

# Hertfordshire wins the County Cup Race for 2017!



## HERTS **TENNIS**

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Herts Awards: 4
- People and Clubs: 5-7
- Team Reports: 7-10
- Performance & Results: 10-13
- Herts Seniors Round-up: 14-17
- Mini Tennis: 18
- Herts schools: 19-20

Issue 12 November 2018

# Herts LTA 200 Club

## 200 Club winners HERTS LTA 2017-2018

OCTOBER		
£40	6	Mr B Havill
£30	5	Mrs C Ayling
£20	130	Mr G Andrews
£10	143	Mr A Tindale
£10	102	Mrs E Taylor
NOVEMBER		
£40	112	Mr M Knee
£30	234	Mr I Duncan
£20	128	Mrs P Hall
£10	259	Mrs P Danks
£10		
DECEMBER		
£40	148	Mr M Jones
£30	139	Mrs P Hall
£20	258	Mr B Sharman
£10	206	Mr M Bowler
£10	1	Mr G Masterton
JANUARY		
£40	170	Mrs J Marlow
£30	210	Mrs P Hall
£20	203	Codicote TC
£10	156	Mr A Bradley
£10	9	Mrs P Ayres
FEBRUARY		
£100	16	Mr J Banham
£40	197	Mr M Bramwell
£30	87	Mrs P Hall
£20	125	Codicote TC
£10	274	Mrs B Hayward
£10	52	Mr M Jones
MARCH		
£40	198	Mr M Bowler
£30	83	Mr A Sheridan
£20	101	Mrs C Morris
£10	177	Mrs J Thomas
£10	253	Mr M Morgan
APRIL		
£40	27	Mr J Cox
£30	116	Mrs V Harris
£20	178	Mr N Aves
£10	177	Mrs J Thomas
£10	211	Mr M Corrie
MAY		
£40	36	Mr I Duncan
£30	85	Mr M Knee
£20	133	Mrs M Thomas
£10	32	Mr R Sneesby
£10	79	Mr N Aves
JUNE		
£40	117	Mrs B Gaffney
£30	52	Mr M Jones
£20	263	Mr P Bart
£10	170	Mrs J Marlow
£10	53	Mr G Westwell
JULY		
£40	97	Brookmans Park TC
£30	292	Mr M Knee
£20	264	Mrs B Thomas
£10	86	Mrs P Hall
£10	237	Mr I Duncan
AUGUST		
£100	81	Mr G Westwell
£40	63	Mrs P Rawlings
£30	116	Mrs V Harris
£20	8	Mr A Sheridan
£10	229	Mr I Duncan
£10	133	Mrs M Thomas
SEPTEMBER		
£40	40	Codicote TC
£30	202	Mrs S Vallance
£20	155	Mrs J Moseley
£10	179	Mr C Borthwick
£10	22	Legends TC

## Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association '200' club Direct Debit mandate

To \_\_\_\_\_ Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay:

Bank	Branch Title	Sort Code
HSBC	Harpenden	40-23-11

For the credit of:

Account Name	Account Number
Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association '200 Club'	31233556

the sum of:

Amount in figures	Amount in words
£	

commencing:

Date of first payment	Frequency

and thereafter every \_\_\_\_\_ until further notice

And debit my/our account accordingly

**PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER MANDATES IN FAVOUR OF THE  
HERTFORDSHIRE LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION '200 CLUB' AND '500 CLUB'**

Account to be Debited (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

Slazenger  
Pentland Group  
Outdoor Plus  
TP ICAP Plc

Deal Agency  
Sport Bookmakers  
Ltd  
CJS Consultants

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

### HERTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2019

Trevor Adamson Chairman  
Bridie Amos  
Janet Corrie  
Martin Corrie  
Carole Draper  
Helen Elliott  
Lee Evans  
Stuart Foster  
Matt Willcocks

Hicks & Co Treasurer  
Office Manager  
Secretary  
LTA Representative



## Welcome to the annual Herts Newsletter

In March we held our Awards Dinner, where we presented the British Tennis County Award winners with a gift and wished them well in moving onto the regional and hopefully the national finals. We also had our own additional County Awards and all the winners can be found in the newsletter. It is important that clubs or individuals nominate people in their club or community who have done invaluable work to promote tennis. Please ring the Herts Office if you need any support with this.

In 2015 the LTA introduced the County Cup Race, which records the results of the junior and adult County Cup events. Fantastically, Herts came top in the country and we held a party and presentation evening for all the players involved at Knebworth House to celebrate. A great evening was had by all.

At the end of November the County Winter Cup is played. Unfortunately we cannot get the results in time for the publication of the annual newsletter; however I can report that both men and ladies are in Group 1. You can keep up with the results on social media and on our website.

The summer Inter County Event held at Eastbourne in July had both our teams in Group 1. The men, who did not have Jeff Wayne to captain them due to work commitments, were well looked after by Neil Bamford. The men finished in 3rd place. The most remarkable thing was that after 4 days Neil Bamford and David Rice had won 12 out of 12 rubbers. We needed to win on the last day and Neil and David split for the good of the team. Neil and partner won 3 rubbers and David and partner won 2 rubbers. It meant that Neil Bamford has now won 15 rubbers out of 15 three times. I believe this is a record for Group 1.

The Ladies had a very young side, with a 15-year-old and a 16-year-old playing every day and they were a credit to the team. Emily Arbuthnott and Amanda Elliott were the driving force as always and the girls finished in 3rd place.

In Herts we pride ourselves in helping Herts Juniors progress in the game of tennis. All County training for 9U-18U is free and all County teams are funded for County Cup events, 12 Counties Championships and other matches. Travelling Captains are paid and we supply all kit. For the County Closed Championships we



supply free clothing and merchandise and fun off-court activities for all players. We give individual funding to selected players between the ages of 13 and 18. We also support mini tennis and we have a club based funded programme to develop talent. In conjunction with the LTA more money is being put into young players. This new programme will be rolled out during this coming year.

Try Tennis for Free (the Great British Tennis Weekend) continued this year in a large number of clubs, many of whom were successful in getting new members. The county support these weekends with grants to help clubs with marketing and advertising costs.

The Herts Tennis Coaches Working Group is now well established and has already provided several excellent workshops and courses which are heavily subsidised for coaches working in registered Herts venues. This year a casual email request sent to Louis Cayer during the Australian Open resulted in the biggest coup of the year. An all-day Louis Cayer doubles coaching event held at Batchwood Sports Centre in March was rated by many of the 50 coaches present as the best coaching event that they had ever attended.

This was followed by a Cardio Tennis course in May with top LTA tutor Isla Smith. As usual, First Aid courses were arranged for coaches in the New Year and once again the LTA county forum was held at Batchwood at the end of October.

The Working Group meets on a regular basis and further events are already being planned for the coming year.

We have a number of funding schemes to help Clubs such as Interest free loans up to £5000 and facility grants of £1000 available to small clubs to make improvements. These opportunities have been taken up by a variety of clubs this year.

We have a member of the Management Committee who works for a local Authority and is skilled in advising on the best way to get planning permission for various projects.

We have a school club link programme to engage schools in tennis where we supply funding for a coach to give the children taster sessions. We also have grants for disability programmes, to increase tennis participation and we run schemes to get more girls and women into tennis. Information on all of these programmes is available from the County Office.

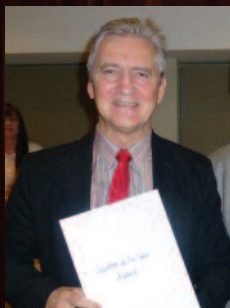
The County Leagues are now completed and the winners this year of The Championship are Gosling Ladies for the first time and on the Men's side Welwyn who were 2016 winners.

As always our juniors have performed well and you can read all about their efforts in the newsletter.

**Trevor Adamson, President**



# Herts Awards 2017



Terry Mackie on behalf  
of Ian Wearing



Archie Horwood



Jordan Miles



Langley Tennis Club



Stuart Turkentine

## Herts Tennis Awards Dinner

The annual Herts Tennis Awards Dinner took place at Harpenden Golf Club in March this year. The event was an opportunity to acknowledge and thank our hard-working clubs, players, coaches and volunteers for their sterling efforts throughout the year in supporting the county.

During the evening the awards presentation took place encompassing both the British Tennis Awards – the winners of these go forward to nominations in the regional awards round and if successful on to the national awards round; and the Herts Tennis Awards given to those who have made significant contributions to tennis within the county.

A wonderful evening was had by all.

### British Tennis Award winners:

Volunteer of the Year:	Ian Wearing
Young Volunteer of the Year:	Archie Horwood
Coach of the Year:	Jordan Miles
Club of the Year:	Langley Tennis Club
Community Venue of the Year:	Park Tennis
Education Award:	Stuart Turkentine
Disability Award:	Langley Tennis Club
Competition of the Year:	Nicola Mabbit District League
Official of the Year:	Suzanne Picton
Outstanding Achievement:	Jeff Wayne

### Herts Tennis Awards winners:

Mark Seymour Award:	Finn Bass
Laing Award:	Alexandra Hildreth
County Colours:	Mollie Crouch
Championship Winners Men:	Moor Park Lawn Tennis Club
Championship Winners Ladies:	Letchworth Tennis Club



Christine Hildreth on  
behalf of Alex Hildreth



Finn Bass



Jeff Wayne



Suzanne Picton



Nicola Mabbit  
District League



Park Tennis



## Ed Corrie retires after 20 years' dedication to tennis

Ed Corrie has chosen to retire from the tour after 20 years of commitment to the sport he loves.

He is very excited about the next chapter of his life and is very grateful for the incredible experiences he has had and the many friends and colleagues he has made on the way. He has many people to thank for helping him on his journey from Harpenden LTC, Gosling, Hertfordshire, University of Texas and the LTA. Not to mention his family, friends and his coach for the last 6 years, his brother Tom.

There have been many highlights in his career. He represented his country in all junior age groups from 12U-18U before joining the tennis team at the University of Texas. There he was able to reach the NCAA ranking highs of 4 in singles and 2 in doubles and to be a part of the team that made the NCAA finals and were ranked number 2 in the nation.

In 2012 Ed began his professional career reaching a career high in the ATP singles rankings of 215 and 142 in the doubles

rankings. He played doubles at The Wimbledon Championships on two occasions and singles in the main draw of Queens. He also won 7 Futures singles titles, over 20 Futures doubles titles and 2 Challenger doubles titles. On top of that he represented Hertfordshire in team events in all age groups; being a part of the men's summer and winter County Cup successes were some of his most enjoyable tennis experiences.

He has enjoyed the continuous learning that our sport gives us and will always carry that as a personal endeavour with him into whatever comes next. Ed's advice to young players in our sport is "to work hard and smart on your game. And seek the advice of experienced people. If you can continue to do those things throughout the ups and the downs, you never know what great things can happen."



## Hoddesdon Bubble

Herts Tennis has a number of interest free loans of £5,000 available to eligible clubs who wish to improve their club facilities. Hoddesdon Lawn Tennis Club was one able to benefit from this with a loan towards the installation of a bubble.

Hoddesdon LTC applied for and were given planning permission for a two-court bubble almost four years ago. Unfortunately the club was not able to access any funding from the LTA but the members were able to raise the vast majority of the funds and with the loan from Herts Tennis the bubble was erected at the beginning of November. The club held an opening ceremony on the weekend of 10th November and, with lots of interest expressed in its use from schools, play groups and clubs in the local community, it's looking good for the club in growing tennis in the local area.

With thanks to **Mike Seymour**, Hoddesdon LTC

## Small Facilities Grants

Herts Tennis is able to offer an amount of grants up to the value of £1000 per grant to small venues looking to refurbish and update facilities and equipment.

The following clubs were able to benefit from grants this year:

**Dellcott Tennis Club** – funding towards a new kitchen.

**Greenwood Park** – funding towards court resurfacing.

**Redbourn Tennis Club** – funding towards tennis equipment and lighting.

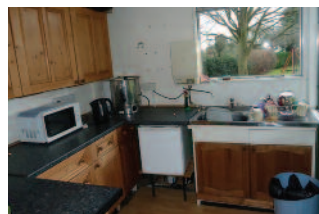
**St Margaretsbury Tennis Club** – funding towards tree surgery, nets and gardening equipment.

**St Paul's Walden Tennis Club** – funding towards a new net, court cleaning and a new sign.

**Townsend Tennis Club** – funding towards the installation of an information kiosk.



New signage at St Pauls Walden TC - before and after



Dellcott Tennis Club kitchen refurbishment - before and after

# People and Clubs

## Herts Disability 2018 Update

We have had a busy 2018 so far across the county delivering disability sessions, tournaments and events.

Below are the highlights:

### Club engagement

We recently brought a number of the Herts clubs together to discuss plans for getting more disability activity going across the county and to grow links. We now have 8 clubs who are part of the network and will be delivering in 2019.

We are looking to increase our monthly participation rates; the latest figures were 230 players accessing tennis across the county.

### Gosling

- Linked with Lonsdale School to deliver sessions and a sports week to over 50 different physically-impaired students.
- New link with Herts Vision Loss and Watford FC to deliver sessions for visually-impaired players with follow-on sessions to be held once a month.
- Links made with Mind to run mental health sessions.
- Mencap link now to deliver to 4 different groups monthly with 2 groups having weekly sessions. (link with Potters Bar on delivery).
- Wheelchair and Learning Disability regional events run with 13 and 34 entries respectively (both up on last year).

### Batchwood

- DSAActive session run regularly for U18s with Downs Syndrome.
- Wheelchair sessions to start soon.
- Open day run with proceeds going to Mind in Mid Herts.

### Potters Bar

- Delivering alongside Gosling in the Mencap Herts project.
- Sessions run for Visually Impaired players weekly.

### Langley

- Link with a local SEN school delivering to students both at the school and at the club.

### Letchworth

- Delivering a weekly session to a local disability group.

### Independent tennis/Gosling

- Delivering weekly sessions at The Collett School in Hemel Hempstead seeing 24 players per week.

### Radlett

- Running one inclusive session across the summer and looking to grow on this next year.

### West Herts & Watford

- The club is interested in being involved next year and conversations are ongoing.

### Phil Martin

## Rothamsted Tennis Club 100th birthday

The 4th of August 2018 saw the 100th birthday celebrations for Rothamsted Tennis Club held at the Pavilion in the grounds of Rothamsted Research, Harpenden and to which all current and previous members of the Club were invited. Under glorious sunshine and with hot temperatures the celebration began with the final of the Russell Cup at 1.30 pm. This event is the oldest of three mixed doubles tournaments, being first played in 1921, when the Russell Challenge Cup was presented to the club by the then Director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, E. John Russell and his wife.

This year the cup was won by Ms Biddy Sweeting and Professor Naresh Magan (Cranfield University). It was presented by the President and oldest member of the club, Ms Marion Gratwick and Professor Achim Dobermann (current Director and CEO of Rothamsted Research).

The final was then followed by a fun American, mixed doubles tournament, played over four rounds of four games, two played with and two against partners. The male and female players winning the most games were awarded the Magan Cup donated to the club by Professor Naresh Magan. The winners Ms Lynne Bandy and Mr Richard Hull were also presented with Centenary Commemorative Cups to mark the club's special birthday. The tennis was followed by a delicious hog roast and selection of desserts, as well as birthday cake and prosecco. The event was attended by around 60 people,

who enjoyed a great day, not only playing tennis, but catching up with old friends over a few drinks. We were also joined by Honorary Herts LTA Secretary Helen Elliott and her husband John. I would like to thank past and present members for their continued support and of course the committee for all their hard work in helping to organise this event.

**Dr Mark Wilkinson** (Chairman)





## Herts & Mind Charity Tennis Funday

Herts & Mind was an inaugural Herts Tennis charity event held on Saturday 7th April at Batchwood Tennis Centre to promote tennis in Hertfordshire, build bonds between the county's tennis club cluster groups and to raise money for the charity Mind in Mid Herts, an innovative and experienced provider of mental health services in the county.

There was an exciting range of tennis-related activities, including Cardio Tennis, a fastest serve competition, tiebreaker competitions and many more on court games.

In addition, there was a session for Downs Syndrome children, a wheelchair tennis match held between Marc McCarroll and Philip Fielding and a men's doubles match featuring Joe Salisbury and James Wilkinson versus Ed Corrie and Tom Corrie. The event was well attended and enjoyed by players from Hertfordshire tennis clubs and members of the public, sessions were run by tennis coaches from 1Life St Albans, Harpenden LTC, Hitchin LTC, Leverstock Green LTC, Radlett LTC and West Herts & Watford LTC.



The special guest for the afternoon was St Albans City and District Mayor, Councillor Iqbal Zia who enjoyed trying the sport for the first time. The Mayor said: "Everyone had a great time taking part in various tennis-related activities to raise money for Mind in Mid Herts. I also tried my hand at the game of tennis for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed it. Tennis is a fantastic way to keep fit and to improve your mental wellbeing. I want to thank the organisers Herts Tennis for putting this Tennis Fun Day together at Batchwood Sports Centre."

All funds raised on the day went to the charity and all help was voluntary. Donations and sponsorship were offered by members of the Herts Tennis community and from the tennis coaches. Many thanks to the Funday organisers Bridie Amos and John Malpas.

## Herts Teams Reports

### Herts Ladies

#### Winter County Cup 2017 (Sheffield Group 2)

**After a tough Winter County Cup event in 2016, we headed to Group 2 which was held at Graves End Tennis Centre in Sheffield. With a new venue, and a young strong team, we were eager to do our best to win the group and gain promotion back to group 1.**

The first day saw us take on Yorkshire who are always a strong county – and with the venue being fairly close for them, we were prepared for a tough line up. Danielle Latter and Alexandra were up first at 5 and 6, and we managed to get our first point on the board from Danielle who battled to win 6-4 in the third set. It was then Mimi and Indi who took to the courts at 4 and 3 singles, and they both had a great start to the weekend taking us to a 3-1 lead. As Anna and Mollie headed on to court at 2 and 1 singles, we knew we could do with an additional rubber before the three doubles matches. Anna managed to dig deep to secure her singles win, and Mollie lost out in a tough match against their number 1 player – we were leading 4-2 going into the doubles, but knowing they had some strong subs who would be stepping up to play the doubles rubbers. The three doubles matches were as tough as we expected, and we couldn't quite convert at number 2 and 3. However, our first pair of Mimi and Mollie played some smart points at key moments, and secured their win in a 10-point third set tie break giving us an overall 5-4 win on the first day.

Feeling confident after our great start on day 1, we knew that if we continued to play well we could win the group. We faced Cheshire who had lost 7-2 the day before, and who we knew must be feeling down. We also welcomed two of our older players into the team for the weekend, Amanda Elliott and Katherine Whiteaway. The ladies got off to a storming start, and although some of the sets were close – the team closed

out five out of six singles matches, with Mollie unfortunately having to withdraw with an injury. It was a great position to be in going into the doubles, and we took to court with three new pairs for the weekend. Amanda and Anna took us another point ahead by winning at number 2 doubles, closely followed by Kat and myself who took the win at number 3. Mimi and Alex played a tough match at number 1 just losing out to the top two singles players from their team and we ended the day with a 7-2 win.

The last day became the deciding factor about whether we would gain promotion as we faced Lancashire who had consistently won on Friday and Saturday with one more rubber than us. Again, we got off to an extremely positive start and managed to secure our first 4 singles matches. Both Danielle and Mimi (at 6 and 4) won the first set, dropped the second set but between them only dropped one game in the third set showing great belief and strength to come through with wins. Amanda and Indi delivered very solid performances (at 5 and 2) to come through with wins, and we found ourselves in the doubles round 4-2 up and in need of one more rubber to win the group and gain promotion. Kat and I headed on to court as pair 3 and managed to secure a comfortable win to end a great weekend of tennis.

It was a dominant performance from the Herts Ladies team, and as always, each and every one of them made me proud with their commitment and tennis all weekend. Well done to the team of **Mimi, Mollie Crouch, Amanda Elliott, Alexandra, Danielle Latter, Anna Popescu, Indianna and Katherine Whiteaway.**

#### Summer County Cup 2018 (Eastbourne – Group 1)

As always, this week brings a fantastic level of competition and a comradery like no other tournament. This year we welcomed some new players into our senior team for the

# Herts Teams Reports

summer, Indianna and Mimi. Both ladies were welcomed into the fold by some of our more experienced team, and it didn't take long for our reunited Herts family to gear up for the week ahead.

Day 1 was against Norfolk who we hadn't come across in summer or winter competition in recent years, and who were making their first appearance in group 1 for over 15 years. With some new players in our team this year, and the wealth of experience in our older players, it was time to test out some new pairings. We got off to a great start (which is always good news on the first day!) and took a comfortable 3-0 lead. As we headed into the second round, Indi made her first senior summer county appearance substituting for Anna. The team swapped tactics on their opponents and started solidly only dropping 3 games in the first set across all three courts. The Norfolk team did begin to dig a bit deeper, but we continued to stay on top taking a 6-0 lead after the second round. This is the best possible position to be in, but we knew that every rubber would be important this week. In the final round, Mollie joined Georgie at pair 3, whilst the two other pairs remained. We had another fantastic round of tennis with Amanda and Emily securing their third win of the day alongside newbie Mimi and Jennifer Brown – a super start to the week finishing the day 8-1.

The second day was another scorcher – and with sun cream caked on, and a day playing across the show courts at Eastbourne, we were ready to take on a strong Essex side. The first round was a long one, and we found ourselves 2-1 down after narrowly missing out at number 3 with Indi and Georgie losing a close third set battle. The second round saw even more long rallies and games as the ladies pushed hard – despite our best efforts we found ourselves with our backs against the wall at 4-2 down with the last round remaining.



The 2018 Ladies Team with Trimble, the mascot

We had the belief within the team, and knew it was possible to win all three. Anna came in as a sub in round 3 with fresh legs and secured a win with Mimi at number two. Amanda and Emily had a solid round only dropping one game, but it was a bridge too far for Indi and Georgie who battled gallantly but lost in two close sets – a tough 5-4 loss overall for us.

It was time for a change of scenery on day 3 as we headed off site for our match up against Surrey. It was another really hot day, and we knew we had a tough day of matches ahead, but, it's become a tradition that we wear pink/purple on #powerwednesday and the ladies were ready to battle hard and power through. This day ended up being one of the longest and closely contested days I've ever experienced! Out of the nine rubbers we played that day, five of them went to three sets – poor Mimi played all three rounds, all of which went to three sets – what a baptism of fire into Summer County Tennis! Amanda and Emily did a sterling job all day, and battled through some tough matches to win all their matches. It wasn't quite enough in total as Indi and Georgie secured one win, and as Anna came in again in round 3 with lots of energy – they just proved too strong in the end and we finished with a 5-4 loss....at around 8:05pm!!

Thursday is always a hard day, but it's even harder after two 5-4 losses in the previous days, and the continued heat in the high 20s! Still, our rubber count was great...and a solid performance against Warwickshire would secure our position in group 1 for another year. The team did such a great job of starting well (and not looking exhausted after the previous day!) and with all the practice of three set matches the day before – we played another four in the first two rounds – but won them all taking us to a 5-1 lead after two rounds. It was nice to know we had secured an overall win, and the focus in the last round was seeing if we could gain some more rubbers which always helps. We did just that and ended the day with a 7-2 result, ensuring we were definitely safe in group 1 for 2019.

The final day was against Kent, and the weather had changed dramatically on us. We got through the first two rounds and were up 4-2 needing to reach 5 for a result. During the last round, Mimi and I had gone into a close second set (having won the first) and Amanda and Emily were also up – but we ended up being handed the matches (as these rubbers didn't make a difference to the overall result) shortly after the heavens had opened – and that resulted in us finishing with a 6-3 win.

It was an exceptionally tough week – but I was so proud of each and every one of the team who gave so much effort. We ended up in third place, with more rubbers than the overall winners! Our 5-4 losses could have gone either way, but it's great to know just how close we are and I'm already excited for our 2019 campaign! Thank you to all the supporters who came out to cheer us on, and who spread themselves across multiple venues for us – it's much appreciated!

A special well done to our new players this year, Mimi and Indi! A huge well done and thank you to the rest of our experienced team who are either at Universities in America or working full time – You make my job such a pleasure!

Well done to the team of **Emily Arbuthnott, Mimi, Jennifer Brown, Mollie Crouch, Amanda Elliott, Anna Popescu, Indianna and Georgie Walker.**

**Alissa Ayling**, Ladies Captain



## Herts Men

### SUMMER COUNTY CUP

Devonshire Park, Eastbourne – JULY 18 - 22nd 2018

Surface – Grass

Last summer, the Herts Men returned to the grass courts of Devonshire Park, Eastbourne for the 14th consecutive year with a proud track record of 7 national titles won and 4 Runner's Ups. But for me, it was the first time in 31 years that due to work commitments, I was unable to attend. And I find myself in the same situation for the coming Winter Cup, as I will be away until just before Christmas.

Last summer, Neil Bamford stepped in as acting Captain, and will again for this winter's Cup, for which I and the Herts LTA are very appreciative. Below, is Neil's summer report.

Our 2018 team consisted of: **Neil Bamford (Captain), George Coupland, Ben Davies, Jake Munns, Jake Penny, David Rice, Joshua Rose, Lewis Roskilly and Neil Roskilly.**

We arrived at Eastbourne with a very solid team of a mixture of established pairings and new players. Only by competing would we learn how strong our team would be in Group 1, an exciting challenge.

Herts men went to Eastbourne with the task of defending the title they had captured last year. Two new counties joined div. 1 this year - Derbyshire and Cambridgeshire (the first time ever in group 1) there was no Kent or Surrey, but the ever present Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk made up the 6 counties. Again this year 6 courts, due to court maintenance at Devonshire Park, were out of use.

#### Day 1 vs Middlesex

A flying start out of the blocks against a very strong Middlesex side winning 7-2 - a great opening start with a 3-0 sweep in the last round.

#### Day 2 vs Suffolk

Suffolk looking to go for their 1st ever county cup title and showing they were up for the task. They are always a very loud team with big vocal supporters who come to watch and create a great atmosphere. Being away from Devonshire Park and at the lovely Moira house drenched in sunshine, Suffolk took an early lead 2-1. The 2nd round proved to be pivotal as again Suffolk came on to 2-1 to make the score 4-2. Bamford

and Rice holding off match points to battle back and win their rubber.

The final round again proved to be a Suffolk round which they won 2-1 and prevailed 6-3. Tie breaks were the key as we only managed to win 1 and lose 7. Such small margins and it could have been 6-3 Herts. Bamford and Rice proved to be the rock of Herts as they won 3 again.

#### Day 3 vs Cambridgeshire.

Back to Devonshire Park and against a newly promoted county. Herts went on top straight away and never looked back. Another 7-2 win and for the third straight day, Bamford and Rice going strong with 9 straight wins.

#### Day 4 vs Derbyshire

Again away from Devonshire Park and now at ROMPA, a lovely setting against a fantastic Derbyshire team who always play with great spirit and respect. Once again we were drenched in sunshine, this time with Derbyshire bringing many supporters which their players thrived on. The match proved a tight affair where there was only one match in it in each round, with Herts eventually winning 5-4. Bamford and Rice formed a formidable partnership and were again looking to achieve the magic 15.

#### Day 5 vs Essex

On a day where 3 counties could become champions, we had to beat Essex at least 7-2 and Middlesex had to achieve 3 rubbers against Suffolk. If Essex beat Herts they would become champions but if Essex lost and Suffolk won, they would become champions.

In the morning I made the tough decision of splitting the Bamford and Rice partnership. They were on for a magical 15 but against 3 top pairs from Essex who also had a pair competing for 15. Instead, balancing the team tactically, Bamford played with Lewis Roskilly and Rice paired with George Coupland. Going in as underdogs the 1st round was crucial and didn't start too well with Bamford and Roskilly losing the 1st set 6-0. Yet they fought back to win, with a win for Rice and Coupland taking a 2-1 lead.

Round 2 and both counties keeping an eye on the Suffolk/Middlesex score which was 3-0 Suffolk. As round 2 started the task was to try and win all 3 to give us a slim chance of possibly winning the Summer Cup. Again a great round where 3 people on the court were on for the magic 15

it proved to be another Herts win for Bamford and Roskilly 7-6 7-5 and heart break for the Essex pair of Wright and Penniston. Rice and Coupland also won again with Rice playing for 15 in the last round. It could still result in the '15' for Bamford and Rice and with 2 different partners.

As the round finished, we heard Suffolk had already beaten a poor Middlesex side affected by injuries and bodies.

As round 3 started only one result was possible and that was that Essex had to win all 3 matches to win for their first title. With Suffolk hoping Herts would win one match to complete their victory, it was a very strange ending as Bamford



The 2018 Mens Summer County Cup team

# Herts Teams Reports

and Roskilly won and Neil completed The Magic 15 for the 3rd time whilst knowing that Herts couldn't win the Cup. Rice and Coupland eventually went down to Penniston and Wright for a memorable 14 out of 15. It was a somewhat subdued feeling as while we had won a great battle against Essex we were unable to change the result with Suffolk, all coming down to rubbers won where Suffolk had 31, Essex 29 and Herts 28. In the end we won four matches and came 3rd. I don't think three counties with four wins have ever finished so close, such a shame but a fantastic week all in all. As always the team spirit and support Herts had over the whole week was fantastic and that's why we as players play. A special mention to Neil and David Rice who achieved 15 and 14 rubbers, this is the 3rd time that 'Bammy' has achieved The Magic 15, an unbelievable effort and at the young age of 36. As a special part of this Summer's County Cup, and for the first time ever, the Herts Men had the pleasure of meeting the Duchess of Gloucester during the week. A very much appreciated gesture which shows the value of County Week. Soon after the Summer Cup was over, we heard the sad news that long-standing Essex Captain, Jamie Wilson had passed away in Portugal while on holiday with his family. Jamie served his County for many years and was a pleasure to know. All at Hertfordshire LTA send their condolences to Jamie's family and county.

## 2018 GROUP 1 WINTER INDOOR COUNTY CUP

DATE: Friday, November 23 - Sunday, November 25.

VENUE: University of Bath

Another national title to defend at the University of Bath where Group 1's competition is always held. For Herts, we

will be following last winter's exciting triumph competing for our 8th National Indoor title.

As of this writing, the remainder of the team is still being completed, but confirmed so far are: Neil Bamford, David Stevenson, Tom Corrie, Daniel and David.

For Daniel and David, this will be their debut in Senior County tennis, Neil and I and the Herts LTA wish them great success and enjoyment.

Finally, our teams are always about the players and they have always shown their passion and desire to play for their county.

And when they do come out for Herts, it is always deeply appreciated by me, and all those who are the Herts LTA. Long may that 'spirit' continue - on, and on, and on.

**COME ON HERTS!**

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

## New addition to the Bamford family



Congratulations to Herts Men's player Neil Bamford and his wife Nele who welcomed new baby Rosie Anele into their family on 23rd April 2018.

Born weighing 3.4kg Rosie is growing fast and is a delight to her big sister Holly. A warm welcome to the Herts Tennis family Rosie!

## Hertfordshire Team Tennis 2018

Hertfordshire once again had a highly successfully season of team tennis with the largest league in the East Region. A total of 227 teams competed from 37 clubs.

The success of a league relies on the commitment of the team captains, a huge thank you to all those who provided transport for their team, tennis teas and submitted match results promptly.

With 440 fixtures completed involving 1251 players the event is very strong in Hertfordshire and new clubs entering for next season will be most welcome.

Congratulations to all teams and division winners.

Clubs taking part in Team Tennis were:- Batchwood, Berkhamsted, Bishops Stortford, Brookmans Park, Broxbourne, Cassiobury, Chorleywood, Codicote, Croxley, David Lloyd Bushey, David Lloyd Hatfield, Ellisswick, Gosling, Greenwood Park, Harpenden, Hertford, Hoddesdon, Langley, Legends, Letchworth, Leverstock Green, Menace, Moor Park, Northaw & Cuffley, Orchard, Potters Bar, Radlett, Rickmansworth, Royston, Sawbridgeworth, St Albans, T Rex, Townsend, Tring, Welwyn, West Herts & Watford and Wheathampstead.

**Hugo Allen**

## Herts Winter Singles League & New Herts Adult & Junior Autumn League

23 clubs entered 63 teams across 8 events in the Herts Winter Singles League (incorporating Chiltern League). Congratulations to the following clubs for winning one or more divisions:

Sawbridgeworth, Radlett, Wheathampstead, Rickmansworth, Letchworth, West Herts, Gosling, Brookmans Park, Barnet.

However, only 65% of matches were played in this league, and with last year's Herts Junior Summer League only attracting 10 clubs, it was felt that we needed to rethink these county leagues.

So this winter we have launched the Hertfordshire Adult and Junior Autumn League. It runs from September to December, hopefully avoiding the worst of the winter weather. Teams are playing singles and doubles matches but with a shortened winter format.

29 clubs have entered with 104 teams playing in 18 events (2 and 4 player options included). We hope clubs will enjoy the format and that the new league proves popular.

**Claire Thandi**



## Hertfordshire Junior County Team Report 2017 – 2018

When writing this report at the same point last year Hertfordshire was sitting at the top of the County Cup Race Leader board with the Adult Winter Cup yet to be played. The great news is that both the Men and Ladies had outstanding events; the Ladies gained promotion back to the top division and the men won the national championships. With this came the fantastic news that the combined performances of our junior and adult County Cup teams had resulted in Hertfordshire being crowned National County Cup Race Winners!

With the County Cup Race trophy in our arms the Hertfordshire teams took on the 2017 – 2018 season with great pride, determination and ambition. We have again seen great results from the U8s through to the U18s, which is a measure of our strength across the age groups and an indication of a bright future ahead.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017 – 2018 RESULTS

Under 18s Girls County Cup – Winners Group 2a  
Under 18s Boys County Cup – 2nd nationally  
Under 14 Boys County Cup – National Champions  
Under 9 Boys & Girls Winter Orange Festival – Runners up  
Under 9 Mixed Team County Cup – Winners  
Under 8 Boys & Girls Red Inter County – Winners  
Lionel Cox Trophy Boys & Girls– Winners

### COUNTY CUP

The 2018 County Cup season got under way with our U18s. The boys were again competing in division 1, they finished 2nd nationally and the girls won promotion from division 2a meaning both teams will be in the top division in early 2019. The end of the Junior County Cup calendar saw our U9s win



14U Boys County Cup Winners

the East Region event in August and mid-way through the County Cup year our battling Under 14 boys beat the number 1 seeds and won two tie-break shootouts to become National Champions!

**U18 Boys** – 2nd place nationally: Daniel, David, Jake, James, Joel, Joshua, Louis, Matthew. Captains: Jamie Evans and James Buswell

**U18 Girls** – 1st place group 2a – promoted to group 1: Alexandra, Annabel, Arabella, Danielle, Francesca, Indianna, Mimi, Rachel. Captains: Sammie Williams & Ben Roberts-Law

**U14 Girls** – 2nd in qualifying group: Anya, Catherine, Dascha, Jessica, Lillie, Natalie. Captain: Teresa Lilley

**U14 Boys – NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:** Ben, Christopher, Fabio, Ivan, Joe, Oliver, Sam, Sean. Captain: James Thomas / Chris Martin

**12U Boys** – 2nd in qualifying group: Alexander, Elliott, Freddie, Theo. Captains: Ben Wilsher and Scott Paxton

**12U Girls** – 2nd in qualifying group: Hannah, Hephzibah, Jody, Mafalda. Captain: Ian Zellner

**10U Boys** – 3rd in qualifying group: Alexandru, Daniel, Rhys, Spencer. Captain: Chris Martin

**10U Girls** – 2nd in qualifying group: Arabella, Georgiana, Michaela, Tamara. Captain: Sammie Williams

**9U East Region County Cup – WINNERS:** Kaaviyan, Rhys, Olic, Erika, Gabby, Michaela. Captains: Andre Mouskides & Sammie Williams

### U8 EAST REGION INTER-COUNTY COMPETITION – WINNERS

A superb team performance saw our mini-reds retain the Inter-County Trophy. The girls got the day off to a fantastic start. They pulled together, battled hard and after a closely fought 3 / 3 draw in the final with Essex, the Herts girls won the tie on a point count 51 to 44. The afternoon saw the boys continue the Herts team spirit; they competed with great determination and beat Cambridgeshire in the final 5-1. With both the girls and boys winning their events Herts lifted the trophy. It was great to see our young players enjoying their first taste of County Team competition and sharing the rewards of combined team efforts... it's looking very positive for our teams of the future!

**Girls:** Rose, Ava Rose, Ella, Eva, Fern, Katie, Sophia.

**Boys:** Brandon, Daniel, Edward, Harry, Stefan, Xander.

**Captains:** Monica Beccera, Charlotte Gibbons.



U8 East Region Inter-County Champions

# Performance & Results

## MINI-TENNIS ORANGE FESTIVAL 2018 –RUNNERS-UP

This year's event saw 32 children playing 80 matches. The Herts player's performances were fantastic, the level of tennis was excellent with superb conduct from all involved. The Herts team progressed through to the final where they gave their best Herts efforts and fought hard versus Cambridge who won the tie 3-1.

**Mixed Team:** Rhys, Spencer, Michaela, Scarlett-May  
**Captain:** Andre Mouskides

## LIONEL COX – WINNERS

The early May Bank Holiday weekend saw our U9s, U10s and U12s come together to compete in the annual Lionel Cox Tournament at Queenswood School. Hertfordshire have a strong history in the competition and this year that strength was proven with both outstanding individual performances on court and superb team work and support off court. The



2018 Lionel Cox Winners

girls of 2018 proved to be a formidable force; they won all their age groups and with boys competing hard to make every game and point count the accumulated results saw Hertfordshire take the trophy home.

**U9 Boys** – 2nd place: Kaaviyan, Olic, Rhys.  
**Captain:** Andre Mouskides.

**U9 Girls** – 1st place: Erika, Gabby, Michaela.  
**Captain:** Sammie Williams.

**U10 Boys** – 4th place: Alexandru, Daniel, Spencer.  
**Captain:** Chris Martin.

**U10 Girls** – 1st place: Georgiana, Hephzibah, Tamara.  
**Captain:** Tony Staley

**U12 Boys** – 3rd place: Elliott, Freddie, Theo.  
**Captain:** Ben Wilsher.

**U12 Girls** – 1st place: Hannah, Jody, Mafalda, Marelle  
**Captain:** Ian Zellner.

## HILDON 12 COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP Division 1 – 3rd Place

The 12 Counties Championship is one of our most popular team events of the year. It is the only County team competition where the U10s are part of the same team as the U18s; teams consist of 4 girls and 4 boys competing on

weekends from October through to March. Each player plays three singles matches against their opposing number with results accumulated to determine the County's overall finishing position. For 2017 – 2018 Herts were back in the top division competing against Yorkshire, Buckinghamshire and Essex. We had numerous wins in individual age groups but Yorkshire's consistency saw them take the title. On the last weekend of the competition the Herts U14s were playing for an overall 2nd place. It was a great day of competition which went down to our last match of the day and a match tie-break, unfortunately the result went to Essex and Herts finished 3rd... I was fortunate to captain the team on the day and I was very proud of the commitment and team effort of the team; they gave it everything!

**U10 Boys** – Runners up: Ben, Enrico, Harry, Henry.

**U10 Girls** – Runners up: Arabella, Dina, Kaela, Tamara.  
**Captain:** Tony Staley

**U12 Boys** – Runners up: Fabio, Freddie, Oliver, Sean.

**U12 Girls** – Runners up: Ava, Hannah, Mafalda, Marelle.  
**Captain:** Ben Wilsher.

**U14 Boys** – 3rd Place: Ben, Michael, Oliver,

**U14 Girls** – 1st Place: Catherine, Jessica, Lillie, Maia.  
**Captain:** Teresa Lilley.

**U16 Boys** – 1st Place: David, George, Louis, Oliver,

**U16 Girls** – 3rd Place: Anya, Emily, Francesca, Rachel.  
**Captain:** Jamie Fallis.

**U18 Boys** – 4th Place: David, George, Louis, Zeke.

**U18 Girls** – Runner-up: Annabel, Danielle, Mimi, Rachel.  
**Captain:** Sammie Williams.

**County Tennis is an integral part of the LTA's National Players pathway and Herts Tennis recognises the many positives of County Team events and County Training.**

Through involvement in County Tennis we see our players improve, we see pride in being part of the Herts team, we see new friendships being made and invaluable life experiences gained. Over the last 12 months our Herts players, Age Group Captains and Herts officials have worked together to draw up a set of shared values to reflect all that Herts Tennis means to them:

## HERTS TENNIS VALUES

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

We are proud to say that we have seen these values in action in the events listed above and we look forward to strengthening and displaying these values in the 2018 – 2019 season.

Thank you to again for your continued support and commitments both on and off court - GO HERTS!

**Teresa Lilley**, Herts Tennis County Performance Manager



Hertfordshire players continue to shine on the International and National stage. These statistics are accurate as the newsletter went to press.

## MEN/BOYS

**Ed Corrie** - retired from the ATP tour this summer. Career High - Singles 215, Doubles 140. Last match at Queens Q's V Marius Copil 97 6/43/66/3. GB - 17, CH - 5.

**Neil Bamford** - 15/15 at County Week Gr 1 Eastbourne.

**Finn Bass** - ATP Singles 802 GB - 27.

**Charlie Broom** - ATP Singles 1118 at Dartmouth College, Hanover, USA. GB -36.

**Daniel** - 18U National Champion, ITF - 785, LTA 18U - 10, Herts 18U - 1. Gosling Nat Tour Gr 2 - W; ITF Junior Doubles Gr 4, Nottingham - R/U; ITF Junior Gr 5, Liverpool - W; U18 Gr 2 Bath - R/U; Brit Tour Gr 1, Tipton - R/U. Gained his first adult world ranking point in Singles - Barnstaple Futures Sep '18.

**Matthew Carroll** - 18U National Championships Consolation W.

**USA Uni boys** - Jake Penny - Lipscomb University Nashville reading Sports Management, Harvey Shackleton - Boise State reading Business and Entrepreneurship, James Wilkinson, - University of Delaware reading Economics, David Stevenson - Memphis reading Business Economics.

**Joel** - R/U in ITF Junior Gr 5, Cyprus; Represented GB in the Junior Davis Cup, team position 8 and in the TE 16U Summer Cup, team position 5. ITF - 693, TE 432

**Oliver** - Final of 14U Winter National Tour LTA 16U - 27 Bath & Bolton Gr 2 14U W, Halton & Notts

Gr 2 14U R/U, 16U Nat Tour Bath Doubles - W; Road to Wimbledon International - Singles and Doubles Semi Finalist; 16U Nat Tour Sunderland Singles - W.

**Fabio** - TE - 411 14U - 117, LTA 14U -5

## LADIES/GIRLS

**Katy Dunne** - WTA 230 singles 154 doubles GB - 8

**Emily Arbuthnott** - at Stanford University in NCAA National title team also ranked No 1 in NCAA doubles WTA - 998 singles 335 doubles, GB- 24.14/15 with Amanda Elliott at County Week Gr 1 Eastbourne.

**Joanna** - WTA 945 singles 950 doubles ITF 17. LTA 18U -1 Qu/F French Open Juniors, Brit Tour West Worthing -W China Junior 14 & Lee Duk Hee Cup 18U R/U

**Anna Popescu** - WTA 1175 singles 617 doubles GB - 26

**Mimi** - 18U National Doubles Champion w

## Herts County Closed winners and runners-up 2018

Event	Position	Name(s)
Mens Singles	Winner	Andre
	Runner Up	Myles
18U Girls Doubles	Winners	Jessica & Catherine
	Runners Up	Maia & Dascha
18U Boys Doubles	Winners	Myles & Andre
	Runners Up	Joshua & Max
18U Girls Singles	Winner	Catherine
	Runner Up	Emily
18U Boys Singles	Winner	Andre
	Runner Up	Myles
16U Girls Doubles	Winners	Maia & Dascha
	Runners Up	Mafalda & Marelle
16U Boys Doubles	Winners	Harry & Lewis
	Runners Up	Lewis & Jon-Luca
16U Girls Singles	Winner	Dascha
	Runner Up	Maia
16U Boys Singles	Winner	Joshua
	Runner Up	Michael
14U Girls Doubles	Winners	Jody & Erin
	Runners Up	Dina & Marelle
14U Boys Doubles	Winner	Christopher & Sean
	Runners Up	Theo & Alexander
14U Girls Singles	Winner	Mafalda
	Runner Up	Erin
14U Boys Singles	Winner	Christopher
	Runner Up	Sean
12U Girls Doubles	Winners	Dina & Tamara
	Runners Up	Annabel & Youka
12U Boys Doubles	Winners	Freddie & Elliott
	Runners Up	Theo & Alexander
12U Girls Singles	Winner	Erin
	Runner Up	Dina
12U Boys Singles	Winner	Theo
	Runner Up	Freddie
10U Girls Singles	Winner	Erika
	Runner Up	Rosa
10U Boys Singles	Winner	Kaaviyan
	Runner Up	Danial
9U Girls Singles	Winner	Erica
	Runner Up	Rose
9U Boys Singles	Winner	Rhys
	Runner Up	Kaaviyan
8U Girls Singles	Winner	Tara
	Runner Up	Sophia
8U Boys Singles	Winner	Brandon
	Runner Up	Sam

Please can players keep [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com) informed throughout the year of your highlights.

Annabel ITF 782 LTA 18U -27 Edinburgh ITF 18U Singles and Doubles Titles, Sutton Gr 2 18U R/U

**USA Uni girls** - Georgie Walker, - Furman University, S Carolina reading French and Environmental studies, Amelia Campbell - University of Tennessee at Martin reading Sports Management , Georgie Axon - Auburn University reading Psychology and Business

**Indi** - ITF 463 TE 495 LTA 18U - 29 16u - 8 Brit Tour Bolton R/U

**Bella** - ITF 1214 LTA 16U -11 Notts Gr 2 18U R/U 16U - W, represented England in ISF World Summer Games - Morocco, Captain of the Queenswood Team who won The

Aberdare Cup.

**Annabel** - 18U National Doubles Champion w Mimi ITF 1813 LTA 16U - 18 Bath Gr 2 16U R/U, member of the Queenswood Team who won The Aberdare Cup.

**Catherine** - TE 14U - 793 LTA 14U - 14, TE 14U Liverpool Nike International Q/F, Played in her 1st British Tour - Paddington Gr 1; Nat Tour 14U - W Sunderland.

**Hannah** - LTA 14U - 61 Halton Gr 2 12U - W Rep GB 12U European Summer Cup.

**Hephzibah** - National Champs 12U R/U LTA 12U -5 14U - 42 Rep GB in 12U Eur Summer Cup.

**Janet Corrie**, Performance Chairman Oct 2018

# Seniors Tennis

## Herts Mens Seniors Teams 2018 Mens 35s

First and foremost what an honour it was to be asked to captain the county team. Having played in many Herts teams under Jeff Wayne, a captain who I not only have the utmost admiration for but who is also someone who has led the county teams so well and with so much success over the last few decades. Then more recently Simon (Bramwell) who has been a great role model for those he has captained, I was determined to do the job to the very best of my ability and learn from those who have captained me.

The team going into this year's competition consisted of Neil Bamford, James Thomas, Johan Prins, Simon Bramwell and me, Hamid Hejazi.

Before a ball had been hit we were a man down with our number 1 singles player Neil having to withdraw with a foot injury. What a disaster!! My first year captaining the team and we'd lost our star man. I had very little time to find a replacement and decided to take a big risk and only take 4 players. That said we did actually nominate 5 players. Tony Cook who had come down to support us for the weekend and for the 2 previous years I had played, said he would step in in the unlikely event of someone being unwell or injured and unable to play. Although he wasn't needed it gave all the team peace of mind knowing we had a player we could put out if needed and we wouldn't be left with 3 players and unable to field a team. So a really big thankyou to Tony for his support over the weekend!

**Day 1** we played Middlesex with James playing No1 singles, Johan No2 singles and Simon and myself playing the doubles. Johan got us off to a great start winning in straight sets and setting the tone for the weekend with a really good performance. Simon and I then also won in straight sets with Simon really stepping up and playing some first class doubles. Sadly James lost the last singles in a well fought match to a very strong Middlesex No1. Final score: HERTS BT MIDDLESEX 2-1

**Day 2** was against Gloucestershire and we put out the same team order. Again Johan destroyed his opponent in 2 comfortable sets setting us on track for a second day win. Simon and I then won our match in 2 sets with Simon again playing 10/10 tennis. James Thomas who said he'd 100% deliver a point on day 2 delivered in style with a 2 sets win over a strong opponent.

We were all set for a final day showdown against Surrey on **day 3** but the weather forecast predicted rain all day. The referee called me and the Surrey captain to his office and said that if we wanted to the match could be played that Saturday evening. Both teams had to agree for the match to be played then as if we didn't play and it was rained off we would be promoted on games won so you'd assume Surrey would be keen to play and we wouldn't want to. The opposite however happened. I said we would be more than happy to play, yes getting promoted would be nice but we were all there to play tennis and playing felt like the right thing to do. To my surprise the Surrey captain said he didn't want to play as the team had a strong player coming down to play the next day and they wanted to risk waiting until Sunday.

Well guess what????? 15 mins before I had to put my team nomination in for the day it started to rain! It then continued to rain for the next 2 hours at which point the referee called it a day and HERTS was promoted based on the first two days play.

The result would have felt hollow if we'd refused to play the match the day before but we didn't and we got the rub of the green.

In all truth I think we would have won on the last day against Surrey. We may not have the strongest team on paper but the team spirit we have is unrivalled and nothing was going to stop us getting back up to Division 1.... and that's what we did!

Huge thanks to the team for the efforts over the weekend. It's actually very easy to captain a team of great players who also happen to be great people and I can't wait till next year when hopefully we will bring back the title

**Hamid Hejazi**, Hertfordshire Men's 35s Team Captain

## Mens 45s

Our 45s team were very nearly top of their group in division 1 losing only 3 - 2 to Cambridgeshire.

Stephen Jones playing no.1 singles won all his matches and when paired with David Shann won all their doubles. Thanks are due to Captain David Reed for looking after the team: **Jonas Eneberg, Matthew Foster, Michael Hooker, Stephen Jones, David Shann and Robert Slack.**

## Mens 55s

Our 55s team were in division 2 and beat both Cambridge and Berkshire to finish 4th in the division and stay for next season. Thanks to Captain Steve Clay for administering the team: **John Bennet, Terry Johnson, Ian Portal, Mike Seymour and Paul Thompson.**

## Mens 60s

Promotion was achieved by the 60s team from division 2. Only 4 matches were played as Bedfordshire withdrew from the competition. There were wins against Gloucestershire and Hampshire, which then left the winner of the match with Berkshire gaining promotion. Our team were able to win a close match 3-2. Thanks to Captain David Stanton for looking after the team: **Neagle Cathcart, Steve Clay, Andy Collar, Martin Corrie, Stephen Skov, Stuart Walker and Martin Webb.**

## Mens 65s

With the 65 team a narrow loss to Cheshire prevented them from winning the group 1B. Both Bob Birchley and Neagle Cathcart won all the singles and doubles matches they played but unfortunately Bob was not able to play in the Cheshire match. Thanks are due to Captain David Thomas for running the team: **Bob Birchley, Neagle Cathcart, Lee Ding, Malcolm Fraser, Chris Owen and Barry Skelding.**

## Mens 70s

In the 70 age group the team were unlucky to lose a close match with South Wales by one set, being in division 2 they play doubles only. This year included a trip to the Isle of Man which in order to get there and back within a day (almost as it included an overnight stay near Gatwick to catch an early flight)



needed to be planned like a military operation. This left the team asking if it was worth all the effort as only 5 games were conceded in the 8 sets played. A second loss to Hampshire meant no promotion, although the other matches had all been won convincingly. The present scoring system gives 2 points to a team that wins on countback and the other team no points. South Wales drew 3 of their matches and got promoted ahead of Herts. We have therefore put forward a proposal to adopt the scoring system used for the Herts Men's Seniors Leagues so in the event of a 2-2 draw the winning team on countback would get 3 points and the losing team would get 2 points. The team are: **Malcolm Fraser (Captain), Chris Owen, Tom Parsons, Rex Poulter, Alan Roberts and Barry Skelding.**

## Mens 75s

The 75 players have again won their group 1A. In this age group only doubles is played and Richard Rowlandson and John Barnett won all their matches. We wish them good luck as they will play against Surrey to find the overall champions at the end of November. Thanks are owed to Captain John Barnett for organising this team: **Tony Clifford, Graham Downes, Peter Morton, Richard Rowlandson and Anthony Sheridan.**

**Malcolm Fraser**, Senior Mens Coordinator

## FILA English Indoor Senior Championships

**The Easter holiday period saw the return to Gosling of the FILA Senior event. Now in its third year the Tournament has established itself as a firm favourite on the ITF Senior Tour and attracts players from around the world.**

This year saw a former Davis Cup player from Egypt Mr Ahmed El Mehelmy sweep all opposition aside to win the Men's 55 title with some style defeating top GB player Keith Gilbert in the final.

Events were staged from 35 through to 80 for Men and Women and included Doubles as well as Singles. In total there were over 250 players all enjoying a week of indoor tennis at Hertfordshire's premier indoor tennis facility. Herts Tennis once again supported this prestigious event and also made courts available for the staging of the pre event Qualification event; this is for aspiring local Herts 35+ players to get a taste of competitive senior tennis.

Local performances of note from Hertfordshire players included a win for Joy Allsop in the Ladies 60 Singles and Norman Church in the Men's 75 Singles. Rajiv Batra and Ian Portal took the Men's 55 Doubles title.

The finals were paid a special visit from Jackie Nesbitt the CEO of ITF Senior tennis who was full of praise for the efforts of the organisers in staging such a well attended event with top players demonstrating a very high standard of competitive tennis.

The event is set to return to GLL Gosling Sports Park in April 2019 where the organisers hope their efforts will be regarded with an upgrade in status to a Grade 2 level event. An upgrade would be sure to attract even higher calibre of player with a greater number of world ranking points on offer.

Those interested can view all the results at [www.ITFtennis.com/seniors](http://www.ITFtennis.com/seniors)

## Overview of Seniors

### Over 45s THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

A close-fought battle between 3 clubs Harpenden 1 - Townsend 1 and David Lloyd Bushey, won by HARPENDEN 1 by 2 points.

#### GROUP 1a

LETCHWORTH 1 won the Group comfortably winning all SIX matches, Harpenden 3 were runners up and Hoddesdon were relegated.

In other groups the winning pattern was very similar where ALL the winning teams dominated their Groups by winning ALL their matches.

#### GROUP 1B - ELLISWICK 1

#### GROUP 2A - BERKHAMSTED \*\*

#### GROUP 2B - KIMPTON \*

#### GROUP 3A - BROXBORNE 1

BERKHAMSTED captained by STEVE PASSMORE once again set the pace amongst the 45s with yet another runaway promotion from Group 2A. We now look forward to seeing them in Group 1A - and as Steve has been telling me for ages "see you in the Championship!" We will watch with interest.

KIMPTON Well worth keeping an eye on after an excellent season, only dropping 5 sets all season.

#### Other Groups

#### GROUP 3B - CHORLEYWOOD

#### GROUP 4A - RICKMANSWORTH 2

Group 4a was won by RICKMANSWORTH 2 with 23 points but it could have been much closer as although Cassiobury had 23 pts - they were penalised 4 points for having players who had played too many games, although Rickmansworth's sets and games averages were higher.

The Over-45s welcomed new entrants - CHIPPERFIELD - RICKMANSWORTH 2 - PONSBORNE PARK and CODICOTE.

### Over 55s THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

Dominated by DAVID LLOYD, BUSHEY last year - this year they got a real wake up call, and with a new scoring system, it was all down to the last match of the season - BROOKMANS PARK v DAVID LLOYD before the CHAMPIONSHIP winners could be declared. DL needed to win all FOUR rubbers - but LOST the last rubber by 2 sets to one so - RICKMANSWORTH WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP. - The wakeup call for DL came in the first match of the season where they lost at home to Rickmansworth 1-4. We had a very exciting finish to a high standard Championship especially for Rickmansworth who were promoted from Group1A last season.

GROUP 1A - Won by LETCHWORTH in a very closely fought contest with Berkhamsted they won the league by a single point.

GROUP 1B - Won comfortably by BISHOPS STORTFORD.

GROUP 2A - After a successful season in 2016-17, THE DRIVE EDGWARE continued winning ways and were undefeated in winning the group.

GROUP 2B ELLISWICK 2 - despite conceding a walkover to Bovingdon, they won the group with better set and games percentages.

GROUP 3A - Good performance from TOTTERIDGE 2 winning the Group by 5 points - and winning all six matches.

### Over 65s

With the Over 65s running two Groups - it was thought that HARPENDEN A would be dominant - but all the teams in DIV 1A made things quite hard for them. HARPENDEN A were eventual winners winning with 19 points from Bishops Stortford who had 18 points.

DIV 1B was a "3 horse" thriller, with eventual winners THE DRIVE EDGWARE on 18pts, Totteridge on 17 pts and Cassiobury on 17 pts - with Totteridge having slightly better set and games averages.

GOOD SEASON FOR ALL CONSIDERING SOME REALLY BAD WEATHER

**BASIL WEIN**, League Organiser

# Seniors Tennis

## Ladies 35s

Team: **Alissa Ayling, Sarah Donovan, Kate Gowar, Kate Peel, Sian Southwell-Sander (Captain).**

So proud of our over 35's Ladies team who had a brilliant weekend winning all three days to gain promotion to group 1 for the 2019 event! Sarah Donovan, it was fantastic to you have you back on the team. Even though you chose not to play this time - we are all hoping you will next time!

**Day 1** resulted in a 2-1 victory over Dorset, with Alissa Ayling making her debut in the 35's age group and teaming up with Sian to win the deciding doubles. (So lovely to play with you again Alissa and rekindle a former Herts partnership!).

**Day 2** versus Sussex saw Kate Gowar come back from a set and 5-2 down to win the second set and then take the 3rd set Championship Tie Break 10-8! Giving an incredible performance with amazing support from team Hertfordshire, Kate Peel played beautifully and had a long battle in the other singles, cheered on by her gorgeous son Harrison - the team mascot!

In the doubles, another win for Alissa and Sian resulted in a 2-1 outcome for the good guys!

**Day 3** saw both Kates in action again in the singles against Durham & Cleveland, followed by a deciding doubles which we closed out. It was job done with a couple of well deserved jugs of Pimms for the team and all the incredible supporters.

We are hugely looking forward to next year and please get in contact if you are now eligible for the age group and would like to get involved. Please email [sianss@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sianss@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sian Southwell-Sander**

## Ladies 40s

We finished 3 out of 6 in a strong group 1, so I would say that was our logical place in the group, but we still had to fight for it! Devon and Gloucestershire went down....  
A Big Thank You to all who played.

We had three good wins, against Devon, who ended up pulling out, Gloucestershire and Kent (a crucial match for us). We lost against South Wales, their two singles players were just too strong and Middlesex.

Those who played were: **Bridie Amos, Sarah Austin, Olga Belcher, Carla Birks, Rebecca Gates, Miranda Hosking, Pippa Parkes, Kate Peel, Janine Stanton, Sarah Ward, and myself.**

**Delphine Rive**

## Ladies 50s

Our first match saw a 5/4 victory over Hereford and Worcester away with superb doubles debut wins for Miranda Hosking and Wendy Job. Mandy Bishop brought home the result with her decisive singles win.

In June we had a terrific 10-0 win over Warwickshire which was played outside at St Albans. There were debut victories in singles and doubles for Emma Wilson backed up again by the dynamic duo of Miranda and Wendy.

Yorkshire away, it has to be said, was a fun train journey with engaging banter both there and back. A gritty, accurate team rocked us with a 0-10 defeat which wasn't reflective of the big team effort.

Challenging scheduling put us straight down to Sussex the next day but Claire Booth and Karen Curran put in a courageous effort. Facing a team on a determined stride towards the Finals we suffered a 2/8 defeat, but there were 'brave heart' displays from Mandy, Claire and Karen.

Beating South Wales at home became the key to staying up. Played indoors at Gosling, the courts were rocking with winners. We had fantastic debut doubles wins for Hazel Lupton and Wendy and a sizzling singles victory at 1 for Miranda whose opponent had become familiar with every corner of the court. We finished with an 8/2 victory for Herts.

We have a great squad of **Mandy Bishop, Claire Booth, Karen Curran, Miranda Hosking, Wendy Job, Hazel Lupton, Jenny Stokes and Emma Wilson** with brilliant extra support from **Alison Felton, Alison Williams and Rowena Tott**. We look forward to sealing the division next summer!

**Jenny Stokes**

## Ladies 55s

Herts finished third in Division 1 winning three matches and narrowly losing to Surrey and Bucks 3-2; in each of those fixtures we lost two extremely close third set tie-breaks! It was however a great season with some excellent wins and long, gruelling matches in a challenging top division.

It was a pleasure to captain the team and I am very grateful to everyone in the squad for their support, incredible tennis, team spirit, commitment, energy and humour.

Those who played were: **Judith Allnutt, Claire Booth, Janet Corrie, Wendy Cottenden, Annie Hems, and Jane Walker.**

I would also like to thank Neil Dyson, Fran North and the catering team at David Lloyd Bushey for their professional and welcoming assistance.

**Claire Booth**

## Ladies 60s

Herts Ladies 60's have once again completed a season of excellent tennis playing in Division 2. All matches were closely contested with 3 matches being decided on sets or games, after rubbers were 2-2.

For the last 4 years we have had to travel to Scotland so an overnight stay in Worthing and a day trip to Lincoln made a pleasant change. All our 3 home matches were played at Batchwood against Leicestershire, Kent and Devon.

The team had 3 good wins against Leicestershire and Devon 3-1 and Sussex, which we won by 7 games. The 2 matches we lost against Kent and Lincolnshire were lost on sets after rubbers were 2-2. Sadly at the end of the day Kent pipped us to promotion to Division 1. We both had the same overall rubbers score of 26-14 but they beat us on games!

So well played ladies. As usual a very good and enjoyable season.

The team was **Alison Allard (Captain), Joy Allsopp, Sue Birchall, Janet Corrie, Wendy Cottenden, Gill Dickey and Margaret Shahmir.**

**Alison Allard**



## Ladies 65s

Our first match was against Shropshire at home, playing indoors. It was a very close match so we had to tot up games and Shropshire won by 1 game!

The second match was again at home against Wiltshire. This time we played outside as the weather was kind. A very close match, so again we totted up the games and this time we won 40 games to 27.

Our third match was away in Somerset. Once again we had to add up the games and we won by 41 games to 33. My team decided to make a mini-break out of the venue so we all had to arrive on time from different directions and we all arrived early - what a team!

Our final match was on the 1st September against Cheshire. A long way to go but a warm welcome ensued and they beat us 3 rubbers to 1 but very enjoyable nonetheless and a couple of tie breaks hotly contested by both sides.

So overall we won 2 and lost 2 but we had a thoroughly enjoyable time and look forward to the next season.

Players were, **Lorraine Oliver (Captain), Alison Alcock, Margi Defriez, Jenny Madden, Patricia Rayner, Yvonne Stredder, Sheila Vaughan.**

**Lorraine Oliver**

## Ladies 70s

The ladies 70's Herts County team this year had a very enjoyable (if rather hot) 2018 season. Many squad players were involved in the 6 matches. These were **Dilys Buckley, Pam Burrage, Teresa Deverill, Miranda Dubberley, Meta Kelly, Janet Morgan, Christine Robinson and myself, Jennifer Israel, as captain.**

Others were involved in practices and reunions and all participants must be thanked for their unstinting support and team spirit, in spite of (or perhaps because of) their having played competitively for their various clubs against one another for some years!

We played very enjoyable away matches against Essex, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire and home matches v Scotland, Suffolk and Sussex. All were tough opponents, but a highlight was that we beat Scotland. We had excellent matches against the remainder even though we lost these, several by narrow margins.

Hopefully all will keep fit for next year's effort and please, ladies on the brink of the age group, feel proud and not shy about putting yourself forward for participation next year.

**Jennifer Israel**

## Herts 3-Pair Summer League

**Last year's decision to stick with the existing format in Herts league matches – made by representatives from clubs at the Herts AGM – meant that it was with great interest that I awaited the entries for this year's competition. How would clubs react? Would the number of teams entering reduce by even more than normal?**

Well the jury's by no means out, but overall the reaction – the initial one at least – has been really rather positive. The same number of clubs entered as in 2017 – one club decided not to re-enter while another chose to return to the competition after a long absence – the number of Men's teams entering stayed the same (the first time it hadn't gone down since 2014). The number of Ladies teams went down by three (a reduction yes, nonetheless the smallest since 2014) and the number of players taking part increased (up from 1,354 to 1,355!).

So to the season itself, one extremely disappointing aspect was the number of walkovers in the Men's competition, particularly in the higher divisions and for once no-one could blame the weather! The teams that were guilty of awarding walkovers were mainly 1st teams, which suggests that the clubs concerned need to review how they set their squads. It's clearly not that tricky.....just ask the Ladies, who once again did the competition proud. Despite a number of teams clearly finding themselves in too high a division this year (through no fault of their own), no-one wanted to take the easy option of not putting out a team when the going was tough. Incredibly there was just one walkover given. The difference could not be starker.

Thankfully there was an awful lot of good competition throughout the league to make up for this and this was perhaps best highlighted by the races for the Men's and

Ladies titles, which went right to the wire. In the Ladies competition, the tight stranglehold which the Letchworth 1st team have had on the title since 2008 was finally broken....just....by a consistently extremely strong Gosling team. The overall race was typified by the fixture between the two teams. Letchworth managed to win that match 5-4 – just shading the five rubbers that went to a deciding 3rd set tie-break – but Gosling weren't to be denied their first ever title. Their thumping win against Harpenden 1, who earlier in the season had dealt Letchworth their first defeat in the competition since 2015, proved pivotal as they ran out champions by a margin of just four rubbers.

The Men's competition was even closer! The holders of the last three titles, Moor Park (champions in 2015 and 2017) and Welwyn (winners in 2016), were once again the stand out teams, with Welwyn eventually reclaiming the title by the very slenderest of margins. Inseparable on the first criteria (the number of wins) and also the second (the percentage of rubbers won to rubbers played), decisively they edged the third criteria, the percentage of sets won to sets played, by just 1%.

In next year's Men's top flight they will be joined by the winners of Divisions 1a and 1b; Bishops Stortford 1 and Gosling 1, while the Radlett 1 and Hoddesdon 1 Ladies will play in the Championship division next season having finished in 1st and 2nd place in the new look Premier division (introduced in 2018 following a proposal to restructure the top end of the Ladies competition at last year's AGM). Congratulations to all four teams and to every other divisional winner and promoted team on their achievements and thank you to everybody who took part in the competition this season.

**Lee Evans**

# Mini Tennis

## Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter Team League 2017-18

Sunday 18th March 2018, Gosling Sports Park

The Mini League is an established activity in the Herts Tennis calendar. It supports the development of young club players providing team tennis in a relaxed and enjoyable club environment.

In many cases it is the players' parents that assist with the management of the Mini teams within the clubs and they do an admirable job. The parents of the Mini Red players have the most difficult task as in many cases they are new to the sport and the format comprises not only 8 singles but also 2 doubles matches. Those of us who have umpired a 7 and under doubles match know that it is no easy task, but it is such fun and a worthwhile opportunity for the future development of the young players.

The League runs in two stages, the Challenger Draw is for less experienced club players. They gain the opportunity to hone their match skills over the Autumn term and in many cases move on into the Main Draw teams after Christmas, this is when they come across more experienced players from other clubs.

Finals Day this year took place on the 19th March and it was good to see so many of our clubs represented. Finals Day is special for everyone involved; there is a lovely atmosphere and an excellent balance of healthy competition, good sportsmanship and friendship between the clubs and players. This year Batchwood did not get things their own way and Gosling pipped them to first place in the Red Event.

This year 441 Hertfordshire club players enjoyed regular competition over the winter season in 77 teams from 22 of our clubs. We would like to encourage more clubs to provide team tennis for their Mini players.

The results were as follows:

### RED MAIN DRAW FINALS

Winners	Gosling Red Aces
Runners Up	Batchwood Red Buffalos 1
3rd Place	Langley Reds
4th Place	Letchworth Red A

### RED CONSOLATION

Winners	BSLTC Red 1
Runners Up	Welwyn Red Wanderers

### ORANGE MAIN DRAW FINALS

Winners	Batchwood Orange Bulldogs
Runners Up	Gosling Orange Stars
3rd Place	Letchworth Orange
4th Place	Harpenden Orange 1

### ORANGE CONSOLATION

Winners	Batchwood Orange Bulldogs 2
Runners Up	Letchworth Orange B

### GREEN MAIN DRAW FINALS

Winners	Batchwood Greens
Runners Up	Gosling Green Giants
3rd Place	Letchworth Green A
4th Place	Harpenden Green

### GREEN CONSOLATION

Winners	BSLTC Green 1
Runners Up	Harpenden Green 2

Jennifer Keates

## The Herts Club and Performance Network

Herts Tennis is committed to supporting clubs and players and makes a considerable financial contribution towards advancing club programmes, increasing participation and improving player levels from mini-red through to international levels.

The Herts Network is in place to:

- Support the advancement of club programmes
- Increase junior participation
- Improve player levels from mini-red upwards
- Make our better players even better

The Herts Network provides support to Clubs that:

- Have a track record of increasing participation at mini-red
- Have focussed training opportunities for selected mini-reds
- Support the development of junior players to county level and above.

Clubs involved in the Herts Network deliver the following programmes:

- Pathway to Tarbes
- Herts Inspires Tennis
- Herts Inspires Tennis Potential

The Pathway to Tarbes programme has been in place since 2007 and is a fundamental part of the Herts Tennis Talent Development system. The programmes provide selected Under 10 tennis players with subsidised performance training designed to promote enjoyment, foster a competitive spirit and inspire respect and excellence with the aim of setting players on the pathway to international tennis.

The Herts Inspires Tennis programme is designed to support successful, forward thinking clubs with recognised quality performance programmes. Herts Inspires Tennis clubs offer subsidised training programmes specifically targeting the identification and development of under 10 tennis players who are showing the potential, determination and enthusiasm to become performance level players at County level and above.

Herts Inspires Tennis Potential clubs are recognised for their ambition and track record in developing young tennis players and for their dedication to increasing participation. Herts Inspires Tennis Potential Clubs provide focussed training support to selected mini-reds who are keen and committed to becoming competent tennis players and competitors.

The Herts network clubs work closely together and alongside their weekly training programmes join forces in providing regular and quality competition for the strongest mini-reds in the form of the Herts Inspires Tennis Red Tour. The tour is a series of mini-red tournaments starting in September that are scheduled alongside the timetable of major international competitions finishing with the Hertfordshire Junior Championships in the following August. The results of these competitions are recorded on a leader board and give a good indication of player development.

The positive collaboration between Herts Tennis and clubs is clearly having a direct impact on the development of players across the county and this is reflected in the success of the Herts County teams.

Herts Tennis is keen to work with clubs who would like to become part of our Network and join us in our goal to "make our players better players". For details and application requirements please contact the County office.

Teresa Lilley



## Teachers' Courses

This year we were able to run two Teachers Courses with the help of Herts LTA. Our normal and very popular 3 hour course for Secondary School Teachers was held at Gosling Sports Park with David Lawlor of Harpenden Tennis Club as tutor. This course is always very well received and David adapts the content to the needs of the Teachers attending. Everyone leaves with ideas and resources for their summer term teaching programme; often they also leave with their own tennis skills enhanced!

Our new venture was a Primary School Teachers Course held at Royal Masonic School and led by Tom Dyball. This was planned with the assistance of Sue Birchall and publicised through the Herts Schools and County Teachers website. Attendance was slightly disappointing, but often with a new venture we need to build on early success. All the teachers who attended were very pleased with the course, so hopefully word will spread and 2019 will be even better attended.

## Mini Red

**Welwyn Mini Red, Tuesday 22 May, Welwyn Tennis Club.**

The entry was one of the biggest in the last few years with 13 pairs competing to qualify for the Final's Day. The schools entered were Welwyn St Mary's, Broxbourne, Codicote, Sherrardswood, Roundwood, St Michael's Woolmer Green and St Albans Girl's.

A very hot sunny day produced some excellent matches attended by well behaved children. After playing the round robin boxes, St Albans Girl's 1st and 2nd team, Welwyn St Mary's and Broxbourne 1st team made it through to the semi finals. St Albans Girl's put up a good fight but eventually it was Welwyn St Mary's and Broxbourne who contested the final with Broxbourne becoming the

overall winners. Both teams qualified for the Final's Day.

## Cassiobury, 18 June 2018, Cassiobury LTC

9 teams from 4 schools: 1 from Wheatfield Infants; 2 from Cassiobury Juniors; 4 from Cassiobury Infants and 1 from a new school - Abbots Langley School competed in this year's Mini Red Doubles Competition.

Four teams made it through to the final round robin with the results as follows:

**1st place** Wheatfield

(Winners for the second year)

**2nd place** Cassiobury Juniors

**3rd place** Abbots Langley

**4th place** Cassiobury Juniors 2

Certificates were presented to all the children and medals were awarded to the Winners and Runners-up. Sadly Cassiobury Juniors were not able to attend the Final at Welwyn so it was agreed that Abbots Langley could take their place.

My thanks to Cassiobury LTC for hosting the event and to all the parents and staff who assisted with the scoring and tea making.

## Mini Red Finals, 3rd July

The Schools final day took place on another hot day on Tuesday 3rd July.

The teams for this event were Welwyn St Mary's, Broxbourne, Wheatfields (St Albans) and Abbots Langley. This was another day of excellent tennis with the holders from last year, Wheatfields triumphing again by beating Welwyn St Mary's 10-5 in the deciding match.

Well done to all the players for entering and to the umpires for making the day run so smoothly.

## Mini Orange, 12 June 2018, St Albans Tennis Club

We welcomed 12 teams - 48 excited children from 7 schools to the Annual Mini Orange Tournament. Early rounds were played in round robin boxes and in our four player doubles team format, each point won counts.

The teams battled hard and after ten rounds of tennis Woodend (Djokovic) and Roundwood (Murray) emerged as winners of their groups. The final was a closely fought affair and after two more rounds

we had an unprecedented situation where the teams were on equal points. So this year we had two winners and as a teacher commented, the highest standard of play he had witnessed since his school started attending the tournament.

Our thanks go to St Albans Tennis Club for hosting, the boys from Verulam and the girls from St Albans High School for umpiring and to everyone who turned up and made this such an enjoyable day for all the children taking part.

## Mini Green Tennis, 27 June 2018, Broxbourne LTC

On a blazing hot afternoon, Broxbourne LTC welcomed 10 pairs of boys to compete for the title of Mini Green Boys Champions. Unfortunately, this year only 2 schools entered a girls' team so a Girls tournament was not run on this occasion. We hope next year will bring revived numbers! We did however, have two new schools enter this year, Haberdashers Prep and Sarratt. Competition was again to a high level and all players were able to play 9 timed matches of 10 minutes. Haberdashers Prep Pair 1 won overall beating Cassiobury Pair 1 into second place. Certificates and awards were presented and thanks given to Broxbourne LTC for their support and hospitality.

## Year 6

### Yellow Ball Royal Masonic School

**Year 6 Tournament-** a great afternoon of tennis in beautiful sunshine, with 7 pairs of girls and 17 pairs of boys, 48 players in all.

We decided to include a 'Less experienced' category of players this year. This was a great success and especially valuable because players have less opportunities to play competitive tennis. It is also good for the experienced players who have the chance to play for their school and be part of a team.

### Boys Less experienced:

Aldwickbury School

### Boys Experienced:

Haberdashers Prep

### Girls Less experienced:

Berkhamsted School

### Girls Experienced:

Wheatfields School





**2018 Mini Green competitors**

## **Year 7**

### **Boys Doubles Tournament, 20th June, Haberdashers' Boys School**

On Wednesday 20th June in hot sunshine 8 teams competed in the annual Hertfordshire Year 7 Doubles Tournament, hosted by Haberdashers' Boys School. Aldwickbury topped Group A after dominant displays against St Albans and Haberdashers' Boys. Parmiters finished first in Group B after overcoming a strong challenge from Watford Grammar. In the final, Aldwickbury raised their game even further crushing Parmiters 6-1, although the score line did not reflect the many high-quality exchanges throughout the match! St Albans were victorious in an exciting 3rd/4th place play-off. The event was a real success providing a fun competition for Year 7 schoolboys from across the county. We look forward to next year's tournament!

### **Girls Doubles, 13th June, St Albans High School for Girls**

On Wednesday 13 June the Year 7 Girls doubles tournament was played at St Albans High School for Girls. As in previous years the tournament was divided into two groups: an Experienced category for those girls playing regularly either at school or at a club and an Inexperienced category for those girls who have just started playing tennis this term.

In total 13 different pairs entered the tournament and all the pairs enjoyed four matches across the afternoon. In the Experienced category, Royal Masonic School 1 finished in 1st place with St Albans High School 2 in 2nd place. In the Inexperienced category St Albans High School 1 finished in 1st place with St Albans High School 2 finishing second.

### **U14 & U18 Boys' County Schools Championships, Wednesday 24th May, Welwyn Tennis Club**

With the prospect of rain and a full complement of teams for both the U14 and U18 knockout competitions, we started promptly at 1pm. Once the first round and quarter finals had been played, we were able to establish the Plate competition as well as the main draw semi finalists.

Throughout the afternoon Welwyn's 9 courts, including three newly resurfaced with Tiger Turf, were in nearly constant use.

The early rounds didn't produce any major upsets, apart from last year's U18 winners being knocked out of the main draw in their first match. They did however go on to win the Plate competition without dropping a game. The U18 main draw welcomed the winners of last year's U14 competition from Sandringham, who despite being in year 10 overcame some tough opposition to win the U18 draw beating St. Albans Boys first pair in the final.

In the U14 draw, there was some excellent competition and some tight matches. Chancellors' first pair lost to Sandringham's first pair in the quarter finals, following a bye in the first round. They dropped only one game in their successful pursuit of the Plate. In the main draw Sandringham's second pair overcame Monks Walk in a tight match decided by a tie break to secure a place in the final. They met newcomers, Marlborough who had beaten Monks Walk and Haberdashers en-route to meeting Sandringham in the final.

The final was well contested and the overall score line didn't reflect the quality demonstrated by both teams. Marlborough came away as overall winners, without dropping a game in their final match.

### **U14 & U18 Girls County Schools Championships, 15th June 2018,**

### **St Albans High School for Girls**

The County Schools Doubles Tournament was a great success. There were 8 pairs in the U14 event and it was eventually won by Royal Masonic School who beat St Albans High School for Girls in a third set tie-break.

The U18 event had 6 pairs and was won by St Albans High School for Girls who beat Monks Walk in the final. Congratulations to all competitors.

### **Nicola Mabbitt 2018, Queenswood**

On a sunny afternoon 30 winning teams from 6 areas of Herts arrived at Queenswood to play in the Nicola Mabbitt Trophy finals. The players, in teams of 4, had won their local area leagues and played the winning teams from the other areas. There are 6 separate Leagues – for Years 8, 9 and 10, Boys and Girls.

This year the Girls Leagues played their finals on the 12 AstroTurf courts and the Boys on the 12 clay courts. In all 120 players completed over 100 matches in the afternoon.

#### **Winners:**

Year 8 Boys	Rickmansworth School
Year 8 Girls	Rickmansworth School
Year 9 Boys	St Albans School
Year 9 Girls	Rickmansworth School
Year 10 Boys	St Columba's School
Year 10 Girls	Presdales School

#### **Thank You!**

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

This is a team effort and we simply could not run this programme without your help.

**Pam Burrage**