



## QUARTERLY BULLETIN

ISSUE 9

DECEMBER 2024

### Top stories in this bulletin



National Champions



County Champions



Everyone's a Champion



Hello everybody. A very Merry Christmas to you all on behalf of my colleagues on the Management Committee and I and welcome to the final Herts Bulletin of 2024. If you've missed any of the previous editions, you can find them [here](#).

This edition also marks my final involvement in producing a Bulletin, which is why...despite promising it would never happen again....I think I can get away with including another Christmas quiz. Oh yes and believe me, if you thought last year's was poor (and from the paucity of responses, clearly you did), just wait until you see this one! In keeping with that theme, the prizes on offer are even less grand than last year's miserly offerings. Humbug!

I'd like to finish the year by saying a few thank yous if I may. Huge thanks to everybody out there who is helping to make this wonderful game of ours so enjoyable and for all the effort you're putting in to introduce it to more and more people.

Enormous thanks also to our Partners. An awful lot of what we do at Herts Tennis wouldn't be possible without your support. Thank you!

Now I don't know about you, but I get very nostalgic at this time of year. So, I would also like to thank our many friends who worked or volunteered tirelessly in days gone by to put the county in such a healthy position. Sadly not all of them are still with us, but you are never far from our thoughts.

I'm also very aware that it's been a tough end to the year at a number of our fantastic venues, where not just wonderful members, but good friends have been lost. Everybody at Herts Tennis feels your pain and shares in your sadness. They too will not be forgotten.

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

With the Annual Newsletter due out in just a couple of months this edition may feel a little more scrooge like than most, nonetheless I'd like to think you'll find one or two things inside that will bring you some festive cheer. My colleagues and I are very aware how lucky we are to have so many wonderful people involved in the game in Herts and there are always plenty of bright lights to be found even in hard times. The stories inside are our festive selection for you.

What would you like to see in future editions? Why not tell us, or better still unleash the Charles Dickens in you and pen a short story yourself. Oh and surprise surprise, I'm going to ask the merry gentlefolk who receive bulletins directly if they'd be good enough to share it with as many people as possible at your venue, in particular anybody who volunteers in any way, however big or small.

Have a wonderful festive season and a very happy and healthy 2025!

*Lee Evans*

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## ***Dates for your diary***

- Applications close for 3 Management Committee vacancies - 24th December For more information click [HERE](#).
- Herts Tennis AGM – 6th March 2025, Christchurch Baptist Peartree, 20 Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City, ~AL7 1BW. Time TBC.

### *Tennis Volunteer Community:*

#### Q&A Sessions

- Thursday 16th January, 12 - 1.30pm : Sandi Procter - Her achievements in her first years as LTA President and her hopes & goals for her remaining tenure.

- Tuesday 4th March, 1 - 2pm & 7 - 8pm: Steve Yeardley, LTA Head of Padel - A discussion focused on how tennis venues can introduce Padel and how the two sports can flourish together.

You can read the TVC's latest newsletter here:

<https://tennisvolunteercommunity.my.canva.site/newsletter>

For 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)



## Sport for Good at Orchard Tennis Club

In October Orchard Tennis Club was delighted to hold its 13th Annual Charity Tournament in memory of popular member Stuart West. This year the nominated charity was Herts Young Homeless which provides support to 16 to 24 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in Hertfordshire.

The day opened with an amusing and informative address from the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Annie Brewster, emphasising the role of sport in helping the community, followed by an introduction to HYH from Nicola McKinnon who highlighted the problems faced by homeless young people and the services provided by HYH, ranging from early intervention to crisis support. Also present were the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Frank Marsh, his predecessor Councillor Pankit Shah and Councillor Leo Gilbert.

Four teams, captained by Stuart's widow Sue and his children James and Danielle, and by Adam Reid, competed for the Stuart West Trophy in a mixed doubles handicap event arranged by Club President, Dave Wesson. Each team played a total of 12 matches. At the end of the competition, James West's team proved victorious by a small margin, demonstrating the accuracy of the handicaps. Refreshment stalls and a barbecue enabled the players to sustain their energy and the quality of tennis throughout the day.

Club President Dave Wesson commented "We were lucky with the weather and an enjoyable day of tennis was had by all. The activities and generous donations from our members and guests enabled our Charity Day to raise a fantastic amount of £800 for the excellent charity Herts Young Homeless".



## An epic weekend at the Winter County Cup

Our Winter County Cup teams had a superb weekend at the end of November. Our men became WCC champions and our ladies won their group and will be playing in Group 1 next year.

Playing in Group 1 in Bath, our men started their campaign on Day 1 with a 7-2 win over Essex. Another success on Day 2 gave them a 5-4 win over Surrey followed by a nail-biter on Day 3 with the men coming back from being 4-2 down to defeat Yorkshire 5-4 giving them the championship! What a way to go guys, we are so proud of you!

Meanwhile over in Boston, our ladies were playing in Group 2a. Day 1 saw them defeat Lincolnshire 8-1, the only rubber they dropped over the weekend. On Day 2, they had another big score of 9-0 over Lancashire and on Day 3 they sealed the deal with a 7-0 win over Surrey making them group winners! Ladies you rock, you have made your county so proud!

A huge thank you to our teams for all your hard work this weekend:

Men: Hamid Hejazi (c), Finn, Charlie, Albert, Enrico, Luke, Brandon, Oliver, David, Ryan and James.

Ladies: Amanda Elliott (c), Emily, Georgie, Indi, Erin, Marelie, Sophia, Georgiana and Arabella



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## Townsend and Welwyn triumph at this year's Harris Cup Finals

An enthusiastic crowd braved all the elements and were treated to some superb tennis when Codicote LTC hosted the finals of this year's Harris Cup Men's and Ladies competition in mid October. 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 was a repeat of last year's and as in 2023 it was Townsend who came out on top in an exciting clash with St Albans to take the trophy home for the third year in a row and in so doing become the most successful Ladies Harris Cup team ever.

St Albans' quality would have been too much for most opposition, but this Townsend team has been producing tennis of the highest quality for several years now and seems to thrive under the competition's two pair format.

The Men's final pitted last year's winners, Rickmansworth, against a star studded Welwyn team which featured local lads Max and Sam Howard. Once again the tennis didn't disappoint and in a gripping match which swung one way then the other, the result was in the balance right up until the final few games.

It was Welwyn who eventually managed to get their hands on the trophy though and who followed the Townsend Ladies in becoming the competition's most successful Men's team.

Huge thanks to all four teams for treating the plucky spectators to some scintillating tennis and to everybody at Codicote for being such welcoming hosts.



Welwyn men

St Albans (L) and  
Townsend (R) Ladies





## Meet Bridie Amos

We'd like you to get to know us better, so in each bulletin we focus on a different member of the Management Committee. I thought I'd pick on our fabulous LTA Councillor, Bridie, for this festive edition.

### ***Have you always been a Herts girl?***

No, I started my tennis journey in Middlesex, had a brief spell in Staffordshire, but have been loyal to Herts since 2000.

### ***Where do you play your tennis and have you always played there?***

I joined Harpenden when I moved to Herts and have been there ever since. Before Herts I was at the Globe, Cumberland and Hazelwood in Middlesex and at Stone tennis club in Staffs. All were welcoming, thriving clubs where I had some great experiences and met lovely people. For me, tennis has always been a way to connect with a community.

### ***Rumour has it you're pretty good. Good enough to represent the county?***

I've loved representing Herts in senior county competitions and the teams I've played in have had a great sense of team spirit and been brilliant fun, with everyone competing hard to keep Herts up there in the top leagues. It's been a real honour to represent Herts!

### ***That's not the only rumour doing the rounds about you either. Another one is that you're quite popular with the LTA. Any truth in that?***

Ha, I just can't get enough of tennis can I! I've been Herts' representative on the LTA Council for 4 years now and the role has led to managing tennis development committees, as well as running the LTA Inspire women's volunteer leadership programme and most recently as a Director on the LTA Board since January this year. The breadth of issues and activities in our sport is huge and I love getting involved and bringing a grassroots perspective.

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

I've always volunteered on club committees but I can clearly remember a conversation with Janet Corrie where she "encouraged" me to get involved with the county. I started on a working group with the brilliant Jenny Thomas promoting our women and girls in tennis opportunities, a cause that's still dear to my heart. I think that was a few years before I joined the management committee in 2016.

### ***Have you got a favourite tennis related story you can share with us?***

My tennis journey was inspired by being a ball kid for Bjorn Borg and Vitas Gerulaitis when they used to do their pre-Wimbledon practicing at the Cumberland club. I was a star-struck kid!

***Favourite opponent?***

There are loads of people I enjoy playing against both at Harpenden and in the wider county leagues – but we always get a nice match tea at Moor Park!

***Least favourite opponent?***

Although I love her dearly, playing against my Godmother was always really tough. She was my first tennis coach and knew exactly how to wind me up on a court.

***Do you play any other sports?***

I still ski (just!) and regularly attend yoga classes. Have had a few goes at padel so far and tempted to do more...

***Favourite holiday destination?***

That's a tricky one! Probably the Caribbean and the Lake District both high up on the list!

***Will you be spending Christmas there?***

No – spending Christmas with the family in Harpenden.

***Favourite dinner date?***

Hubby of course but I wouldn't say no if a certain RF sent me an invite. Hasn't happened yet though!

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## Venue Health Checks

Herts Tennis are looking to engage more closely with our registered venues in 2025 and to support participation growth across the County.

We are planning to launch an exciting new initiative in partnership with a Tennis Consultant offering bespoke support to help you increase your membership and programme numbers. You may be looking to expand your coaching offering, achieve financial or environmental sustainability, develop facilities or outreach programmes and community partnerships.

A limited number of free consultations will be available to qualifying venues and you may register your interest with our Venue Engagement Team by emailing a brief outline of your action plans and support needs to Carole Draper at [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com)

## Bishop's Stortford plays host to inaugural Padel County Championships



**Mixed Doubles winners (L) - Francois Fracella & Karine Saboya, Runners Up (R) - Des & Kathleen McConnell**

Herts Tennis may have to think about giving itself a new name after the success of our first ever Padel championships. But I wonder.....would we plump for 'Herts Tennis and Padel' or 'Herts Padel and Tennis'? Or is some clever clogs going to come along and suggest something completely different! I guess time will tell..

Mid December wasn't perhaps the obvious time of year to hold the finals of this brand new event, but the sun shone, the courts at a very welcoming Bishop's Stortford were magnificent and the padel played was so good it warmed even the coldest of hands.

Huge congratulations to everybody who made it to a final and played their part in an event that is very clearly only going to go from strength to strength.

Keep your eyes on the website for a fuller report on last weekend's action, where you'll also be able to find out more about the sport and where to find your nearest courts around the county.

Looking forward to next year's event already!



**Men's Doubles 50+ winners (L) - Stuart Foster & David Reed, Runners Up (R) - Fred Cooke & Adam Howell**



**Men's Doubles winners (R) - Alan Beesley & Arif Harbott, Runners Up (L) - Francois Fracella & Ben Oakes**

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## Safeguarding and Welfare Officer Update



### What's new in Safeguarding and Inclusion?

#### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Building a culture of inclusion and driving greater diversity across tennis is everyone's responsibility and Herts Tennis have developed a 3 year plan designed to make tennis look and feel more opened up through more inclusive leadership, governance and behaviours.

The LTA has updated the EDI policy for venues with effect from 1st December 2024 and this sets out what members can expect from you and hold you to account against, in the way you operate on a day to day basis.

<https://www.lta.org.uk/4a7b7f/siteassets/roles/venues/file/equity-diversity-and-inclusion-venue-policy-template-docx>

#### Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals

The LTA has undertaken a review of its policy on transgender and non-binary participation.

This is a complex area, so please ensure all those involved in running venues read through this new policy effective from 1st January 2025 and consider the guidance before making any decisions in relation to implementation, irrespective of whether you are aware of having any trans or non-binary members:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/news/lta-publishes-new-transgender-and-non-binary-policy/>

#### Young Person's Welfare Ambassador

YPWAs are young people aged 14-24 who can play an important role in safeguarding at LTA registered venues. The LTA will be contacting successful applicants shortly and I am looking forward to working with them in developing more relevant practice for young people.

*If you are interested in finding out more about this role or know a young person who may like to be involved, please do not hesitate to contact me at [csohertfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:csohertfordshire@gmail.com)*

*Tessa Terry*

*County Safeguarding Officer*

*[csohertfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:csohertfordshire@gmail.com)*

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

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

*[\\*Photo courtesy of the LTA](#)*

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## **Defibrillator Maintenance**

It was brought to our attention recently the importance of maintaining defibrillator batteries. Whilst many defibrillators self-test on a regular basis, the need to replace expired batteries or pads can be missed and not picked up until the machine is needed and is effectively unusable which can have serious consequences. If your club has a defibrillator, St John Ambulance has a helpful guide to maintaining your device as well as a handy checklist to record inspections etc.

<https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/i-need-to-know/guide-to-defibrillator-maintenance-and-upkeep/>

[https://www.sja.org.uk/globalassets/checklists/defib\\_checklist\\_20213.pdf](https://www.sja.org.uk/globalassets/checklists/defib_checklist_20213.pdf)



## The Fezzipeg Herts Tennis Christmas Quiz

Here you go. Nine mainly Christmas related questions for you to mull over with....erm....your mulled wine.

1. In Dickens' A Christmas Carol, how many ghosts visited Scrooge the night before Christmas?
2. Which is the odd one out? a) Chancer b) Dancer c) Prancer
3. In the Christmas film Die Hard, on which floor of the Nakatomi Plaza was the Nakatomi Corporation holding a party for their employees when Hans Gruber and his nasty bunch of radicals interrupted things?
4. How many Fa la la la las are there in the Christmas carol Ding Dong! Merrily on High?
5. In which country is KFC often the Christmas Dinner? a) USA b) Japan c) Greenland
6. Which Herts club/venue has the best Christmas light show? A bonus point is available if the answer comes with photographic evidence
7. Do you have the best/worst Christmas jumper? Another bonus point on offer if...etc. You know the drill.
8. What is the name of the reindeer in the Frozen films? a) Rudolph b) Sven c) Ebenezer
9. Which is the best Christmas song? (With apologies to Elliswick's Chris and Alan Rice and my non tennis friend Tim who were the only ones to even attempt to answer this question last year. I need to know)

Answers by email to [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com) please. The grand prize draw will be held in the first week of January.

*Waiver: The quiz master's decision is final and correct most of the time*