennis Club is hosting a mixed doubles open tournament on Sunday, 28th July. Prize money includes up to £150 for the winning pair.

*Venue:* Hoddesdon Tennis Club, Beech Walk, Hoddesdon EN11 8NS

*Entry fee:* £25 per pair

*Closing date for entries:* 22nd July, 2024

For more information and an entry form, please click [here](#):

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## News from the AGM

We held our 96th AGM in March – our first as Hertfordshire LTA Ltd - and although those three little letters clearly put the fear of God into most people, it was good to be able to rely on our regular band of trusty attendees to ensure that everything we're doing to deliver tennis throughout the county is as you'd like and expect. In fact, a nice sprinkling of newbies even made it along and that made for some fantastic contributions and a really enjoyable evening. AGM? Enjoyable?? Ok, now I know I'm losing it!

Don't worry, I won't go into the business side of things, but I did want to bring you one piece of news. The wonderful Janet Corrie, who has contributed so much to so many areas of tennis for us for more years than she'd want me to mention, decided that it was time to hand over the Performance reins to someone new.

As you can imagine that's a huge loss. How lucky then that we had received one new nomination to join the committee and a tremendous one at that. Mark George, who himself has been contributing to the County's tennis scene in one way or another for many years and who a lot of you may therefore know, was unanimously voted on board. Welcome Mark! For everything that she had done for us, Janet was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at our recent Awards evening and I'm delighted to say that that led to her receiving the Regional Lifetime Achievement Award at Queens earlier this week. And here's a photo just in to prove it!





## Elliswick LTC celebrates 100 years

There was a big party at Elliswick on 8th June, with the tennis club celebrating its first 100 years with 200 members and guests at its grounds in Harpenden.

Harpenden's Deputy Mayor, Gill Haynes, unveiled a clock marking Elliswick's centenary. She remarked on the Club's contribution to Harpenden's sporting and social life. Three member-led bands played throughout the day. There were organised games for kids and food carts offering a variety of food. And of course there was lots of tennis with tournaments for all and a 1920's exhibition match featuring wooden rackets.

Elliswick's President Jim McGown spoke about the founding of the Club by the builder Ernest Jarvis in 1924 on its current site. It was one of the first clubs to have hard courts, invented by Ernest's brother Frank. Elliswick already had over 80 members by the end of 1924. The number of members had grown ten-fold since then. The original wooden pavilion had been replaced by a magnificent clubhouse and the Club was thriving.

Eric Rovick, the Club's Chairman, looked forward to the next 100 years. Whatever changes there were to the equipment and rules in that time, he thought tennis would remain a vital sport for young and old.

The Centenary Clock was designed by Jem Collier-Garrity, Elliswick's Men's Captain, who said "Being given the opportunity to design the clock for the Centenary celebrations was a great honour. Hopefully, it will stand in our fantastic club for the next 100 years".



The centenary clock unveiled



Players from the 1920's exhibition match



Guests enjoy live music



## Herts Tennis Awards

In April we were delighted to host a dinner at the excellent Harpenden Golf Club to recognise the achievements and contributions of some amazing people from all over the county. Many had been nominated for an award by you under the LTA's national Tennis Awards scheme and we also took the opportunity of presenting a number of county specific awards to some exceptional individuals who have been making such a difference to this game we all enjoy.

We listened to some heart-warming stories, none more so than that of the indomitable Mark O'Brien from Rickmansworth, who was presented with an Outstanding Achievement award for everything that he has been doing to raise the profile of Motor Neurone Disease – a disease he has been tragically diagnosed with – while all the time working tirelessly in his role as Rickmansworth's Men's 1st team captain and pushing them to one of their most successful seasons ever.

It was a real pleasure to be joined by two of Herts Tennis' biggest friends, Kelly Baker and Leo Tutt and thank them for the amazing contributions they have made over so many years to the success we have enjoyed in the county.



**Outstanding Achievement - Mark O'Brien presented by Lee Evans**



**Leo Tutt pictured with Carole Draper**



**Kelly Baker pictured with Martin Corrie**

The prestigious Mark Seymour and Laing awards, which are presented to young people who are not only fantastic players, but have continually demonstrated the values we hold so high in Herts, were presented to Luke Jackson and Hannah Read.



**Janet Corrie presenting the Mark Seymour Award to Luke Jackson and the Laing Award to Hannah Read.**





Among the very popular winners of the LTA Awards were 17 year old Reece Marshall from Radlett, whose passion, dedication and commitment shone through and made him so deserving of the Rising Star award, while our own Tessa Terry was such a deserving winner of the Volunteer of the Year award for her transformational work as the County Safeguarding Officer, so highly rated by the Governing body.

Thunderous applause was given to each of the winners of the County Stage LTA Awards, who have clearly been making a huge contribution to improving the lives of people through tennis in one way or another and to all the other winners of awards and competitions who were there on the night.

You can start making your nominations under the LTA scheme in September this year so please do start to consider anybody who is making a real difference to the sport we love so that you're ready to go when the scheme opens.



**Club of the Year - Rickmansworth LTC**  
presented by Lee Evans and Carole Draper



**Performance Coach of the Year - Ben Roberts Law**  
presented by Martin Corrie



**Development Coach of the Year - Ben Stockley**  
presented by Helen Elliott and Carole Draper



**Tennis for All Award - Get Set 4 Tennis**  
presented by Stuart Foster



**Official of the Year - Gal-on Broner**  
presented by Tessa Terry



**Volunteer of the Year - Tessa Terry**  
presented by Bridie Amos



**Rising Star - Reece Marshall  
presented by Mark George**



**Lifetime Achievement -  
Janet Corrie**



**County Colours - Kat Whiteaway  
presented by Amanda Elliott**



**County Colours - Gary & Jenny Tarvet on behalf  
of Oliver Tarvet presented by Mark George**



**Harris Cup Winners Men -  
Rickmansworth  
presented by Lee Evans**



**Herts League Winners  
Ladies - St Albans  
presented by Bridie Amos**



**Herts League Winners 2023,  
Men - Welwyn presented by  
Stuart Foster**

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



## Open Day at Orchard LTC

Orchard LTC in Welwyn Garden City was quite the place to be on Saturday 18th May!

The club in Blakemere Road hosted a hugely successful Open Day, throwing open its doors to the community for a fabulous afternoon of tennis and fun. An estimated 600 people came along to support the club and enjoy all the action, both on court and off.

All ages and abilities were welcome to take part in a comprehensive court programme which included masterclasses, rusty rackets, open play and a fastest serve competition. Free coaching for adults and juniors was delivered all afternoon by ACE / uPlay Sports. The whole site was buzzing with everyone enjoying the unexpected sunshine, a live jazz band, plenty of food and drink, a bouncy castle and fun sideshows.

Highlight of the day was the grand opening of the club's three new TigerTurf courts by the (outgoing) Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Pankit Shah - supported by the Mayoress, Club President Dave Wesson and Chairman Jamie Simmonds (pictured).

A whopping 38 new members were signed up by the club on the back of the day.

Our congratulations go to the event organisers and all the other volunteers from within the club who helped to deliver such an enjoyable and successful day for the community. Events like this help make tennis accessible to all and introduce people to our great sport. Well done Orchard on a tremendous result all round!







## Meet Carole Draper

We'd like you to get to know us better and in each edition we focus on a different member of the Management Committee. Under the microscope today is Carole Draper who is our renowned Office and Community Manager.

*Have you always been a Herts girl?*

I'm a Londoner by birth but moved out to Hertfordshire in the 1980's and have been here so long I have adopted it as my home county now!

*How and when did you first get involved with Herts Tennis?*

I went into the Herts Office back in 2007 to collect some information for my club and got chatting to the ladies working there, that led to me being offered a few hours each week to give admin support with a new initiative 'Pathway to Tarbes'... both the programme and I are still going strong 17 years later!

*What's your favourite tennis related story?*

There are many great stories about our county teams successes including being double national champions several times and more however my favourite stories are about the successes and impact we have had with our Open Court/Disability programme (only the top performing county let me tell you!) and programmes we support such as HACRO (Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders) that has made a huge difference to the lives and wellbeing of the participants. Tennis truly does have the power to transform lives and that is the best story I can think of.

*Let's just say you could do another job (You can't by the way). What would it be?*

Set or costume design or events planning!

*How is your tennis?*

Ha!! Well I have been back on a court on my recent holiday but it could certainly be better, I need to find a good (and patient..) coach! Know any?!

*Ok, so which is actually your favourite sport? Don't worry....I won't tell anyone it's not tennis.*

I think it would definitely be tennis but other things I love are gymnastics and dancing, not a sport I know and I mean watching not competing!

*You like your music don't you? Favourite artist/bands?*

Way too many to mention really.. Stereophonics, Bon Jovi, Coldplay, Depeche Mode, Lady A, The Mavericks, Paul Young and Los Pacaminos, Foo Fighters! The list is endless!

*Best concert you've been to?*

Eagles despite the huge stadium and Stereophonics at a small venue in London

*Favourite TV programme?*

Strictly Come Dancing

*Favourite holiday destination?*

Australia or Iceland so far but I'm heading to Peru later this year so ask me again after that!

*Favourite food/meal?*

Greek or Italian

*Favourite dinner date? Paul Young??*

Well it could be Paul Young.. I've adored him since the early 80's but I'd also love a dinner date with Kelly Jones or Jon Bon Jovi.. or a night out with Michael McIntyre or Billy Connolly would be great for a good old laugh and humour is essential!

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## Wimbledon beckons for Herts players

What a week St Albans' Charlie Broom had when he reached the final of the recent ATP Challenger event at Nottingham. Charlie, who is a regular in our Men's Summer and Winter County Cup teams, had magnificent wins against Queens quarter finalist Billy Harris, South African Top 100 player Lloyd Harris and Top 50 player Dan Evans, before just losing out in a close three sets match in the final.

Can things get any better? Quite possibly. His exploits at Nottingham have earned Charlie wild cards for both Eastbourne and Wimbledon!

Meanwhile, the message from just down the road in Watford is never mind your age, it's how good you are that counts, with West Herts' Mike Potter beating all comers to take the prestigious Over 85 ITF title in Bournemouth.

Like Charlie, Mike has important events coming up at Wimbledon and Eastbourne (seniors) before a likely trip abroad to represent Great Britain. Don't you ever get tired, Mike?

Huge congratulations to both players and the very best of luck over the next few weeks!



Charlie Broom



Mike Potter

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

## Safeguarding and Welfare Officer Update



### Communications

LTA Newsletters for Welfare Officers are issued quarterly, so please make sure your contact details are included on your venue registration and that you do not exclude communications on your marketing preferences!

Never hesitate to contact me for guidance and advice; I am both approachable and available and will make every attempt to come back to you within 24 - 48 hours: [csohertfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:csohertfordshire@gmail.com)

### Safeguarding Training

Welfare Officers and Coaches are required to refresh safeguarding training every 3 years and if an online course has been previously selected, then 'Face to Face' training must be undertaken at the next renewal. Please note this will include 'Classroom' online training available via Zoom.

The LTA launched new induction training for Welfare Officers in April and over 200 attended nationally. See this audio link: <https://vimeo.com/941909003/300cf4f8a8>

### Young Person's Ambassador Programme

This initiative was piloted last year and we are very grateful to Jessie Hosking at Harpenden for volunteering her services. YPWAs are young people aged 14-24 who can play an important role in safeguarding at LTA registered venues.

Please register your attendance on the new launch session on Wednesday 17th July at 7 p.m. to see how this valuable role can benefit your venue and the young people themselves:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9GvIhnohTES5DB2AoYk00A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9GvIhnohTES5DB2AoYk00A)

### National Safeguarding Conference

Although the Safeguarding Awareness Week last year proved to be very popular, this year the previous conference format will be followed, so keep Saturday 5th October free in your diary and use this link to book the online sessions you are interested in attending:

<https://eur.cvent.me/ZGwv3>

*\*Photo courtesy of the LTA*



### *Herts Sports Partnership*

The LTA Safeguarding Team, to include the County Safeguarding Officer are always your primary contact, however, Joe Gamble [j.gamble2@herts.ac.uk](mailto:j.gamble2@herts.ac.uk) and Charlie Mann [c.mann3@herts.ac.uk](mailto:c.mann3@herts.ac.uk) have recently been appointed to the role of Sports Welfare Officer and may be able to provide additional support, particularly where you are operating in a multi-sports environment.

Sign up to the free HSP welfare newsletter [HERE](#)

### *Tessa Terry*

County Safeguarding Officer

<https://hertstennis.co.uk/about-us/safeguarding>

<https://lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding-protection>