

# HERTS TENNIS

Another great year for Herts



## LTA President Cathie Sabin visits Herts Tennis

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# Herts Annual Report

## Welcome to the Annual Herts Newsletter

2015 has been a year of change for Herts Tennis.

**Gavin Masterton, President of Herts for some 33 years, decided to call it a day and so I was appointed to take his place.**

At the end of 2014 the LTA decided to condense their field activities from individual counties to regional bases. This meant that Herts Tennis got back the office and we appointed Carole Draper as the manager in our office at Gosling Sports Park.

The Herts Executive felt that during the period of LTA occupancy of the office that Herts Tennis has lost some of its togetherness. As a result we have during the year made a lot of plans for the way forward.

We have decided to re-establish the Herts Coaches Association. This will bring the coaches together again and we can, as an Association, work closely together to get a better understanding of what they need from the County and how we can help them.

We are going to start Cluster meetings for clubs. We shall have twice yearly meetings in 5 areas of the County, the result being that at each of the meetings there will only be representatives of 10 or so clubs. This will enable us to get a clearer picture of what clubs need from us and of course vice versa.

We are going re-introduce County training for the juniors. This will not interfere with the player's individual coaching but will be useful in getting team spirit for our Junior County matches.

In a further change this year, Sarah Donovan decided to hand over the role of ladies captain. Sarah did the job brilliantly for 10 years and we are very grateful for all her efforts. She is staying involved in Herts Tennis but in a new role.

We had a visit from the President of the LTA, Cathie Sabin. Cathie was shown some different and somewhat unsung areas of Herts Tennis. She looked at Disability Tennis and we had a demonstration at Gosling by a coach and wheelchair player. We also had a talk about 'Girls in Tennis'. Graham Fish, the Head Coach at Leverstock Green, has started a superb scheme for girls in tennis. He has some 70 girls

involved and they meet once a week. There is no pressure to play matches or be in teams, it is entirely up to the girls what they decide to do on the night. It works and we would encourage more clubs to please think about setting up similar ideas. Graham will be more than pleased to explain how they have made it successful.

The Great British Tennis Weekend (Play tennis for free) was a huge success for the clubs who took part, resulting in not only a fun day but also more members for their clubs. Herts tennis support clubs who take part in these weekends by giving small grants to help with the cost.

County Week this year had its problems. Both Men and Ladies played in Group 1 at Eastbourne but both had problems with availability of players.

The Men have some very good players who make their living, or are trying to make their way, on the tour. With three top players missing Captain Jeff Wayne had to make some difficult decisions. The first two days went, fortunately, in our favour and we managed to win both days. This was mainly due to the great team spirit that Jeff has created over the years. We did not win again but we did manage to stay.

The Ladies probably had more problems getting players than the men - two players being pregnant, three in America not able to be in Eastbourne and one representing GB in the European Champs. We had the youngest team ever to represent Herts at County Week. So down to Group 2 we went but rest assured they will be back to Group 1 soon.

I am sure you will all be aware of Aljaz Bedene, the new No 2 ranked player in Great Britain. Did you know that he has lived in Hertfordshire in Hatfield for the past 8 years? He has played for Herts in the Winter County Cup, which is wonderful for such a high-ranked player to help us in this way. He trains at Gosling when he is in the country.

As you will see from the Herts Newsletter our juniors had a very successful year and many thanks to all the Coaches who work with the teams and travel with them.

The Men's and Ladies County Doubles Leagues continue in strength, the Junior leagues and Aegon Team Tennis are managed by Sarah Tricks and Lee Evans and we have to thank them for their efforts.

The Herts Schools Association under the guidance of Pam Burrage does a fantastic job of organising tournaments for all ages.



Very successful Herts Coaches day with over 40 coaches attending.





# Herts Teams Reports

## Herts Ladies

### Winter Cup 2014

Last November we headed to Bath with a hat-trick under our belt, and a relatively new line up. With some of the more seasoned players busy providing candidates for the Herts mens and ladies teams of 2030 and beyond (having babies!) and others away playing tennis around the world it was time for the new breed to take to the stage.

Friday was against Surrey. At 5 and 6 our younger players had tough battles for their debut Herts ladies matches. And despite good starts on most matches during the day we couldn't quite get the wins against a strong and experienced side. Rosie and Emily snuck a big doubles win in at the end and finished the day 1-8.

On Saturday we faced Kent, who have been absent from the top group for years, so were an unknown to us. Apart from one, the matches were all quick. Amelia Campbell won her singles at 6, which was a great win for her. Emily won at no.1 and we grabbed another doubles rubber to get us 3 for the day. 3-6 to Kent.

With a lot to do against a strong Middlesex on the last day, it was too much to ask of the players who had battled their guts out all weekend. Like Friday, there were some close matches but we couldn't quite turn them our way and came away with a 1-6 loss and a relegation to group 2. It happens sometimes!

Huge effort from Emily Arbuthnott, Alissa Ayling, Holly Bagshaw, Amelia Campbell, Rosie Carr, Amanda Elliott,

Danielle Latter and Claire Ricketts. A tough weekend, but their chins were up, and their determination unwavering. As always, I was very proud. We remain a richly talented county with an attitude and demeanor most captains would give their right arm for!

The 2015 event will be at Gosling on 27th - 29th November. Get your cheering hats on and head down to support the team.

This was my last event as Captain of the Herts ladies, as I had decided to step down at the end of my 10th year. I started playing for the team when I was 13 under Janet Corrie and Jenny Thomas (two people I grew to admire greatly and remain good friends to this day). After 15 years or so I then became vice-captain and subsequently captain. So this team is part of my DNA! I have loved every second of it, and will remember so many people and moments forever. Too many to mention.

As captain I presided over 750 matches. I think I mentally hit every ball. I have been so proud to represent such a mature, talented, kind, determined, and sometimes nutty group of young women. It turns out that they also happen to be AMAZING and together we won 7 national titles, plus a few 'nearlys', and the occasional difficult times. Being captain is harder work than it looks, which you only find out once you're there. So, choosing Katharine and Alissa to be my successors was an easy choice. I know they will be fantastic leaders, supportive managers and inspiring players. There is a lot to be excited about in Herts tennis. The future is bright and I wish them all the best.

**Sarah Donovan**, Ladies Captain



Sarah Donovan has decided to step down after 10 years in the role of Ladies County Team Captain. She guided the County to Group 1 and fantastically to winning the title. A first for Herts.

### Summer County Cup 2015

Katharine and I were extremely honored to be asked to take the Ladies Captains reins from Sarah who had been such an instrumental part of the Ladies success in recent years, and more importantly the 'team' atmosphere which we all enjoy so much.

Whilst some of our team were welcoming new additions to their families (Katharine Dearing, Claire Ricketts and Kate Gowar) this year saw a debut for some of our younger players, and the start of a new era of Ladies tennis.

As always, group 1 is heavily competitive and it's important to get out of the starting blocks well on day 1. We were up against Surrey who was prepared with a very strong team and with play not commencing until the afternoon due to weather, it proved to



The 2015 Ladies Summer County Cup team are L-R, Janet Corrie (Acting Captain), Laura Swain, Katie Dyson, Danielle Latter, Jennifer Brown, Holly Bagshaw, Rosie Carr & Amanda Elliott (Not pictured - Alissa Ayling, Captain).

be a tough challenge for our ladies with a 7-2 defeat. It was never the less a great debut for Rosie, Katie and Laura alongside our experienced players of Amanda, Holly and Jen. With our chins up and the threat of rain dwindling, we faced Lancashire who we've played in previous years, and faced a good chance against. After 2 rounds we found ourselves at 3-3 in matches with just 2 wins needed to seal a win for the day. All 3 matches were extremely close with one being lost on a 10 point tie-break which just gave Lancs the edge and a 5-4 win. Heading into day 3 we knew we needed to get a win on the board to keep ourselves in Group 1. We faced an experience Warwickshire team with many familiar faces and pairings so we were going to have to use some great strategy and fight to come out with a win. After an extremely long first round and 2 matches going to a full third set,

we found ourselves 2-1 down. Again, the day proved to be a bit too tough and we ended with an 8-1 loss and a trip to the sea to heal our aching bodies! Day 4 saw us up against the East of Scotland who had not won a match all week. We were determined to give it our all, and leave nothing left as we needed a win to avoid relegation. The first round was long and saw Laura and I in our 6th 3rd set tie-break of the week which we just missed out on winning despite saving some match points. Danielle then made her debut as we headed into the 2nd round and all 3 pairs fought hard with a 2-4 result heading into the final round. Unfortunately we couldn't quite convert all 3 matches and we lost the day with a tough 5-4. The final day started with some wet weather and as all teams (regardless of Friday's result) couldn't move from their position, Surrey were crowned the

2015 winners with ourselves and East of Scotland heading to group 2 for 2016. I was immensely proud of the team this year, with great efforts day after day and smiles on their faces at the end of the week. It was the first Summer County Cup for Rosie Carr, Danielle Latter, Laura Swain and Katie Dyson and they did us proud! Great contributions as always from Amanda Elliot, Holly Bagshaw and Jen Brown who stepped up tremendously and supported our new additions to the team. A huge thanks also goes to Janet Corrie who supported me all week whilst Katharine was busy becoming a new mum! With Hertfordshire always feeling like one big family, I'm sure our teamwork and passion will see us back in group 1 very soon.  
**Alissa Ayling & Katharine Dearing,**  
Ladies Captains

## Herts Mens

**Traditionally, both our summer and winter 'seasons' are divided into two sections – Friendly Fixtures and County Championships. The Fixtures for each season lead into their respective championships and are very helpful in introducing younger players into the Men's division, as well as serve as a good tune-up for players competing in the competitions themselves.**

Last summer proved different, we had 3 Fixtures confirmed but for different reasons none happened, including our Herts Men showing up at Fenners to play Cambridge University only to find it teeming with rain with even the hard courts unplayable, very disappointing.

This Winter, where again we would normally have at least 3 Indoor Fixtures at Gosling, proved difficult based on the times of day Gosling could offer, as well as a number of players being unavailable due to other commitments.

As a result last summer's County Cup was our sole outing, but of course, like the Winter Cup, it represented one of our two major annual events.

### The AEGON Summer County Cup

Devonshire Park, Eastbourne –  
JULY 20-24TH, 2015.

Surface – Grass (weather permitting). The Herts Men were returning to the grass courts of Devonshire Park, Eastbourne and the elite Group 1 for the 11th consecutive year with a great track record built up over those years, with 5 national titles won including on our debut year in 2005.

Our Summer 2015 team consisted of: Neil Bamford, George Coupland, Jake Munns, Lewis Roskilly, Neil Roskilly, Dominic Ross-Hurst, Harvey Shackleton and James Thomas with Sam Price as Home Reserve.

It would be fair to say that over the years Group 1 has shown that all counties can produce players who are often current or recent full time professionals, and who still when available, play for their respective counties – including one of Herts' most memorable matches a few years ago with a 5-4 Win over North of Scotland that on the day two of their team members had the last name of Murray!

But the Summer of 2015 saw Herts facing the reality that several of our most established players were unavailable – either because of the professional circuit clashing with the Summer Cup, or others with injuries or working abroad.

By the time we arrived at Eastbourne, while we had a very solid team it would only be the competition itself would

establish whether we were strong enough to remain in Group 1.

The answer came pretty much from the 'get go' – with an emphatic and perhaps unexpected 6-3 win over Kent – with every Herts pair contributing, but spearheaded by our Number 1s of George Coupland and Neil Bamford taking all 3 rubbers, and with the Roskillys – Lewis and Neil picking up an emphatic two rubbers.

Day 2 produced another 'W', this time a 5-4 thriller over Suffolk, and once again a great team effort with a last round 3-4 position, seeing Coupland and Bamford, and The Roskilly's win both their matches to get Herts over the finishing line.

Suddenly, we weren't now just thinking of 'surviving', but perhaps being in with a chance for another national title. But our next two days saw defeats at the hands of Surrey and eventual title winners Derbyshire, both with the same scores of 3-6, with several close 3-setters against us that were the difference, putting paid to our title aspirations.

But Day 5 cemented a very solid third place finish against Lancashire – always one of the friendliest yet most competitive counties we've played over the years be it in the Summer or Winter Cups. After reaching a 5-0 lead, the last rubbers were conceded other than one final round played by Neil Bamford and Neil Roskilly completing 3 wins for the day.

# Herts Teams Reports

**And for the 10th straight year, the Herts Men retained their (rightful) place in Group 1.**

Several years ago, the team of Neil Bamford and David Rice secured the 'perfect 15' with not one loss over the entire week, something I had never seen from a Herts pair, and statistically, it was the first time from any pair of any county achieving that in Group 1 in 20 years.

But now for the second time in my 26 years of captaining the Herts Men, I witnessed this for the second time, with Neil Bamford again achieving that distinction. Bammy partnered George Coupland for the first four days and in spite of being behind in a number of their matches, sometimes on the absolute brink of defeat, somehow they hauled themselves back to win each time. On the last day versus Lancs, Neil partnered Neil Roskilly and by winning all three of their matches, Bammy had repeated the 'perfect' 15. Absolutely fantastic.

I always knew George had to leave after Thursday's match for professional reasons, which denied him the chance of entering that elite circle, but he left 12-0, a superb result.

But my special thanks goes to each and every member of the Herts Men who came to Eastbourne to compete as hard as they could, and by the end of the week, every team member had played and contributed to the end result.

I'd like to congratulate Harvey Shackleton in making his Summer County Cup debut for the Herts Men and partnering Jake Munns on our Monday match versus Kent with the score tied at 3-all, they secured

a vital rubber for Herts to put us in the lead.

Additionally Herts welcomed back after a number of years absence, James Thomas and it was great to see him battling for the County once again.

A thank you too to Sam Price for agreeing to be Home Reserve.

Overall a great team effort with the result that the Herts Men will now return in the Summer of 2016 to Devonshire Park for what will be our 11th straight year in Group 1. Wonderful.

## The AEGON Winter Indoor County Cup

**To be played at Easton & Otley College, Norwich, Norfolk**  
November 28-30th

### GROUP 2

As I wrote above Group 2 - it took me a while to actually find the number 2 on my keyboard - up until last year, the Herts Men had competed for seven straight years in Group 1, winning the title seven consecutive years and without a single loss, but eventually I did find that '2'.

Last year's Winter Cup at the University of Bath saw Herts relegated to Group 2, not that it wasn't a great effort by our team, but it wasn't meant to be.

One unforeseen contributing factor occurred during the first Round of Singles on Day 1 with Herts' Number 1 Ed Corrie winning the first set, but then suffered an injury forcing his retirement, including the doubles and the following two days matches. A major blow, and perhaps it was an omen, that in spite of our team's

giving everything, (including going on to win that first match), the next two days proved a bridge too far, resulting in our relegation. In reviewing the stats for those last two days, some proved hard to swallow - so many extremely tight matches that could have turned those loses into wins, but all going against us. But that is sport, not just tennis.

A special thank you to Neil Bamford, which due to unchangeable work commitments of mine, he stood in as captain, as well as played - a tough combination.

This year we have a dynamic team, one that could contend in Group 1 quite easily for another national title.

Without any unforeseen change of events between now as I write this Report and the Winter Cup at the end of November, we have every good chance of returning to Group 1.

The Herts Men for the Winter Indoor County Cup, Group 2 are:

**Aljaz Bedene, Ed Corrie, David Rice, Neil Bamford, Ben Davis, George Coupland, Sam Price, and Harvey Shackleton.**

To me, our teams have always been about our players, and their passion and desire to be part of a 'team' that plays for the honour of their county, Hertfordshire. It is always noted and deeply appreciated by me, as well as all those who are the Herts LTA.

Hhhh.

Long may the Herts 'spirit' be handed down, year upon year upon year.

### COME ON HERTS!

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



The 2015 Mens Summer County Cup team are L-R, Neil Roskilly, Lewis Roskilly, Jeff Wayne (Captain), George Coupland, Neil Bamford, James Thomas, Harvey Shackleton, Dominic Ross-Hurst & Jake Munns.

## Hertfordshire Junior County Team Report 2014 – 2015

It has been another fantastic year for Herts Tennis with an impressive list of team successes in a variety of competitions across the age groups.

**Lionel Cox Trophy – Winners**

**Hildon 12 Counties Championships – Winners**

**Under 9 Orange Festival – Winners**

**Under 9 County Cup – Winners**

**Under 8 Red Inter County – Winners**

**Under 12 Girls County Cup – National Finalists**

**Under 10 Boys County Cup – National Finalists**

Congratulations go to all the players who have competed and contributed to Hertfordshire's success!

In addition to our players representing Herts in numerous competitive events our 17 county captains have seen over 140 players from 7 – 18 years involved in County Training and this year there are more practices planned!

Herts Tennis sees County training as a positive enhancement to player club programmes and with the introduction of additional training sessions we hope there will be more opportunity for players of a similar age and standard to access quality training on a regular basis.

It is hoped the training will:

- Create a positive Herts team environment that will involve more players and coaches.
- Assist in team selection and preparation for County competitions.
- Provide players with quality training focussed on key competition tactics, team work and doubles play.
- Raise players standards
- Keep players involved in tennis for longer

Herts Tennis makes a substantial contribution to tennis and we are pleased to announce that we continue to be in a position to support players within Herts by fully funding the associated costs of both county training and our teams in competitive events.

The first of this seasons training sessions took place on October 9th with twelve under 12 girls attending which was fantastic to see and November 1st sees the first competitive event as Herts bids to defend their Hildon 12 Counties trophy.

So as the new 2015 – 2016 year starts I would like to say thank you to our all players, captains, parents and reserves for your continued and invaluable support. Your enthusiasm to be part of Herts tennis is fantastic and your commitment, professionalism and of course tennis prowess all contribute to our successes as a county... **GO HERTS!**

## Results

### County Cup

**The 18U Boys** competed in Division 1 and despite a close match against Yorkshire were unable to hold their position in the top division:

**Team:** Jake Munns, Harvey Shackleton, Charlie Broom, Scott Power, Sam Tomlinson, Julian Farthing, Toby Nicholson, Joshua Rose.

**Captains:** Jamie Evans and James Buswell.

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

**Team:** Georgie Walker, Emily Arbutnott, Michaela Brown, Elizabeth Hodge, Amelia Campbell, Rosie Carr, Danielle Latter.

**Captains:** Richard Hawkes & Sammie Williams.

**The 14U Girls** came 2nd in their group: **Team:** Mimi Bland, Alexandra Hildreth, Rebecca Ahearne-Smith, Mineli Cooray, Annis Williams, Emily Ineson. **Captain:** Teresa Lilley.

**The 14U boys** came 2nd in their group: **Team:** Daniel Martin, Louis Gibbard, David Latter, George Carter, Max Mcilvenna. **Captain:** Steve Shea.

**The 12U Boys** came 2nd in their group: **Team:** Joel Pierleoni, Andre Raath, Reece Farrow, Danny Anderson.

**Captain:** Tim Walter.

**The 12U Girls** won their qualifying group and came 4th nationally: **Team:** Sophia Underwood, Annabel Davies, Rachel Cranley, Francesca Franchi. **Captain:** Ian Zellner.

**The 10U Boys** qualified for the National Finals at Bolton and came 8th nationally: **Team:** Fabio Nestola, Sean Neveling, Ivan Raath, Matthew Sands. **Captain:** James Thomas.

**The 10U Girls** teams came 3rd in their group at qualifying stage: **Team:** Ekua Youri, Dascha Brazier, Jaya Kaur, Sofie Pickard. **Captains:** Tom Lambert & Sammie Williams.

**The 9U team** came 1st in their group ahead of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Essex.

**Team:** Freddie Simpson, Theo Mcilvenna, Enrico Franchi, Hannah Read, Chloe Ions, Mafalda Almela-Lozano.

**Captains:** Andre Mouskides & Barry Figg.

### East Region U8 Championships

Herts retained the **Under 8** East Region Champions;

**Team:** -Theo Mcilvenna, Enrico Franchi, Alexander McKenzie, Jack Groves, Nicholas Fisk, Charlie Laking, Jody Neveling, Marelle Raath, Erin Pearce, Ava Williamson, Christina Feltham, Madeleine Lightfoot. **Captain:** Monica Beccera.

**U9 Orange** Festival County Tournament – Champions

**Team:** Sean Neveling, Fabio Nestola, Ivan Raath and Hannah Read. **Captain:** Andre Mouskides.

### LIONEL COX – CHAMPIONS

This years tournament took place on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May with Herts teams of 3 boys and 3 girls in the 9U, 10U and 12U age groups.

Herts enjoyed a dominant weekend in early May sunshine on Saturday which was replaced by heavy rain on Sunday morning. All teams and players needed to cope with several hours delay and saturated astro courts when eventually, play resumed. This all did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the Herts youngsters and team captains. Playing a unique form of tennis on a demanding surface, the players crafted their way into 3 finals. The sun decided to embrace the situation and play was eventually possible on a few of the clay courts! The players rejoiced and won all 3 finals whilst all the other age groups recorded wins in their 3rd/4th place play offs!

# Performance & Results

## Lionel Cox Results

Team	Result	Players	Captain
9U Boys	1st place	Freddie Simpson, Theo Mcilvenna, Elliott Lowe,	Dave Airey
9U Girls	3rd place	Hannah Read, Chloe Ions, Marelle Raath.	Sammie Williams.
10U Boys	4th place	Fabio Nestola, Sean Neveling, Oliver Welsby.	James Thomas
10U Girls	1st place	Ekua Youri, Dascha Brazier, Jaya Kaur.	Tony Staley.
12U Boys	1st place	Joel Pierleoni, Oliver Tarvet, Andre Raath.	Tim Walter
12U Girls	1st place	Arabella Moen, Annabel Davis, Rachel Cranley.	Ian Zellner.

## Hildon 12 Counties Results

Team	Result	Players
10U Boys	2nd place	Christopher Smith, Matthew Day, Ryan O'Sullivan, Zac Drake
10U Girls	1st place	Sophie Njuguna, Ekua Youri, Dascha Brazier, Ella Charlwood Captain: James Thomas
12U Boys	1st place	George Carter, Joel Pierleoni, Andre Raath, Joe Collins
12U Girls	1st place	Mineli Cooray, Rachel Cranley, Francesca Franchi, Sophia Underwood Captain: Ian Zellner
14U Boys	1st place	Matthew Carroll, Daniel Martin, Louis Gibbard, David Latter
14U Girls	2nd place	Arabella Moen, Ellie Gale, Rebecca Ahearne-Smith, Uchenna Mgbemena Captain: Steve Shea
16U Boys	4th place	Sam Tomlinson, Sam Canning, James Lee, Matthew Hails
16U Girls -	1st place	Danielle Latter, Amelia Campbell, Larissa Gungah, Alexandra Hildreth Captain: Becky Llewellyn
18U Boys	3rd place	Harvey Shackleton, Joshua Rose, Liam King, Sam Canning
18U Girls	2nd place	Georgie Walker, Amelia Campbell, Danielle Latter, Rosie Carr Captain: James Buswell

All the teams, captains and parents should be applauded for a very successful weekend!

With all of the results combined Herts won the Lionel Cox Trophy for the second year running.

## HILDON 12 COUNTIES - CHAMPIONS

The Hildon 12 Counties Championships is an annual event involving five age groups from 10 – 18 years. This year's competition involved 480 players with 720 matches played from October 2014 through to March 2015 with each of the Counties age groups results combined. Herts were again in Division 1 and competed against Yorkshire, Leicestershire and Cheshire. Despite the defending champions Yorkshire putting up a brave battle they couldn't match our team's efforts in every age group which contributed to Hertfordshire being crowned champions!

## Individual Successes - our Pros 2015

Herts full-time players have worked hard all year and here are some highlights of their successes.

We are also very excited to welcome 3 new "pros" to our Herts family: Aljaz Bedene, Ryan Storrie and Bella Moen.

### MEN/BOYS.

#### Internationally:

**Aljaz Bedene** - TP Career High singles 48 doubles -523  
Highest career scalp- Gilles Simon 11- Winston Salem 8/15  
Grand Slam 2nd Rd- Wimbledon and US Open. 1st Rd Roland Garros and Australian Open. Sponsors: Adidas and Technifibre.

**Ed Corrie** - Best ATP ranking 2015 - singles 218, doubles 163.  
Current singles 438, doubles 529. Injury time out since June.  
Title- Sherbrooke, Canada Futures15K.

Quimper, France Challenger Q/F.

Wimbledon Singles Qual 2nd Rd, Main Draw Doubles with Kyle Edmund.

Sponsors Bjorn Borg and Dunlop.

**David Rice** - Best ATP ranking 2015- singles 371, doubles 198  
Current singles 529, doubles 285.

Title- Doha, Futures10K.

Sponsors Bjorn Borg and Babolat.

**Ryan Storrie** - ITF 18U ranking 130. LTA 18U 8.

Title- Boca Raton ITF G4.

Highest career scalp- Yunseong Chung ITF 18U 10.

**Harvey Shackleton** - LTA 18U 15  
Nationals 18U Runner up doubles.

**Charlie Broom** - ITF 18U ranking 249. LTA 18U 21  
Nationals 18U singles and doubles S/F.

Runner-up in both Queenswood ITF G4 and Sweden G4.  
Qualified Junior Wimbledon.

**Joshua Rose** - ITF 18U ranking 936

**Finn Bass** - ITF 18U ranking 255 -  
Highest 242. LTA 18U 27.

Injury break until April.

Runner-up in both the Nottingham ITF G4's and Tunisia G4.

Junior Wimbledon - he was the youngest boy in the draw, which was a fantastic experience - he got the opportunity to warm-up with Dustin Brown - the day after he beat Rafa.

1st Rd singles 3rd Rd doubles.  
GB 16U Summer Cup team event in Romania, Consolation draw winners. Sponsors Yonex and Adidas.

**At Home:** The following boys also represented Herts at the Nationals.

**Matthew Carroll** 16U, **Daniel Martin** 14U, **Joel Pierleoni** 12U S Q/F, D F.  
**Oliver Tarvet** 12U.

### LADIES/GIRLS.

**Internationally:**

**Katy Dunne** - Best WTA ranking 2015- 272.

Present singles ranking: 278.

Doubles: 462.

Highlight of year - winning first qualifying round in Wimbledon.  
Key results: Runner up Woking 25k. Winner. Chiswick sing and doubles 10k. Sponsors Adidas and Wilson. Travelodge.

**Emily Arbuthnott** -

Best WTA ranking 994.

Runner Up: Chiswick singles 10K.

ITF 18U ranking singles 3.

LTA 18U ranking 31.

Titles: ITF Doubles- G1 Juan Carlos.

Ferrero, G1 Beaulieu Sur Mer, G1 Canada

GB Summer Cup.

Junior Wimbledon singles and doubles.

**Mollie Crouch** - LTA 18U ranking 5.

**Georgina Axon** -

ITF 18U ranking 160 H 140.

GB Winter cup Runners up to Russia.

GB Summer cup qualifying for Fed cup.

ITF 18U runner up singles Uzbekistan.

Junior Wimbledon doubles.

10K semi finalist.

Sponsored by Wilson.

**At Home:** The following girls also represented Herts at the Nationals:

**Bella Moen** 14U, **Sophia Underwood**

12U S Q/F D F, **Rachel Cranley** 12U,

**Annabel Davis** 12U.

**Indianna Spink** -

Recovering from injury.



Emily Arbuthnott with Judy Murray.

## Aegon Junior Player of the Month

Emily Arbuthnott is the leading junior player in Herts and has a world Junior Ranking of 31.

This year she played in the main draw of all the Grand Slam Junior Events.

She reached the last 16 in the French open singles. Along with her Danish partner Emilie Francati she reached the semi-finals of the Australian doubles and the quarter finals of the US Open.

During the summer she represented Great Britain in the Under 18 European Summer Cup event and won 7 of her 9 matches leading GB girls to their best result, 5th place, in the last 12 years.

She was awarded the LTA Aegon junior player of the month in August.

## Herts County Closed winners and runners-up 2015

Event	Position	Name(s)
<b>Open Mens Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Matthew Carroll</b>
	Runner Up	James Wilkinson
<b>18U Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>David Stevenson &amp; Rosie Carr</b>
	Runners Up	James Lee & Amelia Campbell
<b>18U Girls Doubles</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Rosie Carr &amp; Georgie Walker</b>
	Runners Up	Catherine Hodge & Elizabeth Hodge
<b>18U Boys Doubles</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>David Stevenson &amp; James Wilkinson</b>
	Runners Up	Matthew Carroll & Jake Penny
<b>18U Girls Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Joanna Garland</b>
	Runner Up	Georgie Walker
<b>18U Boys Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Matthew Carroll</b>
	Runner Up	Jake Penny
<b>16U Girls Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Joanna Garland</b>
	Runner Up	Alexandra Hildreth
<b>16U Boys Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>James Wilkinson</b>
	Runner Up	Jake Penny
<b>14U Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Louis Gibbard &amp; Alexandra Hildreth</b>
	Runners Up	Danny Anderson & Emily Ineson
<b>14U Girls Doubles</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Joanna Garland &amp; Annis Williams</b>
	Runners Up	Mineli Cooray & Rachel Cranley
<b>14U Boys Doubles</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Alexander Carter &amp; George Carter</b>
	Runners Up	Danny Anderson & Oliver Tarvet
<b>14U Girls Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Rebecca Ahearne-Smith</b>
	Runner Up	Annabel Davis
<b>14U Boys Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>George Carter</b>
	Runner Up	James Weller
<b>12U Girls Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Annabel Davis</b>
	Runner Up	Catherine Hodge
<b>12U Boys Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Oliver Tarvet</b>
	Runner Up	Ben Feltham
<b>10U Girls Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Hannah Read</b>
	Runner Up	Sofie Pickard
<b>10U Boys Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sean Neveling</b>
	Runner Up	Oliver Tresman
<b>9U Girls Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Hannah Read</b>
	Runner Up	Mafalda Almela-Lozano
<b>9U Boys Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Alexander Mckenzie</b>
	Runner Up	Charlie Laking
<b>8U Girls Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Hephzibah Oluwadare</b>
	Runner Up	Kashish Bhasin
<b>8U Boys Singles</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Nicholas Fisk</b>
	Runner Up	Sam Howard

# Performance & Results

## Aegon Team Tennis Hertfordshire 2015

2014 was always going to be a hard act to follow but we are proud that Hertfordshire came fourth and first of the counties with an existing strong large entry. One of the major factors is the percentage increase in entries, always harder when you start from a strong base.

The never ending struggle with this competition is that it is a national competition with rules laid down nationally which have been in place for some years and which must be applied. UNFORTUNATELY either some captains do not read the lengthy and numerous communications that are sent out OR decide that the rules do not apply to them. This causes a lot of extra work including time spent supporting well organised volunteers who are upset at being let down or not getting a reply. The model that has been proven to work across the country is one where each team within a club has its own captain, usually a parent of one of the playing members. Despite all this over 80% of matches were played.

## Herts Winter Singles League

The adult section of this competition is thriving. Just six matches in the whole competition were not played, most of them ladies matches. Entries this year are slightly higher although of 7 ladies teams, three are from Letchworth. Again organisation is key to the enjoyment of this league by ALL teams. In the juniors we have introduced a penalty for teams using players much higher than the rating declared when they entered the competition. The whole point of all these leagues is to provide good team competition for all players and not for one team/player to win every match 6-0 6-0.

## Chiltern League

It is for 12U and 14U beginners only and fills the gap between the mini tennis league and the winter singles league. Indeed we have taken the beginner bit very seriously in the 12U, relaunching the Swain Cup for those rated 10.1 and below. In addition it remains a mixed competition providing a great afternoon of tennis for 2 boys and 2 girls. Divisions are based on rating information provided in advance. Entries were not as high as I would have liked but hopefully it will grow.

Many thanks to Claire Thandi who has taken on administering this league.

## Herts Junior Summer League 2015

Previously organised by the County Office, a rather late decision was made to continue with this one following analysis of the results of the survey conducted in the Spring. As a result entries were lower than expected despite extending the age groups to 12U to 18U at the request of various clubs.

One piece of feedback was that clubs would like it to end at the end of September rather than the end of August. Unfortunately because it has age restrictions this is not possible as age eligibility changes on the 31st March and 31st August. Some clubs felt it was too soon after Aegon Team Tennis but others want something for those who do not play Team Tennis. Bearing in mind the difficulties some

clubs have in getting out 16u and 18U teams for Team Tennis due to exams, this might be a more appropriate competition for them.

Teams were allocated to groups on the basis of ratings declared. Unfortunately one team chose to play someone with a significantly higher rating, which also happened during Aegon Team Tennis. As a result the rules have been changed for the winter Chiltern League competition and penalties will be applied if this happens in this competition.

The results were:

**12U Boys** Edmund Murray Letchworth Townsend B

**12U Girls** Watson Konta Legends Townsend

**14U Boys** Ward Bedene Broady Brookmans Park Leverstock Green St Albans B

**14U Girls** Dunne St Albans

**16U Boys** Corrie Townsend

(This group was very close – all had the same number of wins and it was decided on set percentage, 60.5%, 53.5% and 52.9%)

**Cox** Leverstock Green B

**16U Girls** Boulter St Albans

Following the survey we carried out these are a few things we will do to help.

- More information sent out about the competitions we run.
- Get all leagues operating on line.
- Add players from last year to the next years competition to aid entering online results.
- Help clubs needing funds for extra courts so they can enter.
- Encourage clubs to link to enter teams when they don't have enough players for a team. Stop encouraging players at smaller clubs to compete for larger centres as it is killing club team tennis.
- Explain to parents how they can and need to help. We have to advise you that we have little or no influence over rules of Team Tennis.
- Revamp the Junior Summer League and Chiltern League for 12 & 14 and ensure players in divisions with similar ability level. Drop the finals.
- Get an effective website operational.

## Sarah Tricks



Congratulations to Herts ladies player Kate Gowar on the birth of Jack who was born on 22nd September and has settled in well at home. He is pictured here with Freddie, his doting big brother. We look forward to some good doubles battles!

## Mens 35s

**So near and yet so far - Herts 35s men miss out on a return to Group One by a single set!**

For Herts 35s men, Eastbourne 2015 began in the most bizarre fashion. At lunchtime on Friday I was strolling down the sun-drenched seafront promenade rather than battling it out on the courts of Devonshire Park – the torrential rain of the previous day having wiped out Friday's play entirely, despite the bright sunshine! The loss of the first day's play was ultimately Surrey's gain and, spared the cutting edge of the Herts rapier they would return to slash our hopes of a return to Group One in the cruellest of fashions.

It cannot have been often that a team has a 100% win record, including a 5-0 first day victory but still fails to achieve promotion, but that was the fate that befell the Herts musketeers this year. With the weather having put paid to our opening day duel with Surrey we were left to do battle with the fearsome Scots of the East and our old foes from 2013, Devon.

Saturday dawned brightly and with the courts finally fit we wasted no time in beating Scotland 5-0.

After the first day's sparring we were therefore keen to get back in the ring for Sunday's showdown knowing that, following Surrey's 4-1 defeat of Devon, rubbers would likely prove to be the deciding factor in the quest for the title belt.

With Surrey's captain a Maths teacher and Herts' leader a linguist it was, perhaps, no surprise that, ultimately, Surrey won the numbers game – pipping us to promotion by a single set. As dusk fell and the curtain came down on another exciting and enjoyable weekend of tennis we sought to drown our sorrows in the bitter vinegar that seasoned our farewell fish and chips. Our two victories had been sweet, but bitter-sweet in the context of the ultimate result.

I am once again indebted to the fantastic performances and team spirit of this year's team: Johan Prins, Mark George, Steve Walter and Len Rosso. None of us are getting any younger, but we live to fight another day! Another date with destiny awaits in 2016!

**'Rocky' Bramwell**

## Mens 45s

**Matches and results Div 1A**

With 2 teams being relegated automatically we were always safe. Leicestershire pulled out of the division due to a lack of players and Suffolk were relegated for not turning up to play Devon. We have a solid squad of players who all performed well and my thanks to Dave Shann and Rob Slack for stepping up and getting some good results in the singles rubbers. The results were as follows:

Suffolk (Away)	5-0	Win
Middlesex (Home)	2-3	Loss
Leicestershire (Home)		Walkover
Devon (Away)	1-4	Loss
Lancashire (Home)	3-2	Win

The result versus Middlesex was so close with a tie-break loss in the deciding rubber. With a win there, the season could have been very different.

After three years as captain I am stepping down. I have

enjoyed the role and have met and made some good tennis friends. I wish Dave Reed good luck in taking over the reins. Thanks also to the following players for competing so well this season: Dave Shann, Rob Slack, Dave Reed, John Littleford, Neil Grassick, Steve Walter, Tony Illingworth and Richard Dyer. Finally, just a special mention to Alan Roberts for all his help and support over the last three seasons.

**Matt Foster**

## Mens 55s

**This year the standard in the Men's 55+ Division 1b was very strong, with Middlesex, Lancashire and Surrey all fielding top UK rated players. Despite our results I am confident we did our best and enjoyed the competition.**

I would like to thank all the players for their great contributions...Paul Thompson, Ian Portal, John Bennet, Martin Webb, Dave Thomas, Mike Seymour and Barry Brown. We now look forward to making a comeback next year.

**Steve Clay**

## Mens 60s

**Played 5, won 5 and the team head to David Lloyd Brierley Hill for the play off on November 7th, Neagle Cathcart played No1 singles with Bob Birchley at No2 and both remained unbeaten throughout the season.**

They were ably supported by Martin Corrie, David Stanton, Tony Boyle, Peter Leary, Chris Owen, Chris Pittson, Hugh Leonard and Dave Thomas who all played a valuable part in our success. Thanks to Legends Tennis Centre for hosting our home matches and the great welcome they gave us

**David Stanton**

## 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**

## Mens 70s

**Expectations were high at the start of the season with Malcolm Fraser and Barry Skelding graduating to the +70s.**

The season started with an away win, 4-1, at West of Scotland. Then two heavy defeats to Hampshire and Kent gave an indication of the strength of the league.

# Herts Mens Vets

The two crucial matches were against Bedfordshire (eventual league winners) and Essex.

Unfortunately both were lost 2-3, but in both of the matches, a couple of third set tie-breaks went against us.

Peter Morton lost his singles against Terry Mabbitt (Beds) 7-10 in the third set tie-break. (Terry won all of his other rubbers!) If these close matches had gone the other way then I would be reporting a comfortable mid table position!

As it has turned out we are bottom but one and relegated.

My thanks to the squad for their full support during the season, Malcolm Fraser, Peter Morton, Doug Cheese.

**Barry Skelding & Rex Poulter**

## Mens 75s

**We had a good season in div 1b.**

We won all our 5 matches winning against Devon, Staffs, Somerset, Lancs and Kent.

The team was myself, Richard Rowlandson, Barrie Williams, Vic Israel, Peter Gosbell & Graham Downes.

We now play in the finals at Dudley on Nov 6 v west of Scotland and will try and retain the title won the previous 2 years running.

**John Barnett**

## County Results

At county level we now field 8 teams in the Inter-County championships.

## Herts Seniors Winter Doubles League 2014 -15

### Over 45s

Fifty-one Teams took part in the competition across 7 divisions – compared to previously, many more matches were settled via the “shoot-out” method – i.e. a 2-2 draw settled via the count back of sets and then games – with one match finishing as a draw.

In the Championship Division the defending champions HARPENDEN managed to retain their title but perpetual runners up – WEST HERTS ran them much closer than 2013-14.

In Group 1a - Letchworth 1, having been relegated in 2013-14, comfortably won the division to regain their place in the Championship.

Winners & Runners up in the 45's group were as follows:

#### Championship Division

1. Harpenden 1
2. West Herts 1

#### Group 1a

1. Letchworth 1
2. Harpenden 3

#### Group 2a

1. Townsend 2
2. Croxley Green 1

#### Group 3a

1. Leverstock Green 2
2. Enfield

#### Group 1b

1. Barnet 1
2. Hoddesdon

#### Group 2b

1. St.Albans 1
2. Orchard

#### Group 3b

1. Hertford
2. Chorleywood

### 2015 Match Results

	Played	Won	Pos.	2016 status	Captain
<b>45+</b>	3	1	3	div. 1	Matt Foster
<b>55+</b>	5	0	6	div. 2	Steve Clay
<b>60+</b>	5	5	1	div. 1	Dave Stanton
<b>65+</b>	5	1	5	div. 2	Tom Parsons
<b>70+</b>	5	1	5	div. 2	Rex Poulter
<b>75+</b>	5	5	1	div. 1	John Barnett
<b>80+</b>	Being arranged				Keith Sharples

The 60+ and 75+ teams played at Dudley for their respective national titles.

60+ lost 1 – 3 vs Surrey.

**Team: N. Cathcart, R. Birchley, D. Stanton & M. Corrie.**

75+ won 3 – 1 vs West of Scotland.

**Team: J. Barnett, R. Rowlandson, G. Downes & B. Williams.**

## National Tournament Results

Congratulations to Vic Israel who repeated his 80+ doubles victory in 2014 at the British Senior's Closed Grass Court Championships by winning in 2015 with his regular partner, Mike Cottee.

The other notable result was in the 75+ doubles where John Barnett and Richard Rowlandson reached the final, but were unable to repeat their 2014 success, losing in the championship tiebreak.

**Alan Roberts**

### Over 55s

Thirty-six teams took part across 5 Divisions.

The championship Division was as competitive as ever with defending champions DAVID LLOYD trying to retain their title against annual rivals HARPENDEN 1 who were very determined that it wasn't going to happen. Having been beaten at St. Albans, the LLOYD boys knew they were really up against it in the final match of the season at HARPENDEN, and although the scores didn't reflect the match Harpenden was really too strong for a gallant David Lloyd team.

RADLETT – won Group 1a to regain their place in the Championship – at the expense of Elliswick 1, but the real surprise package came from: Group 1b where BROOKMANS PARK ran away with the Division by a “country mile” – all credit there to DAVID STANTON who joined the club from David Lloyd and he played a major part in the Brookmans Park success...So look out all in the Championship... Brookmans Park could be very dangerous.

Winners & Runners up in the 55's group were as follows:

#### Championship Division

1. Harpenden 1
2. David Lloyd

#### Group 1a

1. Radlett
2. Rickmansworth

#### Group 2a

1. Hoddesdon
2. Cassiobury

#### Basil Wein

#### Group 1b

1. Brookmans Park
2. Bishops Stortford

#### Group 2b

1. Totteridge
2. Croxley Green

## Ladies 35s

**The Women's Over 35 Inter-County Championships 2015 was once again hosted at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, and this year was blessed with beautiful weather.**

The Hertfordshire team were faced with an extremely tough Group 2 and unfortunately were edged '3-2' on all three days of the competition - resulting in a Group 3 position for next year.

Day 1, v Hereford & Worcester, saw some huge efforts from Kate Peel in singles and Pippa Parkes and Sarah Ward in the doubles. The result came down to the last match and that infamous 'champs tie-break.'

Thanks to Pippa and Sarah who went out of their way to make it down to Eastbourne for the day, before flying off on holidays early the next morning!

Day 2, v Essex, got off to a great start with a win from Kate in the singles. Jenny Webster put up a great fight in her singles against one of the strongest players in the event.

After lunch we had the exciting return to tennis of Sarah Donovan - who after hitting a handful of times pre-event but basically having not played for more than ten years managed to win three out of four sets of doubles!

It was wonderful to see her back on court and we hope to see much more of her in the future! Again - the match result came down to the final doubles where a very solid Essex pair closed out the win.

Day 3, v Devon, saw the Herts Ladies take the eventual winners of the group extremely close in all the first round matches. With the group positions confirmed, Devon then conceded the final two rubbers of doubles.

**Team: Sarah Donovan, Pippa Parkes, Kate Peel, Sian Southwell-Sander, Sarah Ward & Jenny Webster.**

Massive thanks to all the team for their huge efforts to get to Devonshire Park and for their impressive performances on court.

With work and family commitments it is not easy for the Over 35 age group in terms of availability and as a result we need a large bank of players in the mix.

With this in mind, if you turn or are over 35 in 2016 and would like to be considered for selection - or you know someone in your Club who you think should be considered - please can you email me to [sianss@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sianss@hotmail.co.uk).

Finally, a big thank you to all our supporters - it really helps having you there!

**Sian Southwell-Sander**

## Ladies 40s

**It has been another excellent season for us in the 40s category with the team winning 4 out of 5 matches and finishing second in Group 1B, thus maintaining our place for 2016.**

Victories came over Cambs (3-2), Hampshire and the IOW (3-2), Surrey (4-1) and Notts (5-0). The loss was to a tough Devon team (1-4). There have been some outstanding performances all round but congratulations in particular must go to Bridie Amos and Delphine Rive who had excellent singles victories this year both winning two matches playing in the number one position. Bridie and Olga Blecher too were a formidable

doubles combination and remained unbeaten all season.

Thank you to the 8 Ladies who represented the team this year; Bridie Amos, Olga Blecher, Sarah Ward, Clare Pryce, Amanda Evans, Delphine Rive, Miranda Hosking and Pippa Parkes.

Here's hoping we can have another crack at getting to the county finals in 2016.

**Sarah Ward** (Herts 40's Captain)

## Ladies 50s

**A terrific squad effort resulted in the Ladies 50s winning all five matches and gaining promotion to Division 1 next year!**

The matches were generally challenging and the team spirit was excellent with everyone contributing valuable rubbers. Apart from some very enjoyable practices, highlights included playing Middlesex at Queens, winning three deciding tie breaks against Gloucester, great tennis against Devon and Oxfordshire, and a fun trip to Cardiff - thanks to Jude for driving and for playing 5 singles. Those who played were Judith Allnutt, Claire Booth, Wendy Cottendon, Annie Hems, Wendy Job, Wendy Randall, Margaret Shamir and Rowena Tott.

Thanks to everyone for your fantastic support and to Berkhamsted and Gosling for providing great venues.

**Claire**

## Ladies 60s

**Herts Over 60s Ladies started the season in Division 1 with slight trepidation, having just come up from Division 2, and now having singles to contend with! However, we had a marvellous first match against Middlesex, indoors at Batchwood, on their lovely new courts!**

In the first round, Trishia Rayner won her singles-in fact, so comprehensively, that her opponent withdrew from the second round! Janet Corrie and Alison Allard, our new 'youngsters' to the team, had a fabulous doubles victory over a 'seasoned' Middlesex pair! So a great start, with a 6-4 victory! Then up to the West of Scotland- an extremely long day for Alison, Trishia, Yvonne Stredder and Lorraine Oliver; however, a fabulous victory 8-2, so definitely worth the stress!

Having started the season so convincingly, we were confident going into the Surrey match, but sadly, we were not as strong as Surrey. Surrey were very pleased to win 10-0!

Onwards and upwards to South Wales and Cardiff-where the Captain had not booked an indoor court-thinking it would be fine in July (in Wales! Ever?!) Having told her that we would not play in the pouring rain or re-arrange, she, most luckily, organised courts at David Lloyd - 2 hours later - so another terribly long, arduous, horrific day for the team! We lost 8-2. Then, our final match of the season v Norfolk, who had won all their matches, we lost to the stronger team, 10-0.

Thank you so much to all the players who contributed their best efforts in singles and/or doubles. I am really thrilled and proud to say that we came 3rd in our League, and remain in Division 1-what a result!

Penny Kent (Captain), Alison Allard, Janet Corrie, Yvonne Stredder, Trishia Rayner, Lorraine Oliver, Gill Dickey, and Jenny Davies.

**Penny Kent**

*cont'd*

# Places to Play...

*cont'd from previous page*

## Ladies 65s

As in previous years the Hertfordshire over 65 ladies team has had a good year and the team spirit and support has been excellent.

We drew against Warwickshire, beat Cambridgeshire and Buckinghamshire and narrowly lost to Shropshire and Cumbria. The teams comprised Pam Burrows, Meta Kelly, Teresa Deverell, Christine Robinson, Sheila Vaughan, Debbie Walker, Jenny Madden, Celeste Reeve and Myself. I thank them all and also others who have been squad members and helped out at friendlies and reunions, for their unflagging support and co-operation, which has made my term as captain so rewarding and enjoyable.

**Jennifer Israel**



## Moor Park's Second GBTW experience

On 16 and 17 May, we experienced our 2nd GBTW. It was a most enjoyable weekend and we attracted 9 Adult Members and 4 Juniors.

We are most grateful for the support and the advice we received from Herts LTA in planning and marketing our event. Jane Fransen, Chairman of our Sub Committee, was brilliant.

We were fortunate enough to get sponsorship from Porsche which resulted in having these cars on site! Our Lady Captain had the great idea of filling the boot of the yellow one with tennis balls. All new members signing up on the weekend were asked to guess the number of balls. The lucky winner received a Driving experience in a Porsche.

The weather was kind to us, if a bit windy, but the sun shone and the wonderful grass courts were in use. We also ran a second Saturday 23 May as a Standard Open Day. This was not so successful so next year we may do something different.

This is backed up by the LTA, who have declared it a resounding success. Around 180 people joined in on the day, a good mix of members and new faces, several of whom have since become members.

The day was a blend of excellent competitive tennis, friendly social play, coaching with the junior squads, an extremely well attended rusty racquets) and a very popular junior obstacle course which ran non-stop almost the entire day. Punctuating these sessions were a variety of fun activities that included a popular bouncy castle for kids, a ball machine and a speed gun. When we were planning the day, it was important that everyone attending had the opportunity to bring their families along for a day of fun filled activities.

We decided to provide a BBQ free of charge to all attendees as well as an excellent array of cakes and beverages throughout the day.

It really was a team effort on the day and we are very grateful to everyone who helped.

You can view many photos from the day on our website [www.rltc.co.uk](http://www.rltc.co.uk) in the gallery.

Roll on our 2016 Great British Tennis Weekend!



## Codicote LTA Open Day

Centre Court Wimbledon on Saturday 11th July wasn't the only place to enjoy strawberries and cream and some great tennis in the sun; at Codicote Lawn Tennis Club, tots, teens and adults enjoyed fun, games and cardio-tennis, rounded off with an exhibition match.

Tinies enjoyed tots tennis and mini tennis, then the pace increased for the beats of cardio tennis and the fastest serve competition. Members mixed with prospective members of all ages on court for a friendly informal play session.

Refreshments were available after all that exertion, including a selection of home-made cakes fit for the Great British Bake Off, together with Pimms and of course the strawberries and cream.

It was pleasing to see such a wide age range participating in the activities, which were masterminded by head coach Guy and his new assistant Dominik. With the sun shining, the ladies' Wimbledon final on TV in the brand new club-house, and a grand total of 21 new members signing up, it really was a successful Open Day.

## Rickmansworth Tennis Club

On Saturday 13th June Rickmansworth held a Great British Tennis Weekend. From the feedback we had at the time and have received since, we can confidently say that it was a wonderful day.

Also in the news...



Herts County Closed 14U Girls Winner Rebecca Ahearne-Smith with Kelly Baker.



The Harpenden Ladies 40+ team with their bronze medals.

## Bronze Medal for Herts Ladies

The Harpenden Ladies 40 plus team represented the UK in the European Senior Club championship, eventually coming away with the bronze medal.

The team, consisting of captain Gill Brown, Bridie Amos, Monica Becerra and Miranda Hosking, had reached the finals, held at the LaManga club in Spain, after winning the UK National 40 plus club knockout competition last month.

This was the first time the team had made this stage but they showed no signs of nerves, progressing from the first group stage without losing a match, beating the Dutch, German and Belgian teams, all 3-0.

That success took them into a finals group with the other two group winners, Charmatin from Madrid and Polo from Barcelona.

Unfortunately these teams proved too much for Harpenden although Hosking and Amos narrowly missed out on winning one of the doubles matches, while Brown pushed the 40 plus world champion all the way, before losing in two sets.



Mimi Bland, Rosie Carr and Katie Birt - Teen Girls winners.

## Harpenden girls take title in brand-new tennis challenge event

Mimi Bland, Rosie Carr and Katie Birt, accompanied by coach Bridie Amos and parent-coach, Hilary Birt, were crowned winners of the Teen Girls Challenge.

The event has the aim of engaging girls in tennis in a fun competitive environment, focusing on team performance.

The girls play a mixture of singles and doubles matches, but with a twist.

Joker cards allow them to instantly replay a point while they receive bonus points for a particular play and can even substitute a team mate or a coach for a point.

The modifications not only liven up play but also made the girls think more tactically.

The Harpenden team topped their group, defeating Halton, Swansea and an All-Star team, before coming through in the semi-final against Cardiff to set up the closely fought final against Kent.

A spokeswoman for the club said: "Although the girls were delighted by their win, they found the real value to the weekend initiative was the ability to play at high level in such a vibrant atmosphere.

"For girls playing regular competitive tennis, it provided a refreshing injection of light-heartedness to the game."



Many congratulations to Kat Dearing, our Herts Ladies Captain, on the birth of her daughter Millie Rose, born on the 14th July weighing 7lb 8oz. Another young lady for the future Herts team!

Congratulations from everyone at Herts Tennis to faithful Herts and former international player, Claire Ricketts on the birth of her daughter, Alice, on 23rd July weighing 9lb 10z. George looks very happy with his new sister. Welcome to the Herts family, Alice!



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## 200 Club winners HERTS LTA 2014-2015

OCTOBER		
£40	6	Mr B Havill
£30	11	Mr P Seymour
£20	155	Mrs J Moseley
£10	93	Mr A Sheridan
£10	32	Mr R Sneesby
NOVEMBER		
£40	42	Mr G Westwell
£30	274	Mrs B Hayward
£20	267	Mr A Sheridan
£10	184	Mr J Bruley
£10	290	Mr M Knee
DECEMBER		
£40	67	Mr A Sheridan
£30	197	Mr M Bramwell
£20	200	Mr M Bowler
£10	169	Mr J Marlow
£10	247	Mrs J Moseley
JANUARY		
£40	177	Mrs J Thomas
£30	55	Mr M Knee
£20	200	Mr M Bowler
£10	78	Mrs D Gaffney
£10	7	Mr T Adamson
FEBRUARY		
£100	9	Mrs P Ayres
£40	88	Mr C Grigg
£30	52	Mr M Jones
£20	43	Mr G Westwell
£10	34	Codicote TC
£10	283	Mrs P Danks
MARCH		
£40	155	Mrs J Moseley
£30	267	Mr A Sheridan
£20	135	Mrs M Mills
£10	248	Mrs P Danks
£10	173	Mr R Greenwood
APRIL		
£40	170	Mrs J Marlow
£30	241	Mr D Collett
£20	178	Mr N Aves
£10	190	Mrs C Herbert
£10	102	Mrs E Taylor
MAY		
£40	236	Mr I Duncan
£30	6	Mrs B Hayward
£20	273	Mrs P Danks
£10	45	Mr M Knee
£10	222	Greenwood Park TC
JUNE		
£40	111	Mrs S Astley
£30	5	Mrs C Ayling
£20	45	Mr B Dixon
£10	31	Mr R Sneesby
£10	294	Mr M Knee
JULY		
£40	233	Mr I Duncan
£30	6	Mr B Havill
£20	273	Mr J Stone
£10	45	Mr B Dixon
£10	222	Mrs A Allard
AUGUST		
£100	178	Mr N Aves
£40	234	Mr I Duncan
£30	281	Mrs P Danks
£20	6	Mr B Havill
£10	104	Miss A Toogood
£10	100	Mrs C Morris
SEPTEMBER		
£40	1	Mr G Masterton
£30	118	Codicote TC
£20	74	Mr M Knee
£10	83	Mr A Sheridan
£10	165	Mrs P Danks

# Herts Mini Tennis

## Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter Team League 2014-2015

The Mini League has once again been enjoyed by many players in the Hertfordshire Clubs. In total 481 boys and girls enjoyed a winter of competition in the Red, Orange and Green events.

34 teams entered the Red event and 30 Orange and 23 Green teams also entered.

The League is now run in two sections the qualifying section is organised from September to December. The top two teams in each round robin group then go forward to the Main Draw which started in January.

16 compass draw format was used in all three Main Draw events which gave each participating team a guaranteed 4 matches.

The results were as follows:

### RED EVENT

#### Winners

**Letchworth Red Lobbers**

#### Runners Up

**Welwyn Red Wanderers**

#### Consolation Winners

**Harpenden**

A special mention must go to Welwyn Red Wanderers who played through the qualifying draw to reach the Main Draw Finals.

### ORANGE EVENT

#### Winners

**Batchwood Orange Bulldogs**

#### Runners Up

**Orange Legends**

#### Consolation Winners

**Batchwood Orange Buffalos**

### GREEN EVENT

#### Winners

**Batchwood Green Grasshoppers**

#### Runners Up

**Green Legends**

#### Consolation Winners

**Harpenden Green**

A small committee of people assisted with the organisation of the Mini League and thanks must go to James Thomas (Letchworth), Matt Fellingham (Royston), Sue Picton (Langley) and Sarah Jackson (Gosling) for their valuable contribution.

#### Jennifer Keates

## AWARDS

### Laing Award

Georgie Walker

### Mark Seymour Award

Charlie Broom

### County Colours

Jennifer Brown

## Pathway to Tarbes

Pathway to Tarbes continues as the Herts LTA flagship talent development programme and Batchwood and Gosling Tennis Centres have again received £10K each for the year. To date we have 74 players on the programme.

Indiana Spink, who joined the programme when she was 5 years old, is our first player to achieve the goal of playing in the Les Petits As (Small Champions). This is the premier junior tennis tournament held in Tarbes, France each year. It is considered to be the European equivalent of the Junior Orange Bowl held in Florida U.S.A. Indi still has another year to play in the Tarbes event.

Many more players on the programme have achieved success during the year.

The aims of the programme are to support and encourage young Hertfordshire players, who are 'mad about tennis' and have the drive and ambition to succeed on the international scene.

This is an inclusive programme for all Hertfordshire players and once again we would encourage Hertfordshire Clubs, parents and coaches to embrace the programme and send their young, enthusiastic players to the termly talent identification days.

In addition to the Pathway to Tarbes programme Herts LTA has now introduced 'Herts Inspires Tennis' (HIT) and is supporting Langley, Legends and Letchworth Clubs. The programme targets small squads at Red stage to 'make their better players better!'

It is an exciting time for Hertfordshire Tennis!

#### Jennifer Keates

The Herts Schools Committee is made up of 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 welcomed two new recruits to our committee and have been able to separate the Year 5 and Year 6 competitions.

## Teachers Course

Our season started with the annual Teachers Course at David Lloyd, Hatfield. We had two tutors and two courts. This meant we were able to cover the differing needs of teachers attending. We would like to thank Ambrus Pinter for his work on our Teachers Courses.

## 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



County Boys Winners

Organisers. 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:** 40 Boys' Teams competed in Division 1 and 32 in Division 2. This is a record for Herts. The Finals were held at Gosling Sports Park and we would like to wish Haberdashers and Watford Boys the best of luck in the knockout rounds.

**Girls:** This event was more popular than ever with forty one teams entered in



St Albans High 1: U18 Girls Winners

total across both age groups. The Year 10 and Under Division 1 final was between Haberdashers' and St George's with St. George's winning 8-4. In the Year 10 and Under Division 2 play-offs Haberdashers' beat Ashlyns 10-2. The Year 8 and under tournament was a round-robin and was convincingly won by a very strong team from Queenwood. The Year 8 and under division 2 play-offs was won by Watford Girls who beat Berkhamsted in the final.

### County Schools Doubles Championships

The County Schools Doubles tournament was played at Royal Masonic School Rickmansworth. Numbers were lower again this year so all the competitions were played in Round Robin format. In the boys' competition we had some familiar faces from Haberdashers and St. Albans boys, but some fresh ones from Chancellors. Girls from Berkhamsted, Haberdashers, Royal Masonic and St. Albans High competed in the girls' competition.

#### Under 14

**Boys Winners:** Haberdashers 1  
R/Up: Haberdashers 2

**Girls' Winners:** Berkhamsted  
R/Up: St Albans High

#### Under 18

**Boys Winners:** St Albans 1  
R/Up: Haberdashers 1

**Girls' Winners:** St Albans High 1  
R/Up: St Albans High 2

It was agreed with the teachers at the above schools that we would find a mutually convenient date so that we could all still enter. We are keen to build back to the normal 45 pairs next year!



County Boys Winners



Team Tennis Yr 10 Girls Winners

Luz Esperanza Merry at Les Petits As tournament in France this year.



# Herts Schools



2015 Mini Green Tournament competitors



Year 7 Doubles Winners

## Year 7 Tournament

**Girls:** The annual year 7 was, as in previous years, divided into two groups: an experienced category for those girls who play schools team tennis and represent a club and an inexperienced category for those girls just learning tennis at school. In the experienced category Berkhamsted 1 finished in 1st place with Haberdashers' in 2nd place. In

the inexperienced category Berkhamsted finished in both 1st and 2nd place.

**Boys:** The year 7 tournament was well attended this year with 12 pairs competing in two different competitions with a timed format. The less experienced competition was won by Sherrardwood school competing for the first time. The winning pair were Vithushan Balamurali and Joshua Ben from Parmiters just edging passed runners-up Andre Raath and Alex Smith from Sandringham.

## 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. Huge thanks to local Organisers – we could not run this competition without you.

Many thanks to Queenswood School for hosting the Finals. 35 teams, 140 players, 108 matches. 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 artificial grass. It was a fantastic afternoon of tennis!

**Girls Winners:** Year 10: Presdales, Year 9: Haberdashers, Year 8: St Albans High School.

**Boys Winners:** Year 10: John Henry Newman, Year 9: John Warner, Year 8: Haberdashers.

## Primary Schools

### Year 3 Mini Red Tournaments

The tournament is aimed at more experienced Mini Red players with



2015 Nicola Mabbitt competitors



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.

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.  
R/ 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 & Cuffley LTC**

The Herts Schools Mini Red tournament took place at Northaw & Cuffley Tennis Club.

After seven rounds of hard-fought matches, Broxbourne Primary's pair of Isobel C-S and James L came out the winners with a clean sheet having won all their matches. Runners-up were Abbots Langley with Declan O and Amber M.

The team event came down to the wire being decided on the last round with Broxbourne winning with 147 points with

Brookmans Park coming second with 145 points.

A big thank you to Northaw & Cuffley Club for hosting the event and to all the parents who helped on the day.

#### **Year 4 Mini Orange Tournament**

Six schools, nine teams, thirty six children, ten young umpires and supportive parents all gathered at St. Albans Tennis Club to battle it out in the annual mini orange Hertfordshire schools doubles event.

The schools played it out in three boxes of three teams knowing that every point they earned would count for their team

The final round could not have been closer and the result was almost too close to call - one point separated first and second place. Wheatfields Djokovic just managed to pip Broxbourne and emerged as winners in their hat trick year.

Our thanks go to our excellent umpires from Verulam School and to St Albans Tennis Club whose generosity in hosting this event is appreciated.

#### **Year 5 Mini Green Tournament**

On 10th June 18 pairs from 7 Primary Schools competed in the first separate Herts Schools Year 5 mini Green Tennis Doubles Tennis Tournament At Broxbourne Tennis Club. The format was a 10 minute timed Championship Tiebreak and all the competitors played 6 matches.

**Girls' results:** 1st : Bishops Stortford Prep, 2nd: Broxbourne, 3rd: Sheredes.

**Boys' Results:** 1st Wheatfields, 2nd: Bishops Stortford Prep, 3rd: Sheredes.

#### **Special Awards:**

**Determination:** Codicote School: Annabel Lakin, Roxy Pearman

**Forehand:** Broxbourne School: Zack Bowman

**Backhand:** Sheredes: Georgie Wood

**Serve:** Codicote: Max Howard

#### **Year 6 Yellow Ball Tournament**

There were 34 year 6 pupils entered into the new version of the Year 6 Yellow tournament. There was a separate boys and girls tournament running at the same time, with slightly different formats. This year the girls played six matches each in a round robin tournament, whilst the boys had two separate pools going into the semi-finals and finals. A special mention goes to our winners of the girls tournament Bethan and Hannah from Berkhamsted Prep, and runners up, Freya and Phoebe from the Royal Masonic School for Girls. The boys tournament ended on a high with a very strong tie in the finals between Fabio and Conrad from Bishop's Stortford College prep school and Ryan and Ivan from Wheatfields Junior school. Well done for the outstanding performances, and we hope to see you again next year.

**Pam Burrage,** Chair

## Herts Hot Rackets 2-Pair Summer Doubles League

2015 was another record breaking season for the Hot Rackets 2-pair league. 50 Clubs, 130 Teams and 19 Divisions, an increase in all areas against the previous year.

All divisions were as competitive as usual, with many divisions having 3 to 4 teams in with a chance of first & second places right up to the final matches. Many teams/divisions completed their matches well before the final match date in September which meant there was not a 'clog up' of fixtures late in the season. This was the second year that the new fixture 'two week interval' was played and is therefore proving successful in completing matches in a reasonable time. Again many thanks to the team captains, players and match secretaries for organising their clubs in playing their matches well within the summer season.

This was also our most successful season for the league & matches running very smoothly with many match results entered very quickly onto the web site, therefore keeping all the divisional positions very much up to date. A big thank you again to the captains & administrators for completing the results and making this happen. Again this year saw some very close matches decided by our 'Quick Fire Set' with over 80 matches playing out a final 5th Rubber, which was similar to last season and confirms that many teams are well matched within their respective divisions. Many thanks to all the captains/clubs that have contacted us saying how much they enjoy the Hot Rackets 2 pair format and especially the unique 'Quick Fire Set'.

Congratulations go to St Albans 1 who for the second year in a row are the champions of the Ladies Premier Division. They have achieved this by winning every one of their matches, 6 wins in 2014 & 6 wins in 2015, and have therefore not lost a match in the Hot Rackets league. This is a fantastic achievement from a top quality team & club, well deserved champions of our top division. I am sure the challenge is on for next year. Can St Albans make it three in a row and win all their matches again....!

Congratulations must also go to Welwyn 1 who are champions of the Men's Premier Division for the first time. A fantastic achievement as they have been in our Premier Division since Hot Rackets started seven years ago in 2009. Welwyn are one of our founder member clubs and are a great supporter of the league. They have always been a top performing club in many Hertfordshire leagues, but especially in the Hot Rackets league, with many years of top quality teams & tennis being played by this famous Hertfordshire club. This year was a brilliant season for Welwyn 1 who won the Premier Division by one point in a closely fought & exciting campaign. Also congratulations to team captain Chris Hughes, who has been captain for the past seven years, a fantastic playing record and achievement. Also personal & special congratulations to Welwyn club captain Nick Aves who has organised & controlled all the club's teams for many, many, years, and does a fantastic administrative & playing role within the club. Well done Nick, Chris & Welwyn Tennis Club, well deserved.

Congratulations to all of our champions and runners-up in all divisions and the usual special thanks to all of our clubs, captains, players and administrators who do a great job in helping Hot Rackets run smoothly, play top quality, competitive & enjoyable tennis, and are helping it to become a first class Inter Club, Team Tennis League.

Any new club interested in entering a team/teams in the Hot Rackets 2 Pair Summer League or requiring any further information or Entry Forms, please visit our website [www.hotrackets.co.uk](http://www.hotrackets.co.uk)

or contact me by email at [tonyscott48@ntlworld.com](mailto:tonyscott48@ntlworld.com)

Entry forms closing date for the 2016 season is **30th November 2015.**

**Tony Scott**

## Herts 3-Pair Summer Doubles League

When the time came to write this report, I had a glance at what I'd written last year (and the year before...and the year before that) to make sure I didn't simply repeat what I'd talked about in previous years. The truth is, though, there was little choice.

In a lot of respects that is extremely positive news. I have had reports of great sportsmanship and a real desire to play matches, in some cases even though the competition's rules would have allowed a team to take a walkover. For someone who values the principle that matches should be played wherever possible so highly, that has been music to my ears.

The competition has also been fantastic at almost every level and I even had to dust off my slide rule to determine who had finished top in a couple of cases. In Division 3B of the Men's competition for example, Welwyn 3 and St Albans 1 were not only level on points but also rubbers so determining the final standings went down to the next level - the percentage of sets won to sets played. Welwyn took top spot on the count back but it was mighty close. Just to add to the excitement Harpenden 4 also finished on the same points, but with slightly fewer rubbers had to make do with 3rd place.

It was a very similar story in several divisions in the Ladies competition. In Division 5 three teams - Townsend 3, Harpenden 6 and Northaw & Cuffley 3 - each won five of their six matches, so were only separated by rubbers. Northaw were the unfortunate team to just miss out on promotion in that case. And in the top division, perennial champions Letchworth 1 managed to win the title once again but this season their challenge didn't just come from usual rivals Harpenden 1 - they were also pushed very hard by Gosling 1. All three teams only lost one match - Letchworth to Harpenden, Harpenden to Gosling and Gosling to Letchworth - but Letchworth's consistently good results against the other teams in the division just saw them home. Congratulations go to them, to Moor Park 1 who thanks to a series of very close hard fought wins reclaimed the overall Men's title after a year's sabbatical in Division 1 and indeed to all the divisional winners.

In other respects, though, the news is rather more downbeat. The pattern of clubs struggling to field full teams - either by conceding a walkover or by fielding just two pairs - continues to be on the rise and not surprisingly that is causing questions about the current format of the competition.

So, with your help, it's time for us to take a serious look at what we can do about it. The first step is to get your views on the existing format. Do we have it about right or are changes needed? If it's the latter, do we need a major overhaul or will some tweaks to the rules do the job? I am taking this forward through a questionnaire, which I am sending to clubs via match secretaries and captains. I would value comments and suggestions from players as well though so please do feed them in. You can do that through your club representatives or by emailing me directly at [hertsleague@btinternet.com](mailto:hertsleague@btinternet.com). Having had a steer from you, the next step will be to propose any changes to the competition's format/rules you feel are needed for voting on at this year's AGM.

I would love to be sitting down this time next year and writing a very different report, about a revitalised competition where struggling to get a team out is a thing of the past. This is a defining moment for the 3-pair league. This time we need to get it right. With your help and ideas I'm confident we will.

Finally, I would just like to thank everybody who was involved in this season's competition - not only the players, but also those who captained a team or club or who attended the fixtures meeting or acted as a match secretary. Oh and I musn't forget those who do the online inputting. Your efforts have also not gone unnoticed!

**Lee Evans**