

HERTS TENNIS

Batchwood rises again



Following the devastating fire,
Batchwood is open once again...

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200 Club winners HERTS LTA 2013-2014

OCTOBER		
£40	92	Mr A Sheridan
£30	246	Mrs K Barnham
£20	232	Mr I Duncan
£10	189	Mrs C Herbert
£10	218	Mrs A Allard
NOVEMBER		
£40	166	Mrs J Childs
£30	219	Mrs A Allard
£20	106	Mrs J Hicklin
£10	161	Mr R Bailey
£10	73	Mr A Sheridan
DECEMBER		
£40	243	Mr D Collett
£30	281	Mrs P Danks
£20	217	Miss A Toogood
£10	232	Mr I Duncan
£10	101	Mrs C Morris
JANUARY		
£40	140	Mr C Hollis
£30	17	Mr R Mace
£20	61	Mr C Grigg
£10	280	Mrs P Danks
£10	179	Mr C Borthwick
FEBRUARY		
£100	49	Mrs S Howgego
£40	268	Mr A Sheridan
£30	109	Mrs M Cartmell
£20	277	Mrs H Engel
£10	72	Mr M Knee
£10	50	Mrs M Mills
MARCH		
£40	216	Mr B Hosier
£30	290	Mr W Knee
£20	87	Mrs P Hall
£10	106	Mrs J Hicklin
£10	163	Mrs E Mann
APRIL		
£40	9	Mrs P Ayres
£30	11	Mr P Seymour
£20	136	Mr A Parmar
£10	166	Mrs J Childs
£10	235	Mr I Duncan
MAY		
£40	188	Mr M Bowler
£30	70	Mrs M Thomas
£20	280	Mrs P Danks
£10	38	Mr C Rees
£10	220	Mrs A Allard
JUNE		
£40	227	Mrs P Danks
£30	111	Mrs S Astley
£20	199	Mr M Bowler
£10	107	Mrs J Hicklin
£10	82	Mr A Sheridan
JULY		
£40	275	Mrs B Hayward
£30	86	Mrs P Hall
£20	53	Mr G Westwell
£10	294	Mr M Knee
£10	118	Codicote TC
AUGUST		
£100	45	Mr B Dixon
£40	269	Mr A Sheridan
£30	104	Miss A Toogood
£20	221	Mrs A Allard
£10	42	Mr G Westwell
£10	178	Mr N Aves
SEPTEMBER		
£40	86	Mrs P Hall
£30	13	Mr G Westwell
£20	44	Mr B Dixon
£10	84	Mr C Grigg
£10	207	Mr M Bowler

Herts Annual Report

Front cover

Judy Murray and the Mayor of St Albans officially re-opening Batchwood Tennis Centre.

See full article on page 3.

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

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

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HERTS TENNIS OFFICERS:

Chairman: Gavin Masterton

Treasurer: Martin Corrie

Secretary: Helen Elliott

County Administrator: Carole Draper

Welcome to the Annual Herts Newsletter

It has been another progressive year for Herts with many clubs and venues across the County taking part in the Great British Tennis Weekend spread across four weekends in June and July.

Our individual players and teams enjoyed great success and we have made strides to make tennis more inclusive with support in the area of tennis for those with disabilities.

Batchwood Tennis Centre re-opened following the devastating fire three years ago and our coaches and officials have received national awards.

This year the LTA initiated a large restructure of their organisation with the ultimate aim of getting more people playing tennis, more often.

You'll be pleased to know that Herts Tennis is still here, keen to help clubs and players in every way we can but extra support is now being provided by our regional LTA office.

We hope you enjoy this edition and as always, please let us know if you are interested in contributing to future editions.

Herts Tennis Executive Committee

AWARDS

Laing Award

Amelia Campbell

Mark Seymour Award

Harvey Shackleton

County Colours

Ben Davis

Herts Tennis

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GBTW Success!

Great British Tennis Weekends prove a big hit in St. Albans.

Over 1000 people took part in Great British Tennis weekend activities across St. Albans over the summer, with the vast majority of these participating at Community venues.

Almost 400 of these participated over the weekend of 28th and 29th June, which was designated as the tennis in St. Albans weekend. The participants included the newly elected Mayor of St. Albans, Councillor Geoff Harrison, pictured below, who demonstrated some impressive tennis skills.

Both Harpenden Sports Centre and Verulamium Park ran GBTW events on all eight days and had over 600 participants across the two sites (pictured below). In addition, over 100 people, mainly families, took part in tennis activities in the indoor sports hall at Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre.



All GBTW participants who played at a community venue were given a voucher, enabling them to play tennis again for £1 at any of the community sites across the district. So far this offer has been taken up by approximately 150 people.

Following this year's success discussions are already ongoing with the site operators to make next year's GBTW events even better and to attract even larger numbers to these events.

Batchwood Sports Centre Reopens

Following the devastating fire three years ago, the new Batchwood Sports Center finally reopened its doors in May via a 'soft launch' attended by the then Mayor of St. Albans, Annie Brewster, pictured below cutting the ribbon.

Then in July this year Judy Murray (pictured on the front cover with the current Mayor of St. Albans, Cllr Geoff Harrison) was guest of honour at the official opening of the new centre. The new Batchwood sports centre includes six indoor courts, three outdoor courts and two Mini Tennis Courts along with a 48-station gym, strength and conditioning suite and a judo dojo training area and cost around 6.6 million pounds to rebuild. This was funded by a combination of grants from a number of bodies including the Council's Leisure Capital Budget, The LTA, Sport England and the insurance pay out. Herts LTA also gave a grant to support the equipping of the Coach Education room.

The new sports centre is managed by 1Life on behalf of the District Council. Alex Bedford, Contract Manager at Batchwood Sports Centre, commented: "It was very encouraging to see so many members of the local community enjoying the fantastic facilities that we offer here at Batchwood. I'd like to thank Judy Murray for attending the event and answering the questions of budding tennis players; and who knows, she might have even helped inspire a future Wimbledon champion!"

Mandy Franks and Liz Jones, Directors of Tennis at Batchwood Sports Centre added "It is great to be back in our 'Tennis Home'

after such a challenging period, post the fire at Batchwood in 2011. The facility is fantastic, absolutely 'State of the Art'. St. Albans District Council can be proud of such a high quality build. We are really motivated to grow the game in partnership with the LTA, 1Life and St Albans District Council. The LTA Coach Education and Apprenticeship Centre is booming with coaches taking qualifications at all levels and young LTA apprentices learning their trade. The High Performance team is working with great players and the team, players and parents are so pleased to be in one place. Thanks to all the Herts tennis community for supporting us throughout the three years".



Herts Ladies Report



The 2014 Herts Ladies team at Eastbourne: Sarah Donovan (Captain), Mollie Crouch, Kate Gowar, Katharine Baker Dearing, Alissa Ayling, Amanda Elliott, Hope Johnson, Jennifer Brown & Holly Bagshaw. (Not pictured - Katherine Whiteaway).

Winter Cup 2013

In November 2013 the team headed to Bath for the Winter Cup. We had won it for the last two years and were keen to make it a hat trick.

Group 1 is tough, you have to come first or second to even stay in the group. So it's important to get a good start. We took a young team for this year's challenge and faced some familiar opponents. I wasn't sure how my youngsters would handle the challenge of Ladies County Cup. It wasn't long before I got my answer. We swept up!!!

On Friday we played Middlesex, who also had a young, strong team. But we just kept getting the wins. From numbers 5 and 6, the momentum began and kept going all day. We ended up crushing them 7-2. A superb start.

On Saturday we faced Yorkshire, who are never easy. Except on this day! In very similar fashion to the previous day, we started well, middled well, and ended well. Another 7-2 win for the Herts ladies.

Sunday was a whitewash against Cambridgeshire. The only rubber we dropped was through injury. A great 5-1 victory to give us our 3rd consecutive (and 5th overall) title for the Winter Cup.

Well done to **Emily Arbuthnott, Alissa Ayling, Georgina Axon, Katharine Baker, Michaela Brown, Jennifer Brown, Mollie Crouch** and **Amanda Elliott**. Some great tennis was played by all. Both doubles and singles, and some giggles were had off court too.

2014's event will be again in Bath, the weekend of 28th - 30th November. It's also always Christmas Market weekend in Bath so the beautiful setting really does make it a great event.

Summer County Cup 2014

The team for this year was **Alissa Ayling, Holly Bagshaw, Jennifer Brown, Katharine Baker (Dearing), Mollie Crouch, Amanda Elliott, Kate Gowar, Hope Johnson, and Katherine Whiteaway**.

On Monday we started strong in the hot sun to steal a great 6-3 victory against Kent. Each pair getting a great 2 wins. Good start.

Tuesday was East of Scotland. Unknown to us but had looked decent on Monday. We knew it would be another hard, hot day. The first hour was hairy, a set down in all three matches. But in great spirit they each turned it around and won the round 3-0. Amazing. The day ended as another good 6-3 victory.

Wednesday we had a small but necessary team change. We couldn't get all the wins and were just pipped to a 4-5 defeat. This was a blow, mostly because we don't often lose. But we calculated that, potentially, the defeat didn't hurt us. Such was the close nature of this year's group.

On Thursday the team performed well to shut out a weakened Cheshire 8-1 and finish early. Getting that many rubbers was key to our final assault.

On Friday, due to our high number of rubbers, we were playing for the title against Bucks - again. First to 5. Bucks were probably favourites, but only by a small margin.

Despite going up in many of the matches, Bucks were tenacious and took the lead back. It was close but just didn't fall our way. The girls were exhausted because they'd fought so hard all week. Yet they played with determination, which is all I can ask for. We lost 1-5.

It was a notably tough group this year so to come second was a really phenomenal achievement. Another great year for the Herts Ladies.

Here's to many more!

Sarah Donovan, Herts Ladies Captain

The AEGON Summer County Cup - Group 1 - Eastbourne 2014

Herts Men Make It A Decade in Group 1

The achievement of staying in Group 1 for a tenth consecutive year was something our players, and County deserved to be very proud about. Our team consisted of: **Neil Bamford, George Coupland, Ben Davis, Joseph Cohen, Neil Roskilly, Finn Bass, Lewis Roskilly, Jake Munns and Ben Wood.**

We arrived in Eastbourne with six of our nine players having never played in the Summer Group 1 Championships making the challenge ahead tough enough, something in fact commented on by a number of our opponents, some of the officials and a couple of journalists covering the event. But we are Hertfordshire, and to me, right from the practice on Sunday, we felt and looked like a team - united in purpose, and with results by the end of the week that demonstrated that the very best was achieved from our team.

While we lost 2 of our matches 4-5 - with each result determined on the last rubber at 4-4, who knows how things would have turned out if Herts had crept over the finishing line in both of those matches. In fact, the title itself would have most likely come back home to Herts. Our second 4-5 loss was against the eventual and

undefeated new champs, Kent, that's how close the week was.

There were so many exciting matches from this Summer's County week that it would take a rather long report to go through them all.

However, I do think special mention of the pairings of Joseph Cohen with Neil Bamford and Ben Davis partnering George Coupland should be highlighted as they proved a bedrock to the week's play.

Additionally, there are two other pairings I'd also like to mention -

1. Day 1 V Hampshire/IOW

This match saw Finn Bass and Lewis Roskilly debuting in Third Pair. In Round 1, they came from a set down, levelled at a set all and then caught fire from 2-5 down in the third, and win in spectacular fashion. It was thrilling to watch. Finn and Lewis simply did not want to lose, and they didn't.

Also, according to our Referee, and as far back as anyone could remember - Finn at age 14 is most likely now the youngest male player ever to play in Group one. A great achievement within itself.

2. Day 4 V South Wales

Day 1 Herts lost 4-5. Day 2 V Lancs, a thumping win 6-3. Day 3 the second 4-5 lost to eventual champions Kent, with Day 4

becoming the 'crunch' match for staying in Group 1 - and we all knew it.

Herts, as in the previous three days were 2-1 up once again after the first Round and 3 all at the end of Round 2. But by the end of the first rubber in Round 3, we were now down 3-4.

Almost in parallel the last two matches were being played - George and Ben (Davis) playing what had become consistently sparkling tennis from them during the week, were in front by a set and staying on serve in the second.

The partnership of Neil and Lewis Roskilly (another unique moment in County history I'm told!) at No 3 however were now up against South Wales' No 1 pair and were finding themselves a set down.

But as George and Ben fought long and hard to be serving for their match deep into their second set, Neil and Lewis had fought back to take the second set of their match, and continuing their fightback into the third. In fact Lewis was now serving at 5-4 in the third as well.

And what couldn't have been more than 30 seconds apart, George and Ben served out their match to level at 4-4 followed by Lewis serving an unplayable return to Chris Lewis on the ad side to clinch their rubber and get the W for Herts 5-4.



The 2014 Men's Summer County Cup squad from left to right - Joseph Cohen, Neil Roskilly, Jake Munns, Ben Davis, Neil Bamford, Jeff Wayne (Captain), Lewis Roskilly, Ben Wood, Finn Bass & George Coupland.

Herts Mens Report cont'd

Tension, excitement, and emotion were in abundance. An explosion of joy! And that was only from us who were watching and supporting our team. For our players, they just held their nerve big time, and while the maths showed we weren't 100% safe, Friday's match V Surrey cemented retaining our (rightful) position in Group 1.

For me personally, it was a moment of great pride watching everyone who played during the week achieve something that contributed ultimately to staying in Group 1, and to keep the Herts Men in the hunt challenging for future Summer national titles.

Jake and Ben (Wood) - while not getting into any particular match, were still very much part of our team and a special thank you to them both for backing the team selection at dinner each night, hitting daily and giving maximum support each day during the matches. Noted not just by me, but their fellow team members and our supporters as well. They will without doubt see them heavily involved in future battles.

SO - was it a good week? We all felt it was REALLY good*.

* George Coupland.

Winter Fixtures - 2014

As in previous years, the Herts Men have Fixtures in the lead up to the Winter Cup.

This year we have two - Sunday, November 2nd V Essex County from 3p.m. and Sunday, November 9th V Oxford University from 4 p.m.

The Format follows the Winter Cup - one singles and one doubles.

Both Fixtures are played on the Indoor Courts at the Gosling Centre. All visitors and supporters welcome. The standard of tennis will be high.

AEGON Winter County Cup - Group 1 - 2014, University of Bath

With the Summer County Cup completed - turning my attentions to the Aegon Indoor Winter Cup - Group 1 started in earnest in September.

The Herts Men will be in Group 1 for the 8th straight year - having won the National title all previous seven times to date and without a match lost. Quite a remarkable statistic by any measurement.

The Winter Cup is played over 3 days - 1 singles and 1 doubles per day.

The 2014 dates are:

Travel and practice day: **Thursday - November 27**

The competition starts on **Friday November 28** through to end of play on **Sunday 30th**.

As of this writing the final team is still to be announced. Also, and only for the third time in 25 years of Captaining the Herts Men for either the Summer or Winter Championships, due to work commitments, I will be unable to attend. I've been very fortunate that on the two previous occasions, and now this coming third, Neil Bamford will take charge of the team as well as competing in the event itself. A very special thank you to Neil for agreeing once again to lead the Herts Men into battle. As we've done in the past, we stay in touch, match by match, and I expect it will be no different on this occasion!

Come on Herts!

Jeff Wayne, Herts Men's Captain

Performance & Results

Hertfordshire Junior County Team Report 2013 – 2014

I have completed my first 12 months as the Herts Junior Teams Manager and what a year it has been.

I have learnt a lot with the main thing being that the enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment that our players, parents and captains have for being involved in Herts Tennis is boundless. Your support both on and off court has been fantastic; players have made themselves available for teams in their very busy competitive schedules, reserves have made trips to events at the drop of a hat and parents have helped with the transport of teams and tracksuits...For which I thank you!

This year we have seen over 120 players from 7 – 18 years invited to County Training. The training is fully funded by Herts Tennis and the reports from both parents and players has been very positive.

I know the players are appreciative and proud to be invited to attend and the number of players involved is a measure of the strength of tennis in Herts. Our 18 captains do a fantastic job in preparing, educating, inspiring and bringing the teams together and this year we have seen over 60 players selected to represent the county in competition across the country from Bournemouth to Bolton.

We have had numerous successes on court from our under 8's winning the East Region Championships through to our Under 18 boys being promoted to division 1. There are also many successes beyond the tennis court as it is clear that being involved in Herts

teams gives our players many positive experiences including teamwork, independence, friendships and for my team the Under 14 girls team competing in Frinton.. the delights of Clacton Pier on a May bank holiday weekend!

We are now starting plans for the next round of competitions starting with the Hildon 12 Counties tournament which kicks off in October and I look forward to another successful year of training and competition for Herts Tennis.

Results

County Cup

The **18U Boys** won their division and were promoted to Division 1: **Captains: Jamie Evans & James Buswell. Team: Lewis Roskilly, Jake Munns, Charlie Broom, Sam Price, Harvey Shackleton, Ben Wood, Finn Bass.**

The **Girls teams** held their position in Group 2B:

Captains: Richard Hawkes & Sammie Williams. Team: Georgie Walker, Jenny Brown, Elizabeth Hodge, Amelia Campbell, Rosie Carr, Danielle Latter, Anna Popescu, Emily Arbuthnott.

The **14U Girls** beat Norfolk in a tie-break shoot out to qualify for the National finals in Nottingham where they came 8th nationally: **Captain: Teresa Lilley. Team: Danielle Latter, Chloe Njuguna, Jasmine Dedakia, Alexandra Hildreth, Ellie Gale, Lowenna Clarke, Indianna Spink.**

The **14U boys** came 2nd in their group missing out to a tough Yorkshire team in stage 1:

Captain: Steve Shea. Team: Jake Penny, James Wilkinson, Matthew Carroll, Zeke Kelly, Daniel Martin, Louis Gibbard.

The **12U Boys and Girls** teams both qualified for the National Finals at Bolton and came 6th and 8th nationally:

Boys Captain: James Thomas. Team: David Latter, George Carter, Joel Pierlioni, Yashas Puli, Elias Ghebru.

Girls Captain: Ian Zellner. Team: Indiana Spink, Sophia Underwood, Mineli Cooray, Rebecca Ahearne-Smith, Jaynie Awcock.

The **10U Boys** qualified for the National Finals at Bolton and came 7th nationally:

Captain: Tim Walter. Team: Oliver Tarvet, Sam Harris, Ben Feltham, Matthew Day.

The **10U Girls** teams came 2nd in their group at stage 1 behind Suffolk:

Captains: Tom Lambert & Sammie Williams. Team: Lillie Warren-Cafferty, Alexandra Gamzakova, Natalie Wagner, Catherine Hodge.

The **9U team** came 2nd in their group behind Middlesex:

Captains: Andre Mouskides & Barry Figg. Team: Ekua Youri, Dascha Brazier, Hannah Read, Sean Neveling, Ivan Raath, Oliver Welsby.

East Region U8 Championships

Herts are the **Under 8** East Region Champions; the girls came 1st overall with the boys runners-up, so combined they clinched the East Region U8 Championship.

Captain: Monica Beccera. Team: James Styles, Freddie Simpson, Theo McIlvenna, Aran Joshi, James Carter, Dylan Warren-Cafferty, Jody Neveling, Hannah Read, Madeleine Whitley, Marelle Raath, Erin Pearce, Mafalda Almela Lozano.

U9 Orange Festival County Tournament – A Team - WINNERS

A good sign for the future as Herts entered two teams into this event!

The Hertfordshire **U9 County A team** – WINNERS place:

Captain: Natalie Sutton. Team: Chris Smith, Sean Neveling, Catherine Hodge, and Zak Drake.

The Hertfordshire **U9 county B team** – 4th Place:

Captain: Devon Moore. Team: Mathew Day, Sophie Njuguna, Alexander James, Ryan O' Sullivan.

Hildon 12 Counties - Runner-Up

All 5 age groups performed over the winter with each of the teams result combined. At the end of the tournament once the results computed into the overall League table Herts were tied in first place with Yorkshire on 27 points each! It came to a count back based on who had won each age group and Yorkshire came out as Champions!

Our opposition in Division 1 were Essex, Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire.

Lionel Cox - Winners

The annual tournament was held on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May. This year saw new age group categories: 9U, 10U and 12U with teams of 6 players, made up of 3 boys and 3 girls in each age group.

The Herts teams proved to be very determined and spirited and there was a great atmosphere amongst players, captains and parents. There were fantastic performances at every age group and Herts with players battling through tough tight matches, injury and illness to finish a very close first (it came down to the last match of the day which Herts won in a tie-break) ahead of Essex who were defending champions. And to top it off the sun shone on May bank holiday!

The **9U boys** came 2nd in their box and in 2nd place play-off lost to Cambridgeshire:

Captain: Barry Figg. Team: Sean Neveling, Ivan Raath, Oliver Welsby.

The **9U girls** were undefeated and in the 1st place play-off beat Suffolk:

Captain: Sammie Williams. Team: Ekua Youri, Dascha Brazier, Hannah Read.

The **10U boys** were undefeated and in the 1st place play-off beat Essex:

Captain: Tim Walter. Team: Sam Harris, Ben Feltham, Matthew Day, Alex James.

Hildon 12 Counties Results

Team	Result	Players
10U Boys	3rd place	Oliver Tarvet, Ben Feltham, Alessandro Di Trolio, William Mahwhinney.
10U Girls	2nd place	Sophia Underwood, Alexandra Gamzakova, Lillie Warren-Cafferty, Natalie Wagner. Captain: Monica Beccera
12U Boys	2nd place	Daniel Martin, Louis Gibbard, Max McIlvenna, George Carter
12U Girls	3rd place	Mineli Cooray, Jaynie Awcock, Kiana Mokhtari, Hannah Thomas Captain: Tony Staley
14U Boys	4th place	Matthew Carroll, Zeke Kelly, Samuel Walker, Max McIlvenna
14U Girls	2nd place	Danielle Latter, Mimi Bland, Chloe Njuguna, Alexandra Hildreth Captain: Steve Shea
16U Boys	1st place	Harvey Shackleton, Finn Bass, Sam Tomlinson, David Stephenson
16U Girls –	3rd place	Michaela Brown, Amelia Campbell, Rosie Carr, Danielle Latter Captain: James Buswell
18U Boys	1st place	Ben Wood, Jake Munns, Harvey Shackleton, Charlie Broom
18U Girls	2nd place	Emily Arbuthnott, Holly Miles, Amelia Campbell, Elizabeth Hodge Captain: James Buswell

Performance & Results

The **10U girls** came 2nd in their box and in 2nd place play-off beat Essex:

Captain: Tony Staley. Team: Lillie Warren-Cafferty, Alexandra Gamzakova, Natalie Wagner.

The **12U boys** came 2nd in their box and in 2nd place play-off beat Oxfordshire:

Captain: James Thomas. Team: David Latter, Oliver Broomfield, George Carter, Joel Pierlioni.

The **12U girls** came 2nd in their box and in 2nd place play-off beat Cambridgeshire:

Captain: Ian Zellner. Team: Indianna Spink, Mineli Cooray, Sophia Underwood.

With all of the results combined Herts secured the Lionel Cox Trophy.

Individual Successes 2014

Ed Corrie has made career high singles ATP ranking 216 and doubles 145, since he started competing on the tour in Dec 2011. Ed has won 3 Futures singles titles all since September this year with 2 back to back 15K titles in Sweden and runner up in 5 other finals. He has won 12 doubles titles 2 of which were Challengers with **Dan Smethurst** and 10 other titles with 3 different partners also being runner up in 4 other finals. As a result of such a great season Ed and Dan were offered a wild card into the Wimbledon Championships doubles. His recent success and improved ranking in singles means he will be travelling to the Australian open for qualifying in January.

David Rice is presently at ATP singles 298 and doubles 185. David has won 3 singles Futures titles and been runner up in 2 finals.

He has won 8 doubles titles this year, the last 3 with Ed.

George Coupland has recently retired from full time tennis to return to studying. He has had a good year. He finished with career high ranking of singles 588 and doubles 622.

All three players are stalwarts members of the men's County Team and count the County Team events as highlights of their very exciting year.

Katy Dunne has a 310 singles ranking and a 441 doubles ranking on the WTA women's tour. She has won 1 singles title and 3 doubles titles.

Our top ranked Juniors in International events are **Lewis Roskilly** ITF 251, **Finn Bass** ITF 387, **Charlie Broom** ITF 565, **Josh Rose** ITF 1547, **Emily Arbuthnott** ITF 90, WTA 1007 and played both Junior Australian and Wimbledon, **Georgina Axon** ITF 307 and nationally ranked 3 in the 16U age group, **Mollie Crouch** ITF 1347 and **Georgie Walker** ITF 1507.

At home **Sophia Underwood** and **Oliver Tarvet** were invited to represent GB and in March Oliver claimed the 10U national crown. **Indianna Spink** became National 12U clay court champion and made the quarter finals of the Nike Junior Tour Nationals and is ranked 5 nationally in the 12U age group. She has also represented GB in 12U team events. Finn Bass was runner-up in the Nike Junior Tour National Championships U16's and has also represented GB, Georgie Walker made the quarters in the 16Us and Georgie Axon made the quarters in the 18U's.

Herts also has many representatives in the NCAA USA college system who fly our flag with pride.

Teresa Lilley

Herts Junior County Closed Championships

The Herts tennis community really came together at the end of August for the finals day of the Junior County Closed Championships. The crowd on the steps at Queenswood didn't just include the finalists and their parents but coaches, players, volunteers and friends from across the county.

The fun began after the singles finals had been completed. Tim Walter from Langley Tennis Club ran various mini tennis courts and gave the children the opportunity to play with an oversized racket! Gary from Just Rackets, the Letchworth based sport equipment provider, ran a demo session on court for those wanting to try their skills with a new racket. The fastest serve competition attracted

almost everyone at the event, even non-tennis players couldn't resist having a go! The fastest recorded serve was a huge 117mph by Finn Bass.

Five ex-pro tennis players gave the spectators the chance to "beat the pro". Our gratitude goes to Alissa Ayling, Finn Bass, Amanda Elliott, Tom Corrie and George Coupland for taking the time to support our event. Also to Bridie Amos, Janet Corrie, Mike Seymour, Andy Stevenson, Gary from Just Rackets, Lee Evans, Tim Walter, Sue Picton for making the day such a success.

We also took the opportunity to say farewell to our beloved Sybil Howgego who retires this year from the role of Herts Tennis Hon. Secretary after 30 years of voluntary service.

The day was a real celebration of tennis of all levels in our county. All the results from the Junior County Closed Championships are shown on the following page.



Mini court fun at the 2014 Herts County Closed Championships

Herts County Closed winners and runners-up 2014

Event/Position	Name
Open Mens Singles	
Winner	Jake Munns
Runner Up	Harvey Shackleton
18U Girls Doubles	
Winners	Amelia Campbell & Elizabeth Hodge
Runners Up	Lucy Booth & Rosie Carr
18U Boys Doubles	
Winners	Harvey Shackleton & Declan Sharpe
Runners Up	Alexander Carter & George Carter
18U Girls Singles	
Winner	Amelia Campbell
Runner Up	Rosie Carr
18U Boys Singles	
Winner	Jake Munns
Runner Up	Harvey Shackleton
16U Girls Singles	
Winner	Amelia Campbell
Runner Up	Nicole Voss
16U Boys Singles	
Winner	Matthew Carroll
Runner Up	James Wilkinson
14U Mixed Doubles	
Winners	Daniel Martin & Sarah Wollas
Runners Up	James Cousins & Jaynie Awcock
14U Girls Doubles	
Winners	Annis Williams & Sarah Wollas
Runners Up	Katie Birt & Madeline Clegg
14U Boys Doubles	
Winners	Matthew Carroll & James Wilkinson
Runners Up	Alexander Carter & George Carter
14U Girls Singles	
Winner	Katie Birt
Runner Up	Ellie Gale
14U Boys Singles	
Winner	Matthew Carroll
Runner Up	Jake Penny
12U Girls Singles	
Winner	Rebecca Ahearne-Smith
Runner Up	Rachel Cranley
12U Boys Singles	
Winner	George Carter
Runner Up	Joe Collins
10U Girls Singles	
Winner	Sophie Njuguna
Runner Up	Lillie Warren-Cafferty
10U Boys Singles	
Winner	Oliver Tarvet
Runner Up	Sam Harris
9U Girls Singles	
Winner	Jaya Kaur
Runner Up	Hannah Read
9U Boys Singles	
Winner	Fabio Nestola
Runner Up	Sean Neveling
8U Girls Singles	
Winner	Hannah Read
Runner Up	Jody Neveling
8U Boys Singles	
Winner	Alexander Mckenzie
Runner Up	Enrico Franchi



Amelia Campbell receives her 18U award.



Jake Munns, 18&U champion with Gavin Masterton.

Hertfordshire Winter Singles League

2013/14 saw a larger entry than ever before and despite the rain a lot of matches were played. We have used online entry again which reduces significantly the amount of administration necessary.

Over all winners of the Mens competition were Broxbourne 1. Gaining promotion were West Herts (Div 1), Letchworth (Div 2), and Broxbourne 3 (Div 3). Winners of the Ladies were Totteridge and again Broxbourne are promoted. In the 16U boys overall winners were Leverstock Green but also promoted (and also successful in Aegon Team Tennis) were St Albans. In the girls Harpenden were the overall winners and Northaw & Cuffley gained promotion.

Entry levels are slightly down for 2014/15 but we have several new clubs who are most welcome.

The format remains the same. Whilst potentially short, this has the advantage of requiring courts for less time and needing a smaller weather window! One possibility for 15/16 is to require 4 players with 1&2 playing 2&1 respectively as well as their opposing number and 3&4 doing likewise. This would however considerably extend the afternoon. Alternatively a doubles rubber could be played and the number of singles players reduced to two but this negates the overall aim of providing more singles opportunities for club players. Please let me have your views at sarah.tricks@gmail.com

Performance & Results

Aegon Team Tennis Hertfordshire 2013/14

Every year the LTA assess the performance of each county by a number of measures including entry levels and match completion rates. Hertfordshire gained maximum points in both these areas and as I managed to sort the admin basically on time, I won County League Organiser of the year. This is something of which Hertfordshire and all those clubs involved should be rightly proud.

We had a significant number of 2 player team entries in the girls and older boys age groups. In fact in some age groups we only had 2 player teams. Regrettably some clubs had failed to read the notes posted on the website and in the promotional e mail about the 2 player divisions, and had entered the wrong event. If you want a 4 player team you must enter division 1.

In terms of match completion we were third (81%) behind Buckinghamshire (84%) and Essex (83%). We can do better by

1. Not entering a team without checking that you have players available on the dates set.
2. Organising our teams sooner and rearranging dates promptly where weather has forced a rearrangement.

Teams which won their division should have received their winning pennant by now. They were sent to CMCs in August.

I am not aware of any significant changes proposed for next year. Dates will be published in late November/early December on the LTA website.

Winners of Division 1 in each age group are:

8U	Division 1 Gosling Tennis Centre
9U	Division 1 Langley Tennis Club
10U	Division 1 Batchwood Tennis Centre
12U Boys	Division 1 Legends Tennis Academy UK
12U Girls	Division 2 Letchworth Sports & Tennis Club 2
14U Boys	Division 1 West Herts & Watford LTC
14U Girls	Division 2 Harpenden LTC
16U Boys	Division 1 West Herts & Watford LTC
16U Girls	Division 1 St Albans Lawn Tennis Club
18U Boys	Division 2 Elliswick Lawn Tennis Club
Open Mens	Division 1 Langley Tennis Club
Open Womens	Division 1 Gosling Tennis Centre

(Division 2 winners are named where there was no Division 1).

Sarah Tricks



Ed Corrie with Novak Djokovic

Blog from Ed Corrie at Wimbledon

Wimbledon was an incredible experience, not only making my senior debut, but also hitting with Djokovic on five different occasions.

It was pretty surreal warming up the number one seed and world number one for his opening match on centre court. Both Novak and his coach Boris Becker were very nice and relaxed. Even though they were short, simple hits, I was able to learn a great deal from Novak's focus, footwork and ball striking.

I then made my debut on the Thursday having received a wild card into the doubles with my partner Daniel Smethurst. It was really enjoyable, not too nerve-racking, and we played well, narrowly losing three tight sets. I left SW19 very motivated to keep working hard, improve my game, and try to ensure more fantastic Wimbledon experiences in the years to come!

Ed Corrie

AEGON Coach of the Year

The first annual Aegon Coach of the Year Awards was held at the National Tennis Centre on Saturday May 10. The Awards evening was part of the LTA Coaches Conference and over 100 people attended. The Aegon Coach of the Year Awards were presented by Julie Preston, Sponsorship and Events Activation Manager Brand and Digital Marketing Aegon, and Judy Murray. The Aegon coach of the Year Awards recognises the contribution to tennis made by coaches who work across a variety of environments. Coaches were nominated by their pupils, clubs, committees they work with and the nominations were shortlisted by a panel of industry experts.

Performance Coach of the Year

Jon Meredith - Batchwood HPC

- Head coach since 2007, has produced 38+ national matrix players, 1 junior grand slam player, 4 represented GB and 8 nationally-trained juniors
- Set up Pathway to Tarbes scheme with the philosophy of the best coaches working with the youngest players
- Over 5000 school children are seen per year
- 15-20 school mini-tennis clubs set up in schools and between 300-400 children play regular tennis in their school environment

Congratulations to Jon.



Jon receiving his award from Judy Murray

Mens 35s

Herts 35s men relegated from Group One!

'If' our 2013 performance in finishing runners-up in Group One of the Men's 35s Inter-County Championships had been set against the backdrop of Rudyard Kipling's inspirational poem, Eastbourne 2014 belonged more to the 'Sturm und Drang' period of tennis drama.

Tempting though it is to blame our losses on the fact that 'Expendables III' was released a week after the event, (thus depriving us of our traditional pre-event bonding session), the truth is that despite our valiant efforts we fell slightly short in a top division that was significantly stronger than last year.

A 3-2 loss on the opening day to 2011 Champions, Berkshire, put our backs against the wall, despite Johan Prins winning both his rubbers and banishing the pain of last year's final day injury.

On Saturday we faced favourites, Dorset, who had defeated last year's champions Leicestershire 4-1 on the first day. Their top quality singles players put them 2-0 up and in the driving seat. Despite a battling performance from Len Rosso and Steve Walter in the doubles rubber we could not prevent them obtaining a decisive 3-0 lead and ultimately another 4-1 victory.

Sunday's storms forced the cancellation of all play on the Sunday. This was unfortunately immaterial to us, as having lost two matches already, both we and Leicestershire were already condemned to relegation.

Despite this disappointment, the legendary Herts team spirit was very much in evidence and although not the most successful team on the court we were certainly the best-dressed (Dave Reed - poacher turned game-keeper - having organised pristine new Sergio Tacchini kit in Herts trademark dark blue and white. It is even reported that one of our team members was able to fit into a size 'L'!!).

Many thanks to all the team of Simon Bramwell, Johan Prins, Dave Reed, Len Rosso and Steve Walter, and also to Dave Maddock-Lyon for being willing to travel from Cardiff for the Sunday if required! Thanks also to Herts LTA for their continued support of the Herts Men's and Ladies 35s teams - it was great to again be able to compete with the full complement of 44 counties, especially after the threatened closure of the event last year.

In 2015, the men will compete between 28th to 30th August in Group 2B, together with Devon, Surrey and East of Scotland. New regulations come into play stipulating that each county may have a maximum of two players aged 45 or over. We therefore need all potential 'young guns' to make themselves available as we seek to return to the top flight. 'We'll be back'!

'Rocky' Bramwell

Mens 45s

Matches and Results: Div 1A

Leicestershire (away)	Lost 2-3	11/5/14
Bucks (home)	Won 3-2	15/6/14
Essex (home)	Lost 2-3	6/7/14
Dorset (away)	Lost 0-5	20/7/14
Kent (away)	Won 5-0	31/8/14

Our first season in the top flight for many years and our main goal was to just stay in the division. This was achieved with our wins over Bucks and Kent. Our losses to Leics and Essex could easily have been different, with a match point to win the tie vs Leics.

Dorset were too strong for everyone, and have won the division comfortably.

My thanks to **Dave Shann, Dave Reed, Alan Lattimore, Tony Illingworth, Steve Walter, John Littleford** and **Gurinda Chhina** for their great performances and commitment to Herts Tennis through the season.

Matt Foster

Mens 55s

The 55+ team retained their place in division 1 by beating both teams who finished below them in the league whilst losing to the top three teams.

Two of the three losses were by one rubber and as the two wins were 4-1 and 5-0 we ended with a positive difference for rubbers completed.

Many thanks to all the players who represented Hertfordshire, with a particular note of appreciation for those who made the long journeys to Scotland and Cumbria.

David Stanton

Mens 60s

The Season arrived with the prospect of a strong squad as Martin Corrie and David Stanton had arrived at this ripe old age joining Neagle Cathcart, Bob Birchley and myself. So chances of a return to the top division looked good. The fixture list was a nightmare with away trips to West of Scotland, Cumbria and Derbyshire.

First off was Derbyshire who were comfortably despatched 5-0. Next was the nightmare of West of Scotland away. Neagle Cathcart and Martin were both unavailable and Bob Birchley had a suspect shoulder. Our worst fears were realised with a 5-0 loss.

This meant that we probably had to win all our remaining fixtures to achieve promotion.

North Wales and Yorkshire were both defeated in our home ties leaving our last match away to Cumbria in Carlisle to decide the league. **David Stanton, Martin C., Peter Leary** and **Malcolm Fraser** (kindly standing in from the 65s) journeyed North and came up with a great 5-0 win.

So promotion to Division 1 next year and my thanks to all those who played for their support through the season.

Peter Leary

Mens 65s

Last season we were narrowly demoted from the top division due to long term injury to our number 1 singles player **Tom Parsons**. Tom was back this season and, combining with our other singles specialist **Malcolm Fraser**, the pair was mostly too strong for Division 2, winning 14 out of 15 of their rubbers. Thanks to their sterling efforts the rest of us had relatively little to do. For the record we beat Bucks, Notts, Shropshire and Hereford & Worcester 4 rubbers to 1, and Beds 3 rubbers to 2.

My thanks to our squad for their commitment (and staying injury free!) comprising, (in addition to Tom and Malcolm) **me, Alan Roberts, Chris Owen** and (playing down from the 70+ team for one match) **Peter Morton**.

Barry Skelding

Herts Mens Vets

Mens 70s

A reasonable season - a mid-table position considering the change in personnel and the numbers of different team combinations.

More consistent results in 3rd set tie-breaks could have resulted in a league winning position!

Excellent winning results away to West of Scotland (3-2) and Sussex (4-1).

The regulars in the team were **Peter Morton, Rex Poulter** (captain) and **Doug Cheeseman**. Helped out by the +75s playing down (**Barrie Williams, Vic Israel, Alan Williams, John Barnett** and **Richard Rowlandson**).

Rex Poulter

County Results

At county level we continue to field six teams in the Inter-County championships

In November 2013 the 75+ team beat Cheshire to win the national title and will be defending this in November 2014.

The 2014 match results were as follows:

	Played	Won	Pos.	2015 status	Captain
45+	5	2	4	div. 1	Matt Foster
55+	5	2	4	div. 1	Ian Portal
60+	5	4	2	div. 1	Peter Leary
65+	5	5	1	div. 1	Barry Skelding
70+	4	2	3	div. 1	Rex Poulter
75+	5	5	1	div. 1	Keith Sharples

2014 County Closed Tournament

Due to lack of support this tournament did not take place in 2014.

National Tournaments

Congratulations! To the pairing of **John Barnett** and **Richard Rowlandson** who reached the 75+ doubles final of the National Indoor Championships at Dudley and won the 75+ doubles at Wimbledon.

And to **Vic Israel** who won the 80+ doubles at Wimbledon with **Mike Cottey** (Bedfordshire).

Alan Roberts

Herts Ladies' Vets Ladies 35s

Eastbourne, 1st - 3rd August 2014

Players: Kelly Baker, Miranda Hosking, Sian Southwell-Sander, Sarah Ward, Jenny Webster

It was all about DAY 1 this year! Jenny Webster got us off to a fantastic start - winning her singles from a set down and match point down in the Championship Tiebreak! In the second match, Sarah Ward had a nasty fall and unfortunately the injury to her ankle put her out of the event.

With the match level at 1-1, Sian SS and Miranda Hosking went on to play two tall left handers - who unfortunately were too effective in the Eastbourne wind - putting Gloucestershire ahead by 2 rubbers to 1. With all to play for, Sian and Miranda managed to win their second doubles putting all the pressure on Jenny and Kelly to win the deciding rubber!

Kelly was making her debut in the 35's event and had a storming game. With Jenny continuing the superb form she had shown in the singles, they won 12-10 on the Championship Tiebreak! They saved a match point - the second time that day for Jenny!

Day 2 against Dorset was always going to be tough and we were 2-0 down after Sian and Miranda lost their singles matches. Jenny and Kelly and Sian and Miranda all had solid doubles matches but unfortunately lost 5-0 to Dorset.

Day 3 v Middlesex began with an epic match between Jenny and Caroline Baghuandas. It was close but this time luck was on our opponent's side in the deciding tie break. In the second singles Kelly Baker battled well against a relentless opponent and frustratingly suffered a fall in the last game which resulted in a ligament injury to her knee. With Miranda and Sian losing their doubles to a very class pair - the match was lost 3-0.

However because Gloucestershire had lost in similar fashion to both Dorset and Middlesex and because we had beaten Gloucestershire on Day 1 the group positions left Herts Ladies in third.

Huge thanks to the girls for all their efforts and for getting the job done! Our goal had been to stay in Group 2 this year and I am pleased to report that we did just that.

Sarah and Kelly - so sorry about the injuries and we wish you all the best with your recoveries.

Sian Southwell-Sander

Ladies 40s

Despite several of the team being plagued with injury, we still had another excellent season narrowly missed out on winning Group 1A to Middlesex by one rubber.

Overall Hertfordshire won 19 of the 25 available rubbers beating Cheshire 4-1, Cambridgeshire 3-2, Wiltshire 5-0, Leicestershire 5-0 along with a very close loss to Middlesex, 2-3.

Out of a squad of ten players, three of these made their debut for the county including **Louise Grubb, Clare Pryce** and **Pippa Simmons**.

Other team players were **Bridie Amos, Olga Blecher, Miranda Hosking, Debbie Nichols, Delphine Rive, Sarah Ward** and **Jenny Webster**.

A big thank you to all the squad and here's now looking forward to a successful 2015.

Sarah Ward

Ladies 50s

After a very highly competitive 2013 season we were very pleased to learn that we had retained our position in Division 1 of the National Veterans League.

As a result more highly competitive and enjoyable tennis has been played this season against Essex, Kent, Lancashire, Surrey and Sussex. Essex and Surrey proved too strong, but with a good win against Lancashire and close 3-2 losses to Kent and Sussex the ladies will need to work hard and win in division 2 next season to regain promotion back to division 1. It was particularly tough that Sussex used a top national player to secure a win against Hertfordshire to maintain their position in the division.

A big thank you and well played to all the ladies. As usual there was always a great team spirit, and mixed with first class tennis a great day out was enjoyed by one and all.

I'm pleased to say the ladies who play represent a good number of clubs from around the county, namely; Berkhamsted, Harpenden, Letchworth & Radlett. I invite any ladies eligible for the 50's team to contact me if they are interested in being included in the squad next season.

Players were: **Judith Allnutt, Joy Allsopp (reserve), Claire Booth, Janet Corrie, Anne Hems, Wendy Jobb, Wendy Randall & Margaret Shahmir.**

Alison Allard

Ladies 60s

The Herts Over 60s team stayed in Division 2 at the end of 2013, having been promoted at the end of 2012, and were placed in Division 2A.

The first match was Home to Leicestershire and the team had a great start to the season-winning 3-1 rubbers; 7-2 sets and 50-35 games, playing indoors because it was heavy rain! The second match played on June 6th, proved to be tougher but, although a draw 2-all in rubbers, we won 6-5 sets and 42-29 games.

The team was in confident mood, as we boarded the train to Edinburgh on July 8th to play the East of Scotland, with Sheila Vaughn (Over 65s) joining us. Although the team battled hard, we lost 3-1 rubbers-probably as a result of the long train journey, the lack of air and intense heat of the David Lloyd Centre, hugely fast courts and the strength of the Scottish team! Yvonne and Penny were pleased to beat their first pair, in a thrilling, though far-from-amicable, championship tie-break!! We were keen to bounce back after Scotland and to beat Shropshire 4-0 on July 14th, was a great boost, and proved to be vital; 8-1 in sets; 47-23 in games.

And now to win our last match against Notts to ensure promotion to Division 1!

Again it was an airless, boiling indoor court but Trishia and Margi were not to be fazed, winning their two rounds convincingly. Yvonne and Penny managed to do just enough to secure an absolute draw-2 rubbers all; 5 sets apiece and exactly 39 games each!

Nottingham lost to East of Scotland 3-1 like us, so the final placing

came down to rubbers, sets and games and we were placed 2nd, with E Scotland first and Nottingham third-so, excitingly, we go up to Division 1!

Well done to all the players for an excellent season of skilled over 60s tennis!

Squad: **Penny Kent (Captain), Yvonne Stredder, Trishia Rayner, Margi de Friez, Lorraine Oliver and Sheila Vaughn.**

Ladies 65s

This year we had 5 matches, three being away in far flung but beautiful places and tennis clubs. All the matches were very hard fought with close, even scores. There was often just a championship tie break or few games making the difference. We won our two home matches played at Berkhamsted against Cambridgeshire and Buckinghamshire 3/1 in each case. We drew against Warwickshire at the Boat Club and lost 3/1 to both Shropshire and Cumbria.

Unfortunately several of the squad who came to practices and friendlies at the beginning of the season then had medical conditions preventing further participation but we hope they are fully recovered for next year...I was wonderfully supported by them and all the other players: **Teresa Deverell, Jenny Madden, Meta Kelly, Sheila Vaughan, Pam Burrage and Chris Robinson.** They made my position a real pleasure, and I must commend them in having formed into a fine, committed and friendly team. Thanks Ladies.

Jennifer Israel

AEGON Team Tennis 2014

League Organiser of the Year

We are delighted that the Aegon Team Tennis 2014 League Organiser of the Year award went to **Sarah Tricks** - Team Tennis Hertfordshire. Sarah has had a very good year organising Team Tennis Hertfordshire. Some key facts are detailed below:

- Top marks for results management on Tournament Software
- 440 fixtures completed out of 546 scheduled (81%)
- target of 80%
- 12 out of 15 scored for template emails to teams
- Increase in Junior teams from 170 to 204 (20% increase)
- Increase in Adult teams from 30 to 38 (26% increase)
- All other submissions and communications on time

Sarah received an embroidered Nike/Aegon Team Tennis polo shirt to celebrate her success as League Organiser of the Year 2014. Sarah will also receive a £50 Love to Shop voucher.



And also...



Congratulations to Katharine (Kat) Baker who married Rob Dearing on 24th May. The happy couple celebrated in the beautiful surroundings of Athelhampton House in Dorchester, Dorset with family and friends. Everyone at Herts Tennis wishes Kat and Rob many years of happiness ahead.



Congratulations to Katie Rayment and Arvind Parmar on the birth of their beautiful baby boy Theo Hari, on 28th September, weighing 6lb 7oz. Welcome to the Herts Tennis family!

Places to Play...

Increasing Participation in our Places to Play

In June and July this year, Herts clubs and venues opened their doors to the general tennis-playing public, some of whom were giving tennis a go for the first time and others who were getting back on the court after a long break. The welcoming nature of many clubs led to an increase in participation and a rise in membership and consequently income for their venue. Here are some contributions from clubs across the county...



Langley Tennis Club

I decided to try something different for the club's summer promotions this year. In the past, I have attempted to attract people to the club for a large Open Day but with only mixed success.

This summer, we opted instead to expand the club's outreach programme to places and events where people are already gathered.

In late Spring, I drew up a list of local carnivals and fairs, unearthed sports' contacts at schools attended by current members, and scouted for other groups that I thought might be interested in trying something new - including the 1st Apsley Scouts Group.



Then, from mid-June to mid-July, we ran eight events to promote tennis and to demonstrate that our club doors are open to all.

We had stalls at the carnivals in Abbots Langley and Kings Langley, and at the summer fairs of local primary and secondary schools; a key feature of these promotions was our 'Beat-The-Coach' competition, with myself or one of the club's coaches using an over-sized racket on a small portable mini tennis court; queues quickly formed, with both adults and children trying their best to beat us.

We also offered 'Taster Days' at local schools and social groups arriving with our equipment and coaches full of energy to make sure every participant had a great time. At Watford Grammar School for Boys, where we had not long inaugurated a 'Lunchtime Tennis Club', the Taster Day prompted another wave of keen novices, many of whom had not picked up a racket before, to contact the club about afterschool coaching. Free introductory lessons were offered to every participant at all the events, as well as prizes in exchange for email addresses so that we could send further details about the club's offers.

The different approach turned out to be a real success, with the focus on going to the crowds to promote your club rather than expecting the crowds to come to us.

Tim Walter, Director of Tennis, Langley Tennis Club.

The Great British Tennis Weekend Experience at Moor Park

Moor Park was very pleased to have the chance to host a tennis weekend on 17 and 18 May. The grass courts were in excellent condition for the weekend.

We were blessed with wonderful weather and we had a good turn-out on each day from both adults and Juniors.

As a result of the weekend, we gained over 20 new members both adults and juniors.

We were very fortunate to have Nigel Buckman and his team of coaches to run organised drills and we were also able to offer good social play.

Several of our members acted as hosts (with badges) for the two days which was essential and we are most grateful to them.

Thanks to Herts LTA for its guidance and support in arranging the weekend and we sincerely hope that we can be even better prepared for hosting another weekend in 2015. We would welcome more advanced publicity and downloadable material to facilitate our preparation for the weekend.



Harpenden LTC

Harpenden Lawn Tennis Club (HLTC) joined the British LTA effort to get more people playing tennis more often, by hosting a Great British Tennis morning on Sunday 22nd June 2014.

The morning was open to the general public and was split into various sessions to cater for players of all ages and abilities. There were Mini and Junior sessions as well as a Cardio session for the older age groups. A Family session and a Free Play session rounded off the day's offerings.

The club welcomed 39 players on a gloriously sunny morning, and served tea and coffee courtside to parents watching their youngsters play. David Lawlor, Head of Coaching at HLTC, who masterminded the event said afterwards, "It was great to see the fun people had getting to grips with tennis, or improving their tennis, and we had great feedback from the day. We hope that a number of them will go on to play tennis more regularly."



Letchworth Sports & Tennis Club

On the 5th July during the Wimbledon fortnight Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club took over Letchworth Town Centre giving anyone of any age the chance to pick up a racket and have a go at tennis even if it was their first time.

The Mini tennis characters paid us a visit, posing for photos and having a knock up with the children. There was a serve cage and everyone had a fantastic day.

Two weeks later, on the 26th July Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club ran their annual open day as part of the Great British Tennis Weekend. 175 players that had never been to the club before booked online, turned up, and played tennis all day! Some chose to play with friends, some had their first experience of Cardio Tennis,

some took the chance to get some great coaching tips and some had a go at winning a prize on the fast serve competition.

There were Tots Tennis sessions for the under 5's, a bouncy castle and BBQ for that extra bit of fun day fun!

The open day was a huge success and with the help of the LTA's GBTW advertising campaign we were able to introduce tennis to hundreds of new players.

James Thomas

**Become a friend
of Herts Tennis
on Facebook**



Tring Tennis Club

Tring Tennis Club held its Great British Tennis Weekend on the 18th May 2014.

It was a hot and sunny day and was perfect for encouraging the good people of Tring to come and try out some tennis.

The tennis club, along with its fabulous coaching team *Everyball Tennis* had done some great advertising for the event and set up a website to get people to sign up for the various sessions that were running throughout the day.

As well as tennis, there were other attractions such as a bouncy castle, BBQ and face painting which helped the day to go with a swing.

It was a lovely, social day and I believe it helped Tring Tennis Club to be more integrated with the local community as the day brought people from all over Tring to come together and play some tennis.

Caroline Smith, Honorary Secretary, Tring Tennis Club



Herts Mini Tennis

Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter Team League 2013-2014

The significant changes to the 2013/2014 league have proved very popular and more teams entered.

The draw has been split into a qualifying draw which is played between September and December followed by the main draw which runs between January and March.

The qualifying draw offers the opportunity for the less experienced players to compete at a standard providing meaningful competition. The Main Draw provides a more challenging level of competition and the group winners in the qualifying draw move into the Main Draw after New Year.

The league comprised 462 competitors including 118 girls playing in 83 teams.

THE RESULTS:

RED Gosling Red Aces beat Batchwood Red Muntjacs in the final with Letchworth Red Lobbers in third place and Red Legends in fourth place.

ORANGE Batchwood Orange Bravehearts beat Orange Legends in the final with Letchworth Orange Lobbers in third place and Hoddesdon Orange Hotshots in fourth.

GREEN Batchwood Green Battlers beat Green Legends in the final with Gosling Green Giants in third place and Berkhamsted Stags in fourth.

A special mention must go to the Team Managers, many of whom are parents who give up their time to support the young players at their club.

The Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter Team League 2014/2015 is well on its way again this year and can be viewed on the link: <http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=4D310B1D-8198-4C17-A68E-E61AE16A93E6>

I am delighted to report that we have 89 teams entered this year and already 115 players have competed.

A group of coaches have agreed to form a small committee to assist with the running of this league and I must thank Sue Picton,

James Thomas, Matt Fellingham and Sarah Jackson for their help. This league is unique to Hertfordshire and it is difficult to ascertain exact numbers, but it is possibly one of the biggest Mini Tennis leagues around.

Pathway to Tarbes

The programme is going from strength to strength and it can now boast its third 10 and under National Champion. Oliver Tarvet has now joined the ranks of two previous winners on the programme Indianna Spink and Sophia Underwood. Well done Oliver.

Only one person wins a tennis tournament which is very tough, and we have many young players on the programme who are achieving great results and working very hard to achieve their tennis potential.

With a total of 82 players in the programme the head coaches, Jon Meredith at Batchwood and Sam Bruce at Gosling are very occupied with providing quality, individualised programmes for the players on the scheme.

The parents at both centres welcome the Parent Information Sessions held at the commencement of each term. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity to interact with the head coaches, Jon Meredith at Batchwood and Sam Bruce at Gosling and ask relevant questions. Additional presentations by experts in their field are also included to help and support the parents to support their players.

A monthly competition takes place on the third Saturday of every month and alternates between the two venues at Batchwood and Gosling.

Congratulations to Jon Meredith who was awarded the LTA Performance Coach of the Year 2014. To achieve this during a time of great difficulty due to the rebuilding of Batchwood after the fire must be all the more special to Jon.

Pathway to Tarbes is now into its eighth year and Hertfordshire LTA has once again provided each centre with £10,000 to run the programme for the next year.

Jennifer Keates



The Herts Schools Committee are volunteer teachers, coaches and parents who work closely with Herts LTA and the Tennis Foundation to ensure that school students of every age and ability have an opportunity to compete for their school. This year we have managed to extend our programme to offer two Mini Red competitions.

Teachers Course

Our season started with the annual Teachers Course at St Albans High School. The weather was unkind but we were able to get outside for most of the time. We covered drills for team players – as advertised and introduced drills for building mental strengths in team players. We were also able to adapt and provide more basic level drills and information to suit the needs of some of the non-specialist teachers. Thanks to St. Albans High School for hosting and excellent refreshments.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Team Tennis Schools Competition

The Team Tennis Schools competition is for Year 8 and Year 10 students and is run by the LTA through Local League Organisers. Both the Organisers for Herts are members of the Herts School Committee. The League runs in Herts, and then the winning teams' progress through to the national knockout competition. The format is teams of four, playing four singles and two doubles matches.

Boys: This year there were 29 teams in the Year 10 competition and 31 in the Year 8, an increase of 6 teams from last year. Most of the entries were in Division 1 but Division 2 is growing steadily. There were some very close matches, many decided by the new



2014 Years 5 & 6 Tournament finalists

tiebreak shootout. The county finals were held at Queenswood School on June 26th. Watford Boys won Division 1 in both Year 10 competition and Year 8. Haberdashers were runners up in both age groups. This time we were able to run the Division 2 finals alongside Division 1. Division 2 winners were Year 10 Haileybury, Runners up Watford Boys, and Year 8 Winners Watford Boys, Runners Up Kings Langley. A fantastic year for Watford Boys!

Girls: The event ran smoothly this year and Queenswood kindly hosted the Finals in June. Queenswood had strong teams and convincingly won both finals. We wish them well in the regional Knockout Competitions.

County Schools Doubles Championships

We were blessed with sunshine and a cool breeze, a great set of entries for the boys, but less so for the girls. However, we welcomed Hitchin boys, Aldenham, Longdean, Sandringham and Bishops Stortford for the first time. Unfortunately Hitchin's team bus broke down en route, meaning only one U14 pair were able to get to Rickmansworth.

The girls standard was excellent across both competitions. The under 18s finished with a championship tie break separating St. Albans

High in the final with their Pair coming away with the winners medals.

The boys entry allowed for a round robin in the U18s and a full knock out and a plate competition for the U14s. The U14 final was a great standard between St. Albans and Hitchin, with Hitchin coming away victorious. A fantastic sportsmanship was demonstrated in the U14 plate by Longdean, Aldenham and Bishops Stortford. Townsend only had one player representing them, but Longdean allowed the lone Townsend player to switch in every few games. Thank you to both Aldenham and Bishops Stortford for agreeing to this.

The U18 competition was dominated by St. Albans Boys with their first pair coming away victorious in the final game of the competition. St. Albans second put the first pair under a lot more pressure than anticipated, so well done to them. We hope the entries increase again next year, but thank you to all for making this such a great event this year.

Year 7 Tournament

Girls: On Thursday 19th June the annual Year 7 girls tournament took place at Haberdashers' with a category for experience players and one for inexperienced. Despite



2014 County Schools Tournament competitors

Herts Schools



only a small number of teams entering all the girls will be able to benefit from lots of match play and there was some close and exciting matches. Congratulations to St Albans High School for Girls who won both the experienced and inexperienced category.

Boys: The Year 7 Boys tournament was well attended this year. We had 13 pairs from five different schools. Habs, Monks Walk, Watford Boys, St Albans and Beaumont Habs 1st pair (Arjun Parmar and Jay Patel) beat Beaumont's 1st pair (Jason Sutton and Craig Lils) in a closely contested final played in excellent spirit.

Our thanks go to Julian Hails and Haberdashers Boys for hosting this event.

Nicola Mabbitt Trophy

The Nicola Mabbitt Trophy is our most popular competition with three age groups – Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10. Local leagues are established in 6 areas of the county: North Herts, Potters Bar, Dacorum, East Herts, Watford and St Albans. Over 900 students are involved every year and some areas the

competition is so popular that two leagues are run, with a semi-final before the County Finals. The short set doubles format is very practical and provides excellent match experience for our target students – those with ratings below 9.2.

Another hugely successful year for the Nicola Mabbitt Competition. Six areas of Herts run competitions for Years 8, 9 and 10, so 48 local competitions ran. Each team consisted of 4 players, and many schools rotate players to give a wider experience of competition to their players. One area runs a Division 2 League and a year 7 League as well. So maybe 800 – 900 players competed in all. Huge thanks to local Organisers – we could not run this competition without you.

32 winning teams came to Queenswood School for the County Finals on July 5th. Each team played in Round Robin boxes against the other winning teams in their age group, the boys on the clay courts and the girls on the astroturf. It was a fantastic afternoon of tennis! **Girls:** Winners were Year 10 St Albans High School, Year 9 Haberdashers, Year 8 Haberdashers. **Boys:**

Winners were Year 10 Monks Walk, Year 9 Parmiters & Year 8 Parmiters.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Mini Red Tournaments

The tournament is aimed at more experienced Mini Red players with ratings of 13.3 (Red3) or above. This provides a schools competition for those players too experienced to compete in the School Games.

Cassiobury LTC

Ten teams took part in the competition representing five schools. We were pleased to welcome two new schools this year - Fair Field Primary from Radlett with one team, & Bovingdon Primary Academy with three.

The standard of play was excellent with many close matches. All the children conducted themselves well both on and off the court and had an enjoyable afternoon of tennis. All players were awarded certificates with the winners & runners up each receiving a medal.

Winners - Fair Field Primary Radlett

Runner up - Wheatfields Infant School

Many thanks to the teachers & parents who helped on court with the scoring and to Cassiobury LTC for the use of their courts' and club house.

Northaw and Cuffley LTC

On a glorious summer's afternoon 24 children from 4 schools took part in a Herts Schools Mini Tennis Red competition hosted by



2014 Mini Tennis Red competitors



2014 Nicola Mabbitt finalists

Northaw & Cuffley Tennis Club for the first time. The players played some excellent doubles with many very close matches. Fair Fields from Radlett were the winners represented by Ben Lim and Frank Naseby with Runners Up Cuffley represented by Callum Howell and Oliver Stone. How Dell from Welwyn and Broxbourne Primary also took part.

Our thanks to Northaw & Cuffley LTC for providing the facilities and helpers.

Mini Orange Tournament

Five schools, eight teams, four boxes, two play-off rounds, one trophy. On an English seaside summer's day eight teams set out to see if they could win the Mini Orange Herts Schools Doubles Event hosted by St. Albans Tennis Club. Each team competed in their box against three other teams and all players knew that each point would count towards their final scores. After some excellent rallies and closely contested points four teams made it through to battle it out

for bronze, silver and gold positions. The play-off for third position was between St. Albans and Broxbourne Murray. St. Albans, with an all-girls team, had done well to reach bronze play-off stage but could do little to stop Broxbourne Murray steaming through to take bronze position. The scene was then set for the final between current trophy holders Wheatfields and title challengers Broxbourne Robson. Broxbourne competed well and had great strength in depth but did not manage to take the title from Wheatfields who were worthy winners playing some excellent tennis.

Our thanks go to St. Albans Tennis Club, our generous hosts, the boys from Verulam School who umpired each match, teachers and parents for supporting the players and the players for competing in the spirit of the game.

So Mini Orange 2015 - calling all primary schools - who will take on the mighty Wheatfields?

Mini Green Tournament

The year 5/6 tennis tournament took place at the Royal Masonic School for Girls on the 18th June 2014. It was a beautiful sunny night with 48 boys and girls taking part in both yellow and green ball competitions. The standard was very high and all competitors worked hard to challenge their opponents. In the end we had some very close deciders. The winners of the tournaments were:

1) Winners of the Yr 6 girls yellow tournament: **S. Mezzone and S. Wise** from Berkhamsted Prep.

Runners up: A. Naden and M. Stares from Royal Masonic School for Girls.

2) Winners of the Yr 5 green tournament: **B. Miles and H. Davies** from Berkhamsted Prep.

Runners up: L. Hannah and E. Matthews from Berkhamsted Prep

Pam Burrage, Chair



2014 Mini Orange competitors

Herts Hot Rackets 2-Pair Summer Doubles League

What a fantastic 2014 summer tennis season for the Hot Rackets 2 Pair League, with record breaking club/team entries and very close finishes in all divisions.

This year saw our best year to date with increased entries of 49 clubs, 125 teams and 17 divisions, creating over 400 fixtures.

This year was the first time we have set the fixtures at two week interval for most matches, to hopefully have most matches completed by approximately late July/early August. This was to try and beat the holiday period in August and reduce the backlog of matches that normally 'piles up' in September over the past years. This new fixture format worked really well with many of the divisions having the bulk of their matches completed by July/early August. In fact the Ladies Division 4A had completed all their 21 fixtures by the 12th July which was a fantastic achievement by all eight clubs in that division. We would like to thank all our teams for showing great organisational skills in completing most of the matches within the July/early August target.

This season was the most competitive yet, with at least 3 to 4 teams in many divisions striving for top positions, again this created exciting matches right up to the final fixtures. This was especially evident in one particular match from the Ladies Division 2B, Knebworth v Odyssey. In their final match against Knebworth, Odyssey needed a win to get promotion. After the match I received this email message from Rachel Thomas the Odyssey captain:

"Hi Tony, I thought you would be interested to know that we missed promotion on one point. In our last match, Odyssey v Knebworth, we just needed a victory to end above Brookmans Park, and gain promotion. The match was at 2 rubbers each, the match then went to the 'Quick Fire Set', (first team to 6 games wins - short deuce), at 5 games each, final game was at deuce....and then Knebworth won! Shame but exciting".

Congratulations to both teams for putting on such a great game of tennis, even more congratulations to Rachel and her team Odyssey for coming so close to promotion, sharing the tension and putting in writing how exciting the 'Quick Fire Set' is!

The Quick Fire Set is unique to Hot Rackets and is a very exciting and fair format in creating a winning team in Hot Racket matches. Many thanks to all the team captains who send me emails confirming how much they enjoy playing the 'Quick Fire Set'.

This summer season we have had more 'Quick Fire Sets' played than any other year, a total of 89, which is nearly double as against last year. This is proving how balanced the divisions are and how close the tennis standard is between many teams.

My thanks to all the captains for entering their match results very quickly, in fact most results were recorded on the website on the day of the completed matches. That's a great help in keeping the website results and match statistics 'up to the minute', so everyone can see their latest/up to date divisional positions.

Congratulations to all the Champions and Runners Up teams in all divisions. Full details of all final divisional positions will be sent to all captains/club contacts within the next few weeks. Also please visit the website where all final divisional details are up to date.

As usual special thanks to all our clubs, teams, players, captains and club administrators, who have all contributed to make the Hot Rackets 2014 season run smoothly, and have also produced the normal high standard, exciting, and first class social tennis.

Any new club that may be interested in entering a team/teams in the Hot Rackets 2-Pair Summer League or require any further information please visit our website www.hotrackets.co.uk or contact Tony Scott by email, tonyscott48@ntlworld.com

Entry forms closing date for the 2015 season is 30th November 2014 - entry forms can be obtained from Tony Scott or from the Hot Rackets website.

Tony Scott

Herts 3-Pair Summer Doubles League

As most of you will know, this season the league adopted a new rule aimed at averting walkovers. The rule awards a penalty, equivalent to a win, to any team that gives a walkover. If you were to ask me after one season if the rule had been a resounding success, unfortunately I'd have to say no, it hasn't. It has penalised the teams giving walkovers of course - and in most cases that has resulted in those teams slipping down the rankings in their division and in a number of cases falling into a relegation position. However, it has so far failed to have the impact we all would have wanted and certainly I expected - of avoiding walkovers being given in the first place.

I didn't set out to fill this column talking about walkovers but it is the one matter that dominates league issues and actually, I think we've reached a defining moment in the league's future because if the new rule doesn't convince teams not to give them, nothing will.

Who are the culprits and why do they give walkovers? Surprise, surprise, it's the mens teams in the top few divisions. No change there then I hear you say. I find it absolutely crazy that three matches were not played at the very pinnacle of the mens county competition (compared to nil in the top Ladies division) and a further, and quite frankly amazing, nine by the mens teams supposedly looking to get promoted to it (those in Divisions 1A and 1B). There were two in the equivalent Ladies divisions - and I know the Ladies will be embarrassed by even that amount. Yes, in 2014 mens teams still appear to be of the view that if they think they're likely to lose, it's better to save face by not turning up. Now that is embarrassing. Surely it's time for us men to move on.

Right then, let's turn our attention to what this league is really about...yes, the tennis! There was some fantastic competition this year and what really struck me was how close-fought some of the divisions were. There were lots of examples where divisions were won by the slenderest of margins but some were almost too close to call. For example in the mens competition, Division 4B saw Harpenden 5 edge out St Albans 2 for the title by just one rubber, while in Division 6B Moor Park 3 and Harpenden 6 were separated by a mere two sets, Moor Park just coming out on top there. Over in the Ladies competition, although the record books will show that Letchworth 1 once again won the overall Ladies title by beating their main rivals, Harpenden 1, that doesn't tell the whole story. In fact the championship decider could not have been closer. Their 5-4 win included winning two 3rd set tie-breaks. Looking forward to next year's rematch already!

For the record, Barnet 1 came out on top of the overall mens competition. And for the record books I believe that's the first time they have won the competition since 1991. I wonder if anyone who played a part in them winning this year's title was involved in that title winning team 23 years ago.

Congratulations to all the divisional winners. It would be fantastic to see all of you collecting your trophies at the AGM on 4th December. Many thanks also to everybody who took part in the competition and - walkovers aside - ensured it was played in the right spirit. I am also very grateful to you for continuing to put in some very noticeable extra effort into inputting results. Thankfully last year's step up in quality was not a one-off. In fact the Ladies are now almost perfect!

Lee Evans

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