

Game... Herts...!
Set...



HERTS **TENNIS**

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Issue 13 November 2019

Herts LTA 200 Club

200 Club winners HERTS LTA 2018-2019

OCTOBER		
£40	264	Mrs M Cartmell
£30	206	Mr M Bowler
£20	22	Legends TC
£10	182	Mrs P Danks
£10	264	Mrs B Thomas
NOVEMBER		
£40	165	Mrs P Danks
£30	78	Mrs D Gaffney
£20	275	Mrs B Hayward
£10	219	Mrs A Allard
£10	294	Mr M Knee
DECEMBER		
£40	230	Mr I Duncan
£30	54	Mr D Barry
£20	114	Mr M Knee
£10	273	Mr J Stone
£10	3	Mrs J Allnut
JANUARY		
£40	166	Mrs J Childs
£30	65	Mr A Robinson
£20	298	Mr G Westwell
£10	105	Mrs P Danks
£10	153	Mrs C Herbert
FEBRUARY		
£100	69	Mrs P Danks
£40	143	Mr A Tindale
£30	32	Mr R Sneesby
£20	149	Mrs C Herbert
£10	63	Mrs P Rawlings
£10	78	Mrs D Gaffney
MARCH		
£40	174	Mr R Greenwood
£30	210	Mrs P Hall
£20	102	Mrs E Taylor
£10	266	Mr A Sheridan
£10	33	Codicote TC
APRIL		
£40	67	Mr A Sheridan
£30	238	Mr I Duncan
£20	48	Mr B Hosier
£10	144	Mr C Borthwick
£10	113	Mr G Lamb
MAY		
£40	19	Greenwood Park TC
£30	116	Mrs V Harris
£20	290	Mr M Knee
£10	48	Mr B Hosier
£10	210	Mrs P Hall
JUNE		
£40	188	Mr M Bowler
£30	32	Mr R Sneesby
£20	21	Mrs R Chisholm
£10	12	Mr J Bennet
£10	264	Mr B Thomas
JULY		
£40	7	Mr T Adamson
£30	198	Mr M Bowler
£20	140	Mr C Hollis
£10	260	Mr C Saunders
£10	174	Mr R Greenwood
AUGUST		
£100	70	Mrs M Thomas
£40	101	Mrs C Morris
£30	139	Mrs P Hall
£20	114	Mr M Knee
£10	106	Mr J Hicklin
£10	233	Mr I Duncan
SEPTEMBER		
£40	127	Mr M Corrie
£30	223	Mrs S Southwell-Sander
£20	89	Mr P Cartmell
£10	196	Mrs D Walker
£10	119	Mrs M Power

Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association '200' club Direct Debit mandate

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	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

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HERTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2020

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Welcome to the annual Herts Newsletter

In February Herts Tennis organised a trip to the Federation Cup match in Bath especially for the Under 14 Girls. A great time was had by all, enhanced by the win by GB.



Herts Girls at the Fed Cup in February

February also saw the Under 9s win the Mini Orange festival and the 12 Counties team get promotion to division 1.

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 section of the competition 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 the game of tennis. This can be done on the LTA website but do feel able to contact Herts Office if you need any support with this.

Also in March the under 8s were winners at the East Region Mini Tennis Red Inter County Finals for the 3rd year in a row.

The Lionel Cox Trophy, an event involving different age groups within the East Region counties was held at Queenswood School in May and the overall winners were Hertfordshire.

Moving into peak tennis time, we saw a fantastic performance from Herts Ladies in the Inter County Grass Court event. Fielding what was the youngest side ever at County Week and with four out of the eight being newcomers to the team we started with a win 7-2. On the second day we faced Surrey, the winners in 2018 and got off to a good start but then disaster struck. Amanda Elliott, who plays with Emily Arbuthnott, suffered a pulled calf muscle after 1 round. A reserve was needed, so step forward Annabel who was not only a newcomer to the team but only 16. She paired up with Emily and they proceeded not only to win their matches against Surrey but every match afterwards. We beat Surrey 6-3 and proceeded to win every other day. Emily won 15 out of 15, a fantastic achievement and Annabel also remains unbeaten at County Week, long may it continue. So County Champions and with this young team we have the chance to continue this run.

The Men were not so fortunate. Sadly as players get older they get jobs and are limited in the time they get off. Younger players are brought in but it is tough in Group 1. They fought

every day and following a battle on the last day to get a win they finished 4th in the group and so remain in Group 1 for 2020.

July also saw the Under 12 girls become County Cup winners.

In August the Ladies over 35 team were County Cup runners-up, showing the strength Herts has from the lowest age group upwards.

The Management Committee decided to hold an event to celebrate the work done for the county by Val and John Harris. It was decided to hold a two pair knockout competition. It proved to be very popular and Hoddesdon won the Ladies event and Moor Park the Men's.

The Nature Valley Big Tennis Weekends saw 17 clubs getting funding from Herts Tennis to support their efforts.

The Herts Tennis Coaches Working Group is well established and has provided several excellent workshops and courses including the popular Kris Souter workshop that took place in February this year. These events are heavily subsidised for Coaches who are working in registered Herts venues.

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

We have a number of funding schemes to help Clubs including interest free loans and facility grants which are available to small clubs to make improvements. These opportunities have been taken up by a variety of clubs during the 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. Contact the Office if you need help.

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 on our website and from the County Office.

The County Leagues are now completed and the winners for this year in the Championship are Letchworth Ladies and Welwyn on the Men's side.

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

Trevor Adamson, President



The 2018 Awards Dinner held in March this year

Herts Awards 2018



David Shann



Leverstock Green



Angela Blowers



Peter Moore



Oliver

Herts Tennis Awards Dinner

In March this year we held the annual Herts Tennis Awards Dinner at Harpenden Golf Club. The event is an opportunity to applaud and thank the dedicated clubs, players, coaches and volunteers for their tremendous efforts throughout the previous year in supporting the county.

After dinner the 2018 awards were presented starting with 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. This was followed by the presentation of the Herts Tennis Awards given to those who have made important contributions to tennis within the county. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

British Tennis Award winners:

Coch of the Year:	David Shann
Club of the Year:	Leverstock Green
Official of the Year:	Angela Blowers
Volunteer of the Year:	Peter Moore (West Herts)
Young Person of the Year:	Oliver
Education Award:	Queenswood School
Community Programme Award:	Parktennis
Disability Programme Award:	Gosling
Competition of the Year:	Jamie Broomfield
Lifetime Achievement:	Mary Ford

Herts Tennis Awards winners:

Outstanding Achievement:	Fran Attrill
Mark Seymour Award:	Jake Penny
Laing Award:	Mimi Bland
County Colours:	Georgie Walker
Herts League Ladies winning team:	Gosling
Herts League Men winning team:	Welwyn



Ben Roberts-Law
on behalf of Jake Penny



Mary Ford



Jamie Broomfield



Gosling



Queenswood School



Parktennis

Herts Disability 2019 Update

Another busy year for the disability programme, here are the highlights.

- We had 60 students from four local colleges come and attend a multi sports inclusive day at Gosling which was run with Saracens Rugby and Watford Football. A future project idea is to put together a programme involving the three sports with colleges engaging their disabled students in a weekly programme.
- Mencap sessions now run across the county at four different sites and are led by Potters Bar coach Gerry Bloohn. four more groups are interested and a funding bid has been put in place to expand the programme.

● Four Herts Daycare services now have tennis as part of their weekly activities. These are run by Herts Disability Hub coaches and day-care service leaders following an activator course.

● Barnet Inclusion project group are now having weekly tennis sessions delivered by Potters Bar.

● A physically impaired programme funded by Give It Your Max was delivered in the summer term which saw six schools and over 50 students from mainstream schools attend. Follow on sessions at Gosling are now underway.

● Also as part of the above we delivered a block of 6 weeks training to 15 students at Lonsdale School in Stevenage which is a specialist school for physically impaired students.

Phil Martin



New Extension for Elliswick

Elliswick LTC's impressive new clubhouse extension was officially opened in May this year by the The Town Mayor of Harpenden, Councillor David Heritage, and his Consort, Councillor Teresa Heritage.

Located in a residential area of Harpenden and surrounded by prize-winning gardens, Elliswick has seven AstroTurf courts two of which have floodlights. The club caters for all ages and levels of play with social tennis being the backbone of the club. However they also treat competitive tennis very seriously and often have teams managing to perform above their fighting weight.

The extension has substantially enlarged the clubhouse which now houses a much bigger lounge, additional catering space, office facilities and changing rooms. The increased space will be very useful for comfortably hosting tennis-related activities and with a panoramic view of all seven courts; it provides the club with a superb venue for the events in their busy social calendar.

The function was also attended by Trevor Adamson and Martin Corrie from Herts LTA, Jim McGown, the club's President, and numerous other dignitaries and club members.

Andree Haxton, Elliswick LTC

Small Facilities Grants

Herts Tennis has a number of £1000 grants available for small venues that are looking to refurbish and update facilities and equipment.

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

Bovingdon & Flaunden – funding towards refurbishment and landscaping of grounds

Brookmans Park - funding towards junior tennis equipment and clubhouse furniture

Much Hadham – funding towards subsidence repairs



Bovingdon & Flaunden ground refurbishment before and after

People and Clubs

Bishop's Stortford LTC

Bishop's Stortford held a 'Bubble Launch' in October to mark the opening of the new Bubble. The club held an Open Day and a Charity Tennis afternoon hosted by Bright Ideas for Tennis, a charitable organization whose primary goal is to support tennis clubs in the UK by increasing membership numbers, raising participation levels and improving playing facilities.

They have a host of former GB professional tennis players who go to clubs to help with fund raising efforts and we were delighted that Luke Milligan who reached the third round of Wimbledon and James Auckland who reached number 57 in the world at doubles came to visit BSLTC to help celebrate the realisation of the bubble project and raise funds to provide coaching for Grove Cottage.

Luke and James provided expert coaching to over 70 members and in spite of the miserable weather everyone had a fantastic time picking up tips to improve their games. After the coaching sessions there was then the opportunity for three exhibition matches. One of our older juniors Zac Blaney paired up with Steve Gallagher to take them on but fell a little short, then Joys de Graaf and Janet Goldsworthy split up for a mixed doubles match that was won by Janet and Luke Milligan (10-7). Two of our juniors Luke Dunham and Louis Benzing were the last two to pit their skills against them.

Huge thanks to the generosity of local businesses that provided raffle prizes, we were able to raise enough money to fund a year of coaching sessions for Grove Cottage (home of Mencap in Bishop's Stortford).

Natalie Dwyer, Bishops Stortford LTC



BSLTC Chairman Peter Harris with Luke Milligan and James Auckland from Bright Ideas



The 2019 Datchworth League

The Datchworth League celebrates 50 years

On Sunday 23rd June Welwyn Tennis Club held the Datchworth League 50th Birthday Celebration Tournament. The League Committee, headed by Maria Walker, organised the event in collaboration with the Welwyn Tennis Committee.

The whole day was a spectacular celebration befitting this amazing league. The event was watched by a very good crowd in lovely sunshine with both the BBQ and the afternoon cakes proving very popular.

The atmosphere was both friendly and competitive. All fixtures were played with complete fairness (hardly a disputed line call!!) but with a very competitive edge to them. A handicap system of scoring gave all abilities and ages (from 11 to 70 years!) a chance to shine. There were six round

robin groups of four pairs, with 18 different Herts clubs in action. The top two pairs entered the afternoon tournament for the trophy, the bottom two for the plate.

Once all the fixtures were finished we completed the day with the nail-biting semis followed by the magnificent finals. The majority of spectators stayed until the end creating a very warm atmosphere for our finalists. The final results were:

Trophy Final – Welwyn 1 versus Wheathampstead 1 (Jane Kelly & Ben Giddens from Wheathampstead were the victors!)

Plate Final – St Margarets versus Knebworth (Jill Wilkins & Arnie Worton-Geer from St Margarets the victors!)

As well as having a glorious day (the sunshine came as ordered) we were able to raise over £700 for Cancer Research with the raffle provided by the Welwyn Tennis Club team.

Here's to the next 50 years!

Terry Mackie, Welwyn LTC

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Congratulations Jamie & Francesca



Congratulations to Herts Coach and County Team Captain Jamie Fallis and his wife Francesca who were married this year on the beautiful island of Kefalonia surrounded by family and friends.

Everyone at Herts Tennis wishes them a very happy future together.

Herts Men

SUMMER COUNTY CUP 2019

Devonshire Park, Eastbourne

As we enter the Winter Cup season, I look back to the summer's County Cup, Group 1 at Eastbourne.

I hope all the team and those who came to support the Herts Men will have great memories from a very competitive week which for Herts turned out to be an absolute thriller when our team staged a brilliant fightback on the last day to prevent relegation from Group 1.

Our team for the 2019 Summer County Cup was - Neil Bamford, George Coupland, David Stevenson, James Wilkinson, Charlie Broom, Neil Roskilly, Ed Corrie and Jake Penny.

Throughout the week, no matter how our teams were constructed, and without doubt the efforts and passion that never waned (no pun intended!) it wasn't quite enough to have won more than our third day's match.

But on that last day, the team gelled and with absolute ferocity. Every team member played their hearts out (another unintended pun!) - but special mention to David Stevenson, who played with determination and maximum effort throughout the week, but until the Friday, didn't quite find his 'groove', but boy did he put those first days behind him and with Neil Roskilly, pulled off a blinder.

The Friday turned into a straight winner takes all - with the losing county relegated. We were playing Middlesex, who like Herts had won just once over the first four days. The mood was electric, with the result going our way. In fact it

was all over by the end of Round 2 with Herts 5-1 up.

As a result, Herts are still in Group 1 for what will become its 16th consecutive year (with seven National titles during that period) and apparently a continuing record over the history of the Summer Cup.

While we 'just' remained in Group 1, the emotions felt like we had won the title. And I can only thank once again, and with great pride, each of our team members, for giving all that they had to give, and is why the Herts Men will be returning to Eastbourne in 2020.

Come on Herts??? They certainly did.

Jeff Wayne, Herts Men's Captain



The 2019 Mens Summer County Cup team

Herts Teams Reports

Herts Ladies

Winter County Cup 2018 (Bath Group 1)

We were delighted to be back in Group 1 in Bath with a super team, including some players representing the senior ladies team for the first time.

Our first day saw us facing a strong Kent team. Alex Hildreth and Rachel were first up and after some great tennis; Rachel managed to secure our first point with Alex just missing out in a tight third set tiebreak having clawed back from 5-1 down. Bella and Annabel were next up – Bella unfortunately suffered an injury and had to withdraw after a set, whilst Annabel chalked up another win for us after a close first set. It was 2-2 with Mimi and Indi facing some extremely experienced opponents at 1 and 2. Mimi had a close two-hour battle against their number two player, who proved a bit too strong. Meanwhile, Indi was playing an extremely experienced ex-professional player, and after a valiant two and a half hours she lost in a tie-break third set. We were 4-2 down going into the doubles, and their experience shone through ending our day with a tough 6-3 loss. Arguably Kent was the tougher county, so all was to play for on Saturday.

On Saturday we were joined by Amanda Elliott and Katherine Whiteaway. We got off to a great start against Northumberland with Amanda getting our first win of the day at number 5. Alex extended our lead at no. 6 with a super win and Rachel battled for almost three hours to close out a tough three set match at no. 4. Annabel, Mimi and Indi all faced close first sets, but couldn't quite convert them so we landed at an even 3-3 going into our doubles matches. It was nail biting stuff as our third pair of Rachel and Kat lost to a very experienced doubles pair whilst Annabel and Amanda won a 10-point decider to keep us in the match. Despite the pressure, Indi and Mimi played some confident doubles and closed out their match in a second set tie-break securing an impressive 5-4 win for us and some great confidence to build on.

As always, it's everything to play for on the Sunday. We were facing Essex who had a 5-4 win under the belts as well

as a 5-4 loss. The rubbers were fairly even between us and with Kent and Essex with Northumberland facing relegation – we were still in a position to come 1st, 2nd or 3rd, we knew we needed a good start. We split our singles at 5 & 6 with Amanda securing a win, and Alex a loss. At 4 and 3 it was a similar trend with Annabel beating her opponent whilst Rachel also had a tough loss.

Their singles players at 1 and 2 were just too strong for us, and the previous days' efforts were catching up with us slightly. We had to regroup and believe we could still win – if we secured all three doubles we would be safe. As matches unfolded next to us, it became apparent that we needed a win to stay in Group 1. The doubles matches were incredibly tense (and exciting!) as we secured a win at number 3 and then at 2. The noise levels increased dramatically as Indi and Mimi entered a deciding 10-point tie-break having fought back to win the second set. Despite some valiant tennis, and some unbelievably gutsy shots from both sides, we lost 10-6 and with that, it was the end of our journey for this year ending with a close 5-4. It could have gone either way, and I was so proud of how every one of our ladies stepped up, believed in one another and left it all on the court!

A huge well done, with some wonderful tennis to witness! Thank you to Alexandra Hildreth, Amanda Elliott, Annabel, Arabella, Indianna, Katherine Whiteaway, Mimi Bland and Rachel.

Alissa Ayling, Ladies Captain

Summer County Cup 2019 (Eastbourne – Group 1)

Our hot week in Eastbourne began with a Monday match against Yorkshire. They had newly arrived in group one so were fairly unknown to us. We were keen to get a good start to the week and notch up some early rubbers. The pairs we formed proved a good set up and it wasn't long before they all settled into a great groove. Emily and Amanda, Mimi and Georgie W, Indi and Georgie A. We beat Yorkshire 7-2 and it felt good to get a decent win under our belts.

Tuesday was potentially our toughest day so we really focused and channelled the confidence from day one to bring our 'A' game. We started well and battled hard in the unrelenting sun to get a solid 2-1 lead. Amanda Elliott managed to complete (AND WIN!) her first match despite tearing her calf muscle half way through. This presented a critical moment to have to change the team, but needs must and Annabel was put straight into first pair to join Emily for a crucial second round. The team dug in and played the best collective round of the week to sweep all the matches and get us to the 5-1 we needed, incredible. The day ended 6-3 and we proved that Herts Ladies were the team to beat!

Wednesday is always 'hump day' at County Cup. Bodies and minds are starting to feel the strain with still quite a way to go. But this is where heroes are made. We faced a potentially tricky Middlesex team who also hadn't yet lost. Surely winning this could put us in a very strong position. We were back at Devonshire Park (having been off site the first two days), and after a slightly tired start in the

Congratulations Alissa & Lisa



Congratulations to Herts Ladies Captain Alissa Ayling and her wife Lisa who were married in July.

They honeymooned in Portugal where they celebrated the Herts Ladies win.

Everyone at Herts Tennis wishes them a very happy future together.

swirling wind, we showed some blistering tennis to see off Middlesex 7-2.

Thursday was against Essex who we'd originally thought would be strong but at this stage had not won a match. This meant that it was important for us to be smart to ensure our path to the title and to get as many rubbers as possible going into the final day. Once again, we started well and were soon overwhelming the opposition. As we looked poised for another good day, the summer storm heavens opened and play was suspended during the third round where Rachel was making her debut. Team score 6-0.



The 2019 Ladies Team

Unfortunately, Friday was a rainy day and it meant we were all bundled off to the astro courts in the rain to complete our matches. We managed to complete our match against Essex, 8-1 and we then faced our scheduled Friday matches. While in the back of our minds we knew that only a few rubbers were needed for the title, we wanted a full win against Warwickshire and so get the 5 rubbers to do so. (With the small matter of chasing a milestone for Emily, who had not yet lost a rubber, to get her 15/15 for the week.)

Playing on the rainy astro is always an adjustment, but the girls worked it out and found their way to succeed in the conditions. We completed round one with a 3-0 lead (with Georgie W and Mimi staging a big comeback in their match.) Leaving us with a glory round of "finishing it off" and enjoying the moment, we won all three of those to take the title for the first time in seven years, and enjoyed a big group huddle together on the courts. **CHAMPIONS!!** Even though at that point we were allowed to stop play, one of the Warwickshire pairs was kind enough to indulge us in getting back on court for a 'third round' so that Emily could get her 15 wins. Which she did - what an amazing achievement!

During the week we played 43 rubbers and won 35 of them. Dropping only 19 sets. This is incredible. It was never in doubt that these girls deserved the title.... their challenge was to believe that they could and to keep their focus for a long five days. This they did with class and flair. They are a fantastic group of individuals who's 'whole is even greater than the sum of its parts.' Any young players out there should follow and emulate these ladies, on and off court.

Go Herts!!

Many thanks to the team: **Amanda Elliott, Annabel, Emily Arbuthnott, Georgie Axon, Georgie Walker, Indi, Mimi Bland, Rachel.**

Sarah Donovan, Acting Ladies Captain

Congratulations to the Corrie Family



Herts Men's player Tom Corrie and his wife Chloe were delighted to welcome baby Millie into the family on 6 October 2019.

Baby Millie is growing fast and is being looked after very gently by her big sister Myla. A warm welcome to the Herts Tennis family Millie!

Hertfordshire Team Tennis 2019

Hertfordshire once again had a highly successfully season of Team Tennis with the largest league in the East Region. A total of 217 teams competed from 37 clubs.

A wide range of clubs across Hertfordshire enter and the league has divisions for teams at all levels of club play. Entries from clubs who have not competed in Team Tennis before are very welcome next season.

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, provided tennis teas and submitted match results promptly. We are always keen to improve the league so please do let us know if you have any feedback.

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, Elliswick, Gosling, Greenwood Park, Harpenden, Hertford, Hoddesdon, Kimpton, Langley, Legends, Letchworth, Leverstock Green, Menace, Moor Park, Northaw & Cuffley, Orchard, Potters Bar, Radlett, Rickmansworth, Royston, Rye Park, St Albans, Sawbridgeworth, T-Rex, Tring, Townsend, Welwyn, West Herts & Watford

Hugo Allen

Hertfordshire Adult and Junior Autumn League

29 clubs entered with 104 teams playing in 18 events (2 and 4 player divisions). This was the first year of this league and we asked for feedback from clubs going forward. Comments were positive and we have made some slight adjustments to the scoring format based on that feedback for this year's competition. Lots of rain this year, but lots of tennis too!

Congratulations to the following clubs for winning divisions in 2018: Gosling 12U Boys, Radlett 12U Boys, Sawbridgeworth 12U Boys, St Albans 12U Boys, Gosling 12U Girls, Harpenden 12U Girls, TownWheat 12U Girls, Radlett 14U Boys, St. Albans 14U Boys, Townsend 14U Boys, Welwyn 14U Boys, Harpenden 14U Girls, TownWheat 14U Girls, TownWheat 16U Boys, Rickmansworth 16U Girls, St Albans 18U Boys, Radlett 18U Girls, Barnet Men, Radlett Men, Brookmans Park Men, Harpenden Women.

Claire Thandi & Sarah Tricks

Herts Teams Reports

Hertfordshire Junior County Team Report 2018 – 2019

2018 – 2019 was a fantastic year for the Hertfordshire junior teams with impressive performances and results from our mini-reds upwards. The Under 8s retained the mini-red inter-county trophy, the Under 9s won the Orange Festival, the Lionel Cox trophy is back in the Herts trophy cabinet, we won promotion to the top division of the 12 Counties Championships and four of our County Cup teams qualified for the national finals where the Under 10 boys finished third, the Under 10 and Under 14 girls were runners-up and our Under 12 girls were crowned National Champions!

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018 – 2019 RESULTS

Lionel Cox Trophy – Winners
12 Counties Championships – Winners Division 2a
Under 8 Boys & Girls Red Inter County – Winners
Under 9 Boys & Girls Winter Orange Festival – Winners
Under 9 Mixed Team County Cup – Runners Up
Under 10 Boys County Cup Nationals Finals – 3rd Place
Under 10 Girls County Cup National Finals – Runners Up
Under 12 Girls County Cup National Finals – National Champions
Under 14 Girls County Cup National Finals – Runners Up

JUNIOR COUNTY CUP

2019 was a very strong County Cup year for the Hertfordshire Teams - our Under 18s competed in the top national division and four of our younger age groups qualified for the national finals with the Under 12 Girls winning the National title!

The first team to qualify for the national finals were the Under 14 girls who dominated their qualifying round to book their place at the finals in Nottingham. The Herts girls competed with great determination and resilience to win tie-break shoot outs against two seeded Counties and make it through as winners of their group to play Middlesex for the national title. Middlesex proved to be strong opposition and won the tie however the Herts girls fought right to the end and can be very proud of their finish as national runners-up.



U14 Girls County Cup Runners Up



U8 East Region Inter-County Champions

Next up were the Under 10s; the teams performed brilliantly in their qualification rounds and travelled together to the national finals. It was fantastic to have both the boys and girls competing in Sunderland for the national title. The Herts captains reported having great pride in their players (and parents!) who demonstrated superb teamwork and the Herts spirit throughout the competition. The boys came 2nd in their group and in the 3rd / 4th place play off they chalked up a convincing win against Cambridgeshire to finish 3rd overall. The girls topped their group and played Middlesex for the national title; it was a very competitive match and despite the Herts girls giving it everything they had, Middlesex lifted the trophy and the Herts girls finished very respectably as national runners-up.

The fourth Hertfordshire team to qualify for the national finals were the Under 12 girls... and what a team! The girls won through their qualification box on one of the hottest weekends of the year to earn their place at the national finals in Bolton. The team captained by Ian Zellner and assistant Amelia Campbell displayed the Herts values brilliantly throughout and each of the girls played their part with great individual and doubles performances. The girls topped their group after winning a deciding tie-break shoot-out to set up the final versus Northumberland.... it was very close resulting in another tie-break shoot-out to decide the match which the Herts girls won 10-6 and were crowned National Champions!

U18 Boys – 4th place nationally: Andre, Daniel, David, George, Joel, Louis, Myles, Oliver.

Captains: Jamie Evans and James Buswell

U18 Girls – 3rd place nationally: Alexandra, Annabel, Arabella, Catherine, Francesca, Indianna, Mimi, Rachel
Captains: Sammie Williams & Ben Roberts-Law

U14 Girls – National Finalists – Runners-Up: Dascha, Ekua, Erin, Hannah, Hephzibah, Jessica, Mafalda, Sofie,
Captain: Teresa Lilley. Assistants: Megan Godfrey Evans and Danielle Latter

U14 Boys – 2nd in qualifying group: Albert, Cian, Freddie, Ivan, Oliver, Sean
Captains: Chris Martin / Greg Quesnel



U9 team County Cup runners up

12U Boys – 2nd in qualifying group: Alexander, Enrico, Nicholas, Theo, Captain: Ben Wilsher.
Assistant: David Stevenson

12U Girls – National Champions: Ava, Erin, Jody, Maralie, Captain: Ian Zellner. Assistant: Amelia Campbell

10U Boys – National Finalists – 3rd place: James, Kaaviyan, Pavana, Rhys, Captains: Chris Martin and David Lawlor

10U Girls – National Finalists – Runners-up: Erika, Gabby, Michaela, Rose, Captain: Sammie Williams

9U South East Region County Cup – Runners-up: Adam, Brandon, Fern, Harry, Sophia, Sophie.
Captain: Andre Mouskides

U8 EAST REGION INTER-COUNTY COMPETITION – WINNERS

The Inter-County Red competition is the first county team event for our youngest junior players and the excitement and enthusiasm in the lead up training and at the event itself was fantastic. This year's event took place in Cambridge with six Herts girls and boys involved. The matches were extremely competitive and our players showed grit and determination throughout.

The girls started the day with great performances across the team; they made it to the finals where they battled hard in a very close match against Essex which went to the wire, finishing 3 all and resulting in a points count back which the Herts girls clinched by one point!!

The boys arrived for the afternoon session and continued where the girls left off competing with great determination, focus and team spirit. They were impressive all the way through reaching the final again versus Essex. The boys

fought hard and chalked up an impressive 5-1 win.

With both the girls and boys winning their events the Trophy returned to Hertfordshire!

Girls: Aksheeta, Amber, Ava Rose, Emma, Tara, Sofia

Boys: Adam, Damian, Harrison, Kieran, Matthew, Xander,
Captain: Monica Beccera and Megan Godfrey-Evans

MINI-TENNIS ORANGE FESTIVAL 2019 – WINNERS

This year's event saw 8 counties compete in 82 matches with each player playing a minimum of 5 singles matches each. Hertfordshire came top of their group to qualify for the semi-finals where they beat Northants. The final saw Herts play a thrilling match against the reigning champions Cambridgeshire. After the 4 singles matches it was a dead heat at 2 all in matches and 5 all in sets. The match needed to be decided by a doubles tie-break shoot out which Herts won 10 - 4. The Herts players, parents and captain showed great team spirit both on and off court and there were positive reports from all involved.

Team: Brandon, Daniel, Katie, Rose,
Captain: Andre Mouskides

LIONEL COX – WINNERS

The Lionel Cox competition involves 10 counties from the East Region and 2019 saw Herts go into the event as defending champions. The first day was a test of determination and resilience in extreme weather conditions including freezing wind, rain, hail and occasional sunshine... our teams adapted well and despite the challenges Herts finished day one in a strong position. Day two was a calmer affair and our u9, u10 and u12 teams enjoyed the opportunity to compete alongside each other. Herts displayed strong and consistent results across all the age groups and retained the trophy in convincing style.

U9 Boys – 1st place:

Adam, Brandon, Stefan, Captain: Andre Mouskides

U9 Girls – 2nd place:

Julia, Sophia, Sophie, Captain: Sammie Williams

U10 Boys – 3rd place:

Kaaviyan, Pavana, Rhys, Captain: David Lawlor

U10 Girls – 1st place:

Erika, Gabby, Michaela, Captain: Tony Staley

U12 Boys – 1st place:

Alexander, Enrico, Theo, Captain: Ben Wilsher

U12 Girls – 1st place:

Ava, Erin, Jody, Marelie, Captain: Ian Zellner

HILDON 12 COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Division 1 – 3rd Place

The 12 Counties Championship is the only County team competition where the under 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s are part of the same team with accumulated results determining the overall finishing position. The 2018 – 2019 event saw great commitment and availability from our players meaning we were able to field strong teams across the age groups. Herts dominated the division and so nearly made history by winning every age group with only the



12U Girls County Cup Winners

Herts Teams Reports



2019 Lionel Cox Winners

U16 Boys – 1st Place: Joshua, Oliver, Reece, Sam

U16 Girls – 1st Place: Anya, Catherine, Lillie, Maia

Captain: Jamie Fallis

U18 Boys – 2nd Place: Andre, David, Joel, Reece

U18 Girls – 1st Place: Annabel, Anya, Francesca, Lillie

Captain: Sammie Williams.

Alongside the performances of the Herts teams we also saw our junior players enjoy a number of other county activities including the under 14 girls travelling to Bath to support the GB Ladies competing in the Fed-Cup, another fun awards evening celebrating the successes of our teams, numerous friendly county matches, members of our under 12 girls team representing England in

the Home Nations Cup and our players continuing to enjoy regular county training.

under 18 boys losing out to Cheshire on the final day of the event. By winning Division 2a Herts are back in the top division for the 2019 – 2020 competition.

U10 Boys – 1st Place: Kaaviyan, Pavana, Rhys, Spencer

U10 Girls – 1st Place: Erika, Gabby, Michaela, Xanthe,
Captain: Chris Martin

U12 Boys – 1st Place: Alex, Dylan, Enrico, Theo

U12 Girls – 1st Place: Erin, Hephzibah, Jody, Marelie
Captain: Ian Zellner

U14 Boys – 1st Place: Albert, Freddie, Ryan, Sean

U14 Girls – 1st Place: Catherine, Dascha, Jessica, Mafalda
Captain: James Thomas

the Home Nations Cup and our players continuing to enjoy regular county training.

We are pleased to announce that County tennis continues to develop. With the introduction of a County Cup competition for under 11s and changes in team formats plus continued friendly matches we will see an increase in the number of players being given the opportunity to represent Hertfordshire as well as more players being invited to attend County training.

I would like to say a big thank you to all players, captains, assistants, parents and reserves; your hard work, commitment and continued loyalty to Herts Tennis is superb... our achievements are very much a team effort!

Here's looking forward to 2020 - GO HERTS!

Teresa Lilley, Herts Tennis County Performance Manager

Individual Successes 2019

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

MEN/BOYS

USA Uni boys - Charlie Broom - Dartmouth College, Hanover, ITA NE Regional singles W doubles R/U.

Finn Bass - Baylor University

Jake Penny - Lipscomb University Nashville reading Psychology

Harvey Shackleton - Boise State reading Business and Entrepreneurship

James Wilkinson - University of Delaware reading Economics

David Stevenson - Memphis reading

Business Economics

Daniel Martin - University of Minnesota.

Joel - ITF – 425; TE – 367; LTA 18U – 85.
ITF 18U Oslo doubles R/U, Dubai singles R/U

Oliver - ITF – 1904; LTA 16U – 32.
LTA Gr 3 Men's Sutton singles R/U, WNT 16U singles W

Fabio - TE – 237, 14U – 53; LTA 16U – 42, 14U – 2. TE Gr 3 Croatia 14U doubles W, LTA Gr 2 14U Sutton singles W doubles R/U.

Andre - LTA 16U – 50

Ben - LTA 16U – 57

Joe - LTA 16U – 58

Sean - LTA14U – 30

Ivan - LTA 14U – 45

Freddie LTA 14U – 53

Enrico LTA 12U – 3.

LADIES/GIRLS

Katy Dunne - WTA 336 singles, 600 doubles; GB – 19.

Emily Arbuthnott - at Stanford University in NCAA National title team also ranked No 1 in NCAA doubles, WTA – 920 singles, 483 doubles; LTA – 31, 15/15 at County Week Gr 1 Eastbourne. Silver medal singles at The World Student Games, China

Joanna - WTA 637 singles, 607 doubles; ITF 75; LTA 18U – 2. LTA British Tour Paddington singles W

Anna Popescu - WTA 1184 singles, 820 doubles; LTA – 38

USA Uni girls - Georgie Walker - Furman University won their Conference, reading French and Environmental studies.

Amelia Campbell - University of Tennessee at Martin reading Sports Management

Georgie Axon - Auburn University reading Psychology and Business

Mimi Bland - Northern Arizona University

Danielle Latter - Loughborough University

Elizabeth Hodge - University of Nottingham

Indi - ITF 856; LTA 18U - 12. LTA British Tour Gr 1 Sutton doubles R/U, Gr 2 Cumberland singles W, Taunton singles R/U

Bella - ITF 834; LTA 18U - 37. 18U Gr 2 Sutton singles R/U. Radlett Open singles and doubles W

Annabel - ITF 1734; LTA 18U - 31, 16U - 7. 18U Gr 2 Sutton doubles W. 12/12 at Summer County Cup

Catherine - LTA 16U - 24. Gr 1 Nationals 16U doubles W, Gr 2 Sunderland 16U singles W, Nottingham 16U doubles R/U, Bath 18U doubles R/U

Hannah - TE 14U 239; LTA 14U - 73. TE 14U Gr 3 Denmark singles and doubles W, Ireland. Singles and Doubles W x 2, Germany singles R/U, doubles W. LTA 16U Gr 2 singles W

Hephzibah - LTA 14U - 47; 12U - 2. TE 12U Gr 1 Halton Singles W, Doubles W, Cyprus Singles W, Doubles W, Mallorca Singles W, Doubles W, Portugal Singles W, Doubles W, Auray Doubles W. LTA Gr 2 14U WNT Nottingham singles W, Sunderland singles R/U, 12U WNT Nottingham singles W

Mafalda - TE 14U - 308. Iceland Doubles W, Ireland Singles R/U, Doubles W, Belgium Doubles W

Marelie and Erin represented England at the Home Nations Championship, Wrexham

Janet Corrie, Performance Chairman, Oct 2019

Herts County Closed winners and runners-up 2019

Event	Position	Name(s)	Position	Name(s)
Men's Singles	1	Edward	2	Joe
Men's Doubles	1	Ed & Reece	2	Myles & Andre
18U Boy's Doubles	1	Myles & Joe	2	Lewis & Harry
18U Girl's Singles	1	Any	2	Jess
18U Boy's Singles	1	Harry	2	Joe
16U Girl's Doubles	1	Marelie & Alazne	2	Jody & Erin
16U Boy's Doubles	1	Ivan & Albert	2	Sean & Chris
16U Girl's Singles	1	Marelie	2	Sofie
16U Boy's Singles	1	Albert	2	Ryan
14U Girl's Doubles	1	Marelie & Jody	2	Charlotte & Dina
14U Boy's Doubles	1	Albert & Sean	2	Freddie & Elliott
14U Girl's Singles	1	Marelie	2	Jody
14U Boy's Singles	1	Freddie	2	Elliott
12U Girl's Doubles	1	Duru & Madeleine	2	Alessia & Katrina
12U Boy's Doubles	1	Alexandru & Ben	2	Kevin & Sam
12U Girl's Singles	1	Arabella	2	Annalise
12U Boy's Singles	1	Camran	2	Kevin
10U Girl's Singles	1	Katie	2	Sophia
10U Boy's Singles	1	Brandon	2	Meesam
9U Girl's Singles	1	Sophie	2	Tara
9U Boy's Singles	1	Xander	2	Brandon
8U Girl's Singles	1	Catherine	2	Emma
8U Boy's Singles	1	Owen	2	Toby

Please can players keep hertstennis@gmail.com informed throughout the year of your highlights.



HERTS TENNIS VALUES

Honesty - Excellence - Resilience - Teamwork - Sportsmanship

Seniors Tennis



Moor Park and Hoddesdon win inaugural Harris Cups

This summer saw the introduction of a new competition – the Herts 2 Pair Knockout Cup – which culminated in a Finals Day at Hoddesdon in mid October. There were separate Men's and Ladies' events and clubs were competing for "The Harris Cup" trophies, named in honour of two great servants to tennis in the County over many years, John and Val Harris.

The entry in this first year may not have been great in terms of numbers but that was more than made up for by the quality of the teams on show.

In the Men's competition, Moor Park reached the final courtesy of two close wins against strong Broxbourne and Barnet teams, while Bishops Stortford recorded an excellent 3-1 win against the reigning Herts League champions, Welwyn, on their route to the showcase event.

Meanwhile, in the Ladies competition, Berkhamsted had come out on top in two very tight matches against Moor Park and Harpenden to reach the final, while Hoddesdon made lighter work of their David Lloyd opponents from Enfield and

Northwood to ensure there was representation from the home club on Finals Day.

On a dreary day all four teams produced tennis of the very highest quality to light up the proceedings and as a bonus, both finals went down to the wire.

In the Men's final, at the halfway mark the score was 1 rubber, 2 sets and 18 games all and in the second round, just when the match seemed destined for the competition's first ever tie break shoot out, Moor Park just managed to fend off four Bishops Stortford break points to take the match and the trophy by a solitary game. It had been an absorbing, brilliant match.

The Ladies final was another extremely close, compelling match, with the teams separated by just a single game after the first round. Hoddesdon deservedly edged to victory in the end but some great tennis and stout resistance from Berkhamsted meant the result was in doubt until the very closing stages. Another great spectacle.

Many thanks to Hoddesdon for hosting this year's finals. The plan is to take the finals around the County and we hope to be in a position to announce next year's host club at the AGM in December.

Lee Evans



Harris Cup Ladies' Finalists, (L) Hoddesdon, (R) Berkhamsted

Overview of Men's Seniors

Over 45s THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

A close-fought battle between 2 teams Leverstock Green 1 – Townsend 1. This was a really tough league this year where no team won every match. So congratulations to Leverstock Green, captained by Mick Hooker, who eventually secured a 4-point lead over nearest rival Townsend.



Leverstock Green 1 - Championship Division Winners

GROUP 1a

Barnet 1 really sprung the surprise by winning the Group ahead of strongly fancied Berkhamsted who really came unstuck losing heavily at Welwyn on March 3. Although they beat Barnet at Barnet on April 7, the win was just not enough to secure the League victory that Berkhamsted were expected to get and therefore complete a unique rise to the Championship division. Expect BERKHAMSTED captained by STEVE PASSMORE to be in the "mix" in 2019 – 20.

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

GROUP 1B – BISHOPS STORTFORD 2

GROUP 2A – HODDESDON

GROUP 2B – HERTFORD

GROUP 3A – RICKMANSWORTH (Keep an eye on Rickmansworth 2 following a 2nd successive promotion)

Other Groups

GROUP 3B – DAVID LLOYD 2

GROUP 4A – CODICOTE

Over 55s THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

Two teams dominated the championship with BISHOPS STORTFORD 1 and HARPENDEN 1 far too strong for 3rd placed David Lloyd Bushey. BISHOPS STORTFORD 1 had to wait until their last match of the season on May 5 when they secured the win needed against relegated Brookmans Park.

GROUP 1A – TOWNSEND 1 won a very close fought contest with THE DRIVE – EDGWARE

GROUP 1B – BERKHAMSTED 1 – won comfortably and make a welcome return to the Championship division

GROUP 2A – HODDESDON 1 – without a loss all season making a welcome return to Division 1A

GROUP 2B – WELWYN 1 finished 7 points clear of nearest rivals Berkhamsted 2

GROUP 3A – BISHOPS STORTFORD 2 – also finished well ahead of nearest rivals Welwyn – Good performance

GROUP 3B – RICKMANSWORTH 2 – won this in a virtual 2 horse race ahead of West Herts.

Over 65s DIV 1A

With the Over 65s now running two Groups –

The competition has now been running for 3 years – it was thought that HARPENDEN A would be dominant – so now it was a question of who could actually stop them as they have so many players to pick from and with Malcolm Fraser at the helm they could get even stronger. All the teams in DIV 1A made things quite hard for them but with 19 points HARPENDEN A retained the Over 65 Title for the 3rd time in succession. Townsend finished in 2nd place with 17 points.

DIV 1B

CASSIOBURY won the division with 25 points – 4 points clear of Runners up HARPENDEN B with 21 points. GOOD SEASON FOR ALL CONSIDERING SOME REALLY BAD WEATHER

BASIL WEIN, League Organiser

Herts Men's Seniors Teams 2019

Mens 35s

This year's event down at Eastbourne was not as successful as we would have liked. Prior to the event we lost some of our key players leaving us 2 men down. Through emails and phone calls, David Shann, Steve Jones and David King stepped up to support us at the last minute in our time of need.

Our opponents this year were Kent, Yorkshire and Leicestershire. All 3 teams were very strong and without our number one player Neil Bamford, the weekend was always going to be a challenge.

We lost to Kent on day one 5-0 as they were just too good! Yorkshire followed and again we came up against a team who were simply just better than we were. What has to be said about our first 2 matches though is that we showed fight and true Herts spirit. Even at 3-0 in rubbers the players gave 100% in every point even when the conclusion was sometimes inevitable.

Our last match vs Leicestershire was a bit of an anti-climax as both teams had already been relegated from division 1 before we took to the court. We used this match to give some of the other players in our team a game and once more they showed great fighting spirit and professionalism even though the match result didn't go our way.

Last year we gained promotion and this was very satisfying

Seniors Tennis

however this year gave me a different type of satisfaction. The team spirit and commitment shown from the players was just superb. Every player gave their all even at times where I think most would have just given up. We didn't get the wins this year but we definitely represented the county in a way that gave me immense pride in being captain of this team of men.

So a huge thankyou to Stephen Jones, David King, Johan Prins, David Shann and Venki Sundaram for representing me and the county so well and for being such a great group of people!!

Here's to getting promotion back to division 1 next year.....

Hamid Hejazi Hertfordshire Men's 35s Team Captain

Mens 45s

The 45 team having been near to contesting the final for the past 2 years lost 2 players to the newly formed 50's team. However they had a good start beating Staffordshire 3-2 by winning one singles and 2 doubles. They then met a strong Yorkshire side and still only lost 2-3.

Against Somerset they were only able to win one singles and lost 1-4. In the final match against Surrey who had two GB players and a member of the national 35 team, they managed to avoid a whitewash by winning one of the doubles matches. This meant they finished 4th of the 5 teams that played but avoided relegation.

Thanks are due to Steve Jones for running the team: Anthony Drexler, Simon Foden, Neil Grassick, Michael Hooker, David King, Gregory Krausher, Julian See, Dave Shann, and Robert Slack.

Mens 50s

The new 50s team have had to start in division 3 and as a result won their 3 matches easily without dropping a rubber. **Thanks are due to David Reed for captaining the team: Geoff Cook, Richard Dyer, Paul Guppy, Michael Hooker, Gregory Krausher, and Dave Shann.**

Mens 55s

The 55 team haven't had the best season losing all three matches. There was a very close match with Gloucestershire losing 2-3, two of those lost rubbers going to a third set tie break. The other two matches were lost to Hereford and Worcester and Staffordshire. The team have been relegated to division 3 next season.

Thanks to Steve Clay for looking after the team: John Bennett, Brendan Carey, Ian Portal, Mike Seymour and Paul Thompson.

Mens 60s

In the 60s two very strong players went into the 65 age group and another of last year's players was lost to injury, unfortunately they were not able to survive in the top

division. In the matches with Yorkshire and Essex, there were close rubbers but no winners. Against Buckinghamshire the 3 doubles were closely contested but again no winners. The only rubber won was against Warwickshire in the singles. The final blow came in the match away to Staffordshire when the captain's car broke down on the journey to the match and as a result the match was conceded. **Thanks are due to Stuart Walker for captaining the side as well as having to replace his car. Tony Boyle, Andrew Collar, John Hughes, David Stanton and Martin Webb.**

Mens 65s

The 65s have a strong team and had 2 convincing 5-0 wins against Hampshire and Sussex, and another 3-2 against Yorkshire winning 1 singles and 2 doubles. However, they were not strong enough to beat Surrey and Dorset losing 1-4 and 0-5. **Thanks to Dave Thomas for running the team: Bob Birchley, Neagle Cathcart, Martin Corrie, Lee Ding, Malcolm Fraser, David Stanton.**

Mens 70s

The 70's had a troubled season losing a player at short notice in 3 of the matches. They were never likely to win against Leicestershire and Kent, and both matches were lost 0-5. The match with Sussex was very close with a 2-3 loss and with the last doubles rubber being lost 8-10 in the tie break set. The trip to Cornwall did not take place as no replacement was available at short notice and Cornwall could not offer any alternative date to reschedule the match. The only win came against South Wales with a convincing 4-1 score. The team has been relegated to division 2. **Malcolm Fraser (C), David Fairbairn, Peter Morton, Tom Parsons, Alan Roberts and Barry Skelding.**

Mens 75s

In the 75s after contesting the finals for a few years, the team was only able to finish 3rd to Essex and Kent. In this age group only doubles is played. The loss was 1-3 against Essex and a 2-2 draw with Kent, but Kent won on countback. There was the same score with Avon but this time Herts won on countback. There was also a 4-0 win against Nottinghamshire and a 3-1 win away at Devon. **Thanks are due to John Barnett for captaining the team: Peter Morton, Rex Poulter and Richard Rowlandson.**

The general outlook is good for the seniors, especially with the younger age groups, although the 55s could do with some more players, if anybody feels they are of the right standard please contact me. Also the players who have reached the grand age of 80 are still eager to compete. The LTA Seniors is not able to provide anything for this age group so I have offered to run an informal age group if there is enough support from other counties.

Malcolm Fraser, Senior Men's Coordinator

Overview of Ladies Seniors 2018-19

The Ladies' Seniors League has come a long way since 1987 when it started as a winter competition for ladies over 40 with just one over 40s group and 2 pairs playing 4 sets. It remains as it was then, a competitive but friendly league providing the opportunity to play some very good tennis during the winter months. Now In 2019 there are 45 clubs and 141 teams playing in 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s age groups. The 2018-2019 season was another great winter season of tennis with almost all matches being completed before the end of the season.

Over 40s

2018-2019 was another successful season for the over 40s with all matches played before the end of the season despite many having to be rearranged because of the weather. Only a few reminders were needed to captains to put in results after matches. It was a very good season for LETCHWORTH with their A team at the top of Group 1 and their B team topping Group 2A. Group 2B was won by HODDESDON, Group 3A by NORTHAW & CUFFLEY A, Group 3B by ORCHARD A, Group 4A by WATTON at STONE, Group 4B by POTTERS BAR A, Group 5A by SAWBRIDGEWORTH, Group 5B by RICKMANSWORTH B and Group 6 by DIGSWELL.

Over 50s

Group 1 - HARPENDEN A returned to top spot in this group. Berkhamstead were runners-up and Northwood were relegated.

Group 2A - ST ALBANS A were strong winners, winning all their matches and will return to Group 1 next season.

Groups 2B, 4A, 4B, 5A & 5B had similar winning patterns and the group winners were all convincing champs, having won all of their matches.

Group 2B - Winners WELWYN A. Sawbridgeworth had equal points with Bishops Stortford C but managed to avoid relegation by recording a superior wins/loss ratio.

Group 3A - POTTERS BAR A were strong winners and will

return to Group 2A.

Group 3B - HODDESDON B won promotion. Leverstock Green A were worthy and close runners-up.

Group 4A - Winners KNEBWORTH A. After winning their group 5A last season, Knebworth A captained by Jane Ker-Reid only dropped one set and had another runaway promotion from Group 4A into Group 3A this season.

Group 4B - HERTFORD, the winners only dropped 4 sets all season. David Lloyd Hatfield and Welwyn B in this Group enjoyed great tennis and were very evenly matched, with David Lloyd Hatfield winning the match due to a tie-break.

Group 5A - Winners RICKMANSWORTH C

Group 5B - Winners LEVERSTOCK GREEN B

The Over 50s welcomed new entrant Codicote.

Over 60s

The number of teams in the league is up by four so that Group 3 has had to be split into A and B. It is very encouraging to know that so many over 60s still want to play competitive tennis. Group 1 was won by HARPENDEN A, Group 2A by ELLISWICK A, Group 2B by DAVID LLOYD BUSHEY, Group 3A by ELLISWICK B, Group 3B by HARPENDEN B.



Group 2A winners, Elliswick Ladies 60A

Over 70s

It is also very encouraging that there are over 70s keen to play although most teams prefer to play this league in the summer months. Four teams competed in 2018-19 with TOTTERIDGE emerging as winners.

Liz Johnson

Ladies 35s

Team: Louise Anstead, Kate Borthwick, Sarah Donovan, Kate Gower and Sian Southwell-Sander (Captain).

A MASSIVE thank you to the above team who worked so hard and played some incredible tennis to come 'runners up' in Group 1 this year.

For those not familiar with the Over 35's Event, Group 1 is a tough gig! You either need to win it or come second or else you are relegated!

In other groups the winner is promoted, the team in 4th position is demoted and the middle two Counties 'stay'.

So the good news is we have maintained our spot in Group 1 for the 2020 event!

Player of the weekend and making her debut in the Over 35s category was Louise Anstead..... Undefeated in singles and



Herts 35s Ladies

Seniors Tennis

doubles and bringing so much joy to the whole weekend it was fantastic to see her back at Devonshire Park and hitting the ball like she was still in her 20s!

I would also like to thank her support crew who were very much a part of our success and who we would love to have back next year if available?!

Day one was a long one! With the format back to a 5 match fixture, rather than a 3 match fixture as in the past couple of years and still needing to share courts with other county matches - it was a 10am start and an 8pm finish! However it was well worth it as we emerged with a 3-2 victory over former champions South Wales. It was so good to see Sarah Donovan back on court (and winning) and Kate Gower and Louise Anstead securing the vital doubles at 2-2.

Day two was pretty crucial. On paper it was between us and Leicestershire to 'stay' in the top group. With impressive singles wins from both Kate and Louise, we went in to the afternoon 2-0 ahead. The doubles matches were all extremely competitive but with some impressive tennis and team spirit from Team Hertfordshire we found a way to come through on top. The final result was another 3-2 score line in our favour.

Day three saw us play against Middlesex to win the whole competition! The singles matches were incredibly close and after a lot of drama the overall match score was 1-1. Despite some great doubles play from Kate Borthwick, the Middlesex pairs proved too strong (on this occasion!).

Disappointed as we were at the time, we knew that we had given our all and that we had achieved our goal for the weekend of staying in Group 1.

I am looking forward to next year already and to co-captaining with Kate Gower.

Please do get in touch with me through the Herts Office if you would like to get involved with the Over 35s or would like to suggest anyone who you think should be considered.

Sian Southwell-Sander

Ladies 40s

This year it was again a very tight contest in Division 1A which has 6 teams in it. All the way to the last match we were still at risk of being one of the two teams to go down, as 2 out of the 6 teams go down every year. But we had a great win in the last match away in Southampton (3-2 victory) and we managed to come 2nd in the group in the end which is a great result.

Thank you to all the ladies who played representing many clubs in our county, **Olga Blecher, Rebecca Gates, Pippa Parkes, Kate Peel, Delphine Rive, Janine Stanton, Sarah Ward** and also to **Bridie Amos and Kirstie Caneparo** who came to help us out for the two away matches. I am stepping down as county captain and I am very glad to announce that Pippa Parkes will be taking over from me.

Delphine Rive

Ladies 50s

A hard-fought, closely contested summer of matches for Herts Nifty 50s! A cracking 3/2 win in April against Norfolk

set the Nifties off to a flyer. Outstanding performances across the team including a first Herts County cap for Kirstie Caneparo just prior to her Four Nation's debut.

The Yorkshire match away, always a tiring challenge with the train journey and early start involved, resulted in a very narrow 2/3 defeat. With both a set tiebreak and match tiebreak we were just not quite going in the right direction.

A clean sweep against Bucks put us back in contention and we had a fabulous 4/1 win over Lancashire which included a first cap for Patricia Watson-Miller. With very solid doubles play victories from Mandy Bishop and Alison Felton and a superb 2/8 match tiebreak turnaround from Kirstie at singles 1 the possibility of division success opened up.

Against Surrey the opportunity slipped away in the very final stages of the match. A sterling performance from Bridie throughout and at 6/3 up in the deciding breaker it was looking good. At 9/9 you could hear a pin drop and it was gutsy play from Surrey that just nudged them over the winning line.

It was a galling outcome, to have the best sets and game percentage and end up missing out by one deciding match tiebreak against Surrey for a place in the National Finals.

We have all to play for next season. A big thank you to Miranda Hosking for taking on the 2020 captaincy and to all the squad for their tremendous energy this season. Go Herts!

Players were: **Bridie Amos, Mandy Bishop, Kirstie Caneparo, Alison Felton, Miranda Hosking, Wendy Job, Jenny Stokes and Patricia Watson-Miller.**

Jenny Stokes

Ladies 55s

Facing strong opposition in Group 1, the team competed very well finishing fourth and securing a place in the top group again next year. There were many close, exciting matches but unfortunately the 10-point tie breaks alluded us.

Highlights include outstanding commitment from the squad, whether playing or acting as supporting reserve, which I believe contributed hugely to a change in the team's fortune as the season progressed. Thank you to everyone involved for your fantastic camaraderie, great tennis and team spirit.

Those who played were: **Judith Allnutt, Claire Booth, Margie Edge, Annie Hemsí, Wendy Randall, Jane Walker and Alison Williams.**

Claire Booth

Ladies 60s

Herts Ladies 60s have once again completed a season of good competitive tennis playing in Division 2. The team had 3 excellent 4-0 wins playing against Shropshire, West of Scotland and Northumberland. A difficult match, played at Harpenden LTC against Middx resulted in a 3-1 loss which meant we were left with a tough final match against Yorkshire which needed to be won for a chance of promotion.

Being a non playing captain this year I sent my team up to the Hallamshire Club, Sheffield knowing that the opposition was going to be very tough but hoping for the best, and possible promotion to Division 1. The phone call was a long

time coming and I soon learnt that Rubbers were 2-2, Sets were 5-5 and Games were 32-31 to Yorkshire. So after missing promotion by a handful of games last season we lost out by even closer margins this year!

Most importantly we have a wonderful team spirit which always makes for a great day out and the ladies are always looking for the opportunity to slip in a hotel stay! So onwards and upwards to next season and hopefully we can look forward to a lot more excellent tennis.

Joy Allsopp, Janet Corrie, Wendy Cottendon, Gill Dickey and Margaret Shahmir.

Alison Allard

Ladies 65s

We enjoyed all of the matches and won 4 out of 5 this year. Our downfall was against Nottingham who have beaten everyone this season and beaten us all well.

Thank you to all the team.

Players were: **Jenny Davis 2, Marg Defriez 1, Penny Kent 1, Lorraine Oliver 4, Patricia Rayner 4, Yvonne Stredder 4, Sheila Vaughan 1.**

Lorraine Oliver

Ladies 70s

We had less Inter-County matches this year due to there being an additional league to accommodate new entries from previously uninvolved Counties and sections of the UK, but this resulted in there being fewer teams in each league. My thanks to this year's players go to **Dilys Buckley, Teresa Deverell, Jenny Madden, Janet Morgan, Chris Robinson, Debbie Walker, and Me!**

We drew against Somerset, just losing on the count back of games in a very enjoyable away match. We lost to Gloucestershire in a fairly tight match. Our match against newcomers South Wales ironically had to be effectively a friendly as they had too few qualifying players on the day due to illness.

Overall we came second but whether we progress up the leagues may depend on the number of new entries next year.

Having had the honour and pleasure of captaining senior teams for the last 8 years, with the participation of about thirty different players full heartedly supporting me with great loyalty, I have decided that it is time for a new person to take over the reins! It has been a great privilege to Captain all these, once and still long-time friends and opponents, year after year in the Herts league matches.

I have had such wonderful support throughout from them and it is inspiring to see them all gel as a team and participate in social tennis events even if not on the front line. I wish them all a long and healthy future of high class tennis.

Many thanks to you all and the Committee and organisers

Jennifer Israel

FILA English Indoor Seniors Championships Gets Rewarded with an ITF Upgrade

Easter 2019 saw the fourth year of the annual FILA Senior English Indoor Championship staged at GLL Gosling Sports Park. Over 270 players from 16 countries did battle over seven days in categories from 35 to 80 years of age competing in both Singles and Doubles events.

Once again the GLL Gosling facility provided an excellent venue to host the event with the players enjoying hospitality that included full use of the leisure facilities during the week.

The event was visited by International Tennis Federation (ITF) Seniors Manager Matt Byford who was impressed with the facility and organisation of an event which is officially supported by Herts LTA.

The ITF has recognised the consistently high level of excellence over the four years since its inception and have proposed an upgrade from Grade 3 to Grade 2 for the FILA supported event for 2020. "There is an enormous team effort involved with the staging of this World Class Senior event.

The upgrade is a just reward for the staging of an event which has maintained such a high level of quality and my sincerest thanks go out to everyone at GLL Gosling, Herts Tennis and all those people whose efforts make the event possible", commented Marcus Stapleton on behalf of the event organising committee.

Notable performances from local players at this year's event included a win in the Women's 45 Singles for Gillian Brown from Harpenden LTC and a win in the Women's 50 Doubles for Monica Becerra also from Harpenden partnering with Jane Hunter. Monica also made the finals of the Women's 55s.

The event is scheduled to return to GLL Gosling from April 13th to 19th 2020 and all local players are invited to enter by going to the ITF Senior website for details. www.itftennis.com/seniors/tournaments

**Thanks
to all the
sponsors of
Herts Tennis.**

Seniors Tennis

Herts 3-Pair Summer League

2019 was a mixed year for the Herts league. As usual, the competition throughout most of the divisions was good, in some cases very good. However, the curse of the walkover continues to cast a dark shadow over the top echelons of the Men's competition and that has been extremely disappointing, particularly for the other teams in the division.

The Championships were won by Letchworth (Ladies) and Welwyn (Men). Having lost out on the title for the first time in a decade in 2018, Letchworth's Ladies were clearly determined to recapture their crown and despite facing some very strong opposition their 11th Championship included a number of resounding wins.

The battle for the Men's championship was a hard fought affair this year, with Welwyn just sneaking the title on the percentage of rubbers won versus rubbers played criteria from a revitalised Harpenden side, who recorded their best season for a long time and in doing so came close to winning the title they last held in 2005. Welwyn's third title in the last four years means they move up to fifth on the all time Men's list.

In next year's Men's top flight they will be joined by the winners of Divisions 1a and 1b; Northaw & Cuffley 1 and Leverstock Green 1, while in the Ladies competition Letchworth's 2nd team and Sawbridgeworth had successful campaigns in the Premier division and will have an opportunity to take on the top teams in the County next season. Congratulations to all four teams and to every other divisional winner and promoted team on their achievements.

Now I'd love to fill the rest of this piece by talking about the tennis that was played, but once again it's the format of the competition that is concerning people. The decision taken at the AGM two years ago to stick with the existing format (where every rubber is the best of 3 sets) has not had the

desired effect of arresting the decline in numbers playing in the competition and last year's reasonably positive figures in terms of number of entries now seems to have been nothing more than a false dawn. This year the story is much bleaker. The number of clubs entering has dropped by two to 29, the number of teams by eight (down from 132 to 124) and the number of players taking part by 62 (from 1,355 to 1,293).

The message I have received from a considerable number of clubs this season is that if we sit back and do nothing the numbers playing the competition will continue to decline. I often talk about the history of the Herts League, which I believe has helped to set it apart from other county competitions, but none of us want to resign the competition to history do we? This may not go down well with the one or two clubs who seemingly have no trouble fielding teams in the competition but when you consider that in 2011 the league boasted 112 Men's and 91 Ladies teams, this year the numbers were 77 and 47. In other words, in just eight years almost two fifths of teams have decided the competition is no longer for them - it would surely be wrong of us to not debate the matter again at the AGM.

I'm told you still want a 3 pair event and that large numbers of you still enjoy playing in this particular competition but that an increasing number of people don't want to spend a whole afternoon playing matches these days. The message is a consistent as well as a clear one. Give us a shorter format, which will appeal to more players.

We will look to do just that by putting a proposal to reduce the length of matches before December's AGM. It will need enough of you to attend and vote to introduce it though, otherwise just like two years ago the format will remain the same, with the very likely scenario that more clubs/teams/players will decide the competition is no longer for them.

Lee Evans

Herts Schools 2019

Teachers' Courses

After a review of our annual teachers courses we decided to run a Girls Fun Day Teachers' Course this year. We are always keen to fit in with national programmes and were delighted when Herts LTA offered to provide us with courts and tutors. This course is always very well received, and each school that attended will implement an event to encourage girls to take part in Tennis.

Mini Red

Cassiobury 17th June 2019

On Monday 17th June eight teams from four schools: one from Abbots Langley Primary School; three from Cassiobury Juniors; three from Cassiobury Infants

and two from Nascot Wood Infants competed at Cassiobury LTC in this year's Mini Red Doubles Competition. All eight teams played in one Round Robin resulting in a full and fun afternoon of tennis with some very close matches. The winners didn't drop a match and the runners-up only lost to the winners.

The results were as follows:

- 1st place: Cassiobury Juniors A
- 2nd place: Cassiobury Juniors B,
- 3rd place: Abbots Langley
- 4th place: Cassiobury Infants A
- 5th place: Cassiobury Juniors C
- 6th place: Nascot Wood A
- 7th place Nascot Wood B
- 8th place Cassiobury Infants B.



Certificates were presented to all the children and medals were awarded to the Winners and Runners-up. Our thanks to Cassiobury LTC for hosting the event and to all the parents and staff who assisted with the scoring and tea making.

Welwyn Mini Red

11th June at Welwyn Tennis Club

The Mini Red doubles event took place at Welwyn Tennis Club on Tuesday 11th June. The event had a strong entry of 12 teams representing Welwyn St Mary's, St Albans High Prep, Wheatfields, Roundwood and Broxbourne.

The weather was excellent which matched the tennis play from all participants and after the round robin boxes the Semi-finalists were Roundwood 1 v Roundwood 2 (result 7-8) and St Albans Prep v Welwyn St Mary's (12-4). In the final St Albans Prep triumphed over Roundwood 2 (result 11-5). Well done to the Girl's team for winning the event and qualifying for the finals!

Mini Red Finals

2nd July at Welwyn Tennis Club

The Mini Red Finals day took place on Tuesday 2nd July and the Grand final

was won by Roundwood School, congratulations! Well done to all the players for entering and to the umpires for making the day run so smoothly.

Mini Orange

12th June at St Albans Tennis Club

Seven schools, 12 teams, four boxes, two play-off rounds and one trophy. On an English summer's day 12 teams set out to see if they could win the Mini Orange Herts Schools Tennis Doubles Event hosted by St Albans Tennis Club. Each team, comprised of four players, competed in their box against five other teams. All players knew that each point would count towards their final scores and played in a suitably determined fashion. After some excellent rallies and closely contested points 4 teams made it through to battle it out for bronze, silver and gold positions.

Aldwickbury had impressive strength in depth and managed to get all of their 3 teams into the medal matches. The other team through to the final was Wheatfields. After a closely fought contest, Wheatfields were crowned worthy 2019 Mini Orange champions. Our congratulations go to them and to all the schools who turned up and competed at such a high level.

Our thanks also go to St Albans Tennis Club, our generous hosts, the girls from St Albans High School who umpired each match with great precision, teachers and parents for supporting the players and the players for competing in the spirit of the game.

So Mini Orange 2020 – we are calling all primary schools to compete in our tenth anniversary competition.

Mini Green Tennis

We were very disappointed that there were insufficient entries to run the event this year. A number of factors contributed to this situation, but a review is underway and we hope to be back strongly in 2020!

Year 6 – Yellow Ball

21st May at Royal Masonic School

The Year Six Tournament took place at the Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth on the hot sunny afternoon of Tuesday 21st May. 42 players - 14 pairs of boys and seven pairs of girls, participated in timed games between 3pm and 5pm. Seven Hertfordshire Schools were represented.

The tennis in the Experienced Sections was of a particularly high standard this year; whilst those playing in the Less Experienced Sections produced good



Herts Schools 2019



rallies and played with sportsmanship and enjoyment. Our thanks go to the Royal Masonic School for hosting another highly exciting, successful and competitive tournament.

And many thanks to the teachers and parents for their support on the day. A fun afternoon of tennis was had by all!

Girls Less Experienced:

Runners-up: Berkhamsted Prep I:

Emily and Amelie

Winners: Berkhamsted Prep II:

Eva and Talia

Boys Less Experienced:

Runners-up: Aldwickbury II:

Matthew and Oscar

Winners: Haberdashers' I:

Jeet and Toby

Girls Experienced:

Runners-up: St Albans High II:

Jenna and Annabelle

Trophy Winners: St Albans' High I:

Arabella and Alannah

Boys Experienced:

Runners-up: Aldwickbury II:

Charlie and Harry

Trophy Winners: Aldwickbury I:

Ben and Khaled

Year 7

Boys Doubles Tournament, 19th June, Haberdashers' Boys School

On Wednesday 19th June 40 boys from eight schools competed in the annual

Hertfordshire Year seven Doubles Tournament in challenging weather conditions to say the least! This is the highest number of entries we have ever had for this competition!

Marlborough topped Group A after dominant displays against Monks Walk and Watford Grammar. Haberdashers' Boys finished first in Group B after overcoming a strong challenge from Aldwickbury. In the final, Haberdashers' Boys did not start well against the imposing Marlborough pair; they fell 5-2 behind and were on the brink of defeat. With a large crowd of parents, teachers and participants watching on, they staged a superb comeback to win 7-5 in a thrilling end to the final. Monks Walk were victorious in an exciting 3rd/4th place play-off.

In the less experienced competition there were fine performances from St Columba's and Immanuel, but Monks Walk's 2nd pair came through to take the win. The event was a real success providing a fun competition for Year seven schoolboys from across the county, with all teams showing great sportsmanship throughout. We look forward to next year's tournament!

Girls Doubles Tournament

12th June, St Albans High School for Girls

We were all set to run the Girls Doubles at St Albans High School, but

the weather was very unkind and in the end we had to postpone. Unfortunately the weather continued to thwart us so sadly this event was not run this year.

U14 & U18 Boys' County Schools Championships

1st May, Welwyn Tennis Club

40 boys from across the County travelled to Welwyn Tennis Club for the Boys County Doubles this year. Some familiar faces in each category returned to challenge for and in some cases, defend their titles. What was very pleasing were the new faces amongst the younger age group. We look forward to seeing them progress in the same way a lot of the U18s have since their first tournament.

What stood out this year, aside from the high quality of tennis (and the fair weather yet again!) was the way the players conducted themselves on court and the sportsmanship they demonstrated. All pairs played in some tightly contested games during the earlier stages of the tournament with several matches being decided via tie break. The finals in the main draw and plate were a little more one sided (with the exception of the U18 plate final 7-3 on a tie break). Regardless, the boys competed well and to the neutral spectator, it would have been difficult to identify the stronger pair from watching just a few games.

The winners are listed below. Please can I give my thanks again, to the teachers for bringing their students, the boys for their efforts and especially to Welwyn Tennis Club for the loan of their 6 courts.

Plate Winners

U14 - St. Albans 1st Pair

U18 - Haberdashers 1st Pair

Main Draw Winners

U14 - Monks Walk 1st Pair

U18 - Marlborough 1st Pair

U14 & U18 Girls County Schools Championships

14th June, St Albans High School for Girls

The County Schools Doubles Tournament was played on Friday 14 June at St Albans High School for Girls. After a very wet week we were pleased that the event could go ahead with only a couple of quick showers.

There were eight pairs in the U14 event and this was won by Sandringham School who beat Monks Walk in the final. The U18 category had low numbers of entries but was eventually won by Royal Masonic School in a third set tie-break against St Albans High School for Girls.

Congratulations to all competitors and thank you to their teachers and parents for their support.

Nicola Mabbitt

24th June 2019, Queenswood School

On a sunny afternoon 31 winning teams from five areas of Hertfordshire arrived at Queenswood to play the



2019 County girls

Nicola Mabbitt Trophy finals. The players, in teams of four, had all won their local area leagues to qualify for the finals. Each team played the winning teams from the other areas. There are six separate Leagues – for Years 8, 9 and 10, Boys and Girls.

This year the Girls Leagues played their 55 matches on the clay courts and the boys played 60 matches on the Astroturf courts. In all, 124 players played 115 matches during the afternoon.

Winners:

Year 8 Boys Rickmansworth School

Year 8 Girls St Albans High School for Girls

Year 9 Boys Parmiter's School

Year 9 Girls Rickmansworth School

Year 10 Boys Rickmansworth School

Year 10 Girls Sir John Lawes

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 Sherrardswood School who host our meetings. We would like to thank Herts Tennis for their help and for supplying tennis balls and tutors. 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



2019 Nicola Mabbitt finalists

Mini Tennis

Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter Team League 2018-19

The Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter Team League seems to be as popular as ever and the League in various formats has been running since the 1990's.

Team Tennis as we all know is very rewarding for all tennis players. It is by far the 'nicest' format for our young players to develop their skills and it is hoped that the parents involved in expertly organising and running the matches enjoy the social experience.

The 2018 - 2019 Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter League saw very healthy entries, with 76 teams and 412 young players involved.

The standard of play in the 10 and under age groups since those early days has changed beyond all recognition. Way back Clubs were for adults and older juniors and the thought for many of embracing and encouraging children as young as 8 years of age to join was a step too far. A short, sharp intake of breath was the normal response.

Now our clubs embrace all ages and have full time coaches, highly skilled and motivated, encouraging Hertfordshire children and adults to be the best that they can be.

The results of the Mini League once again reflect the high standards of play from the players at our larger venues but what is so pleasing is the involvement of so many of our clubs, large and small in the Mini League. Even more pleasing is the cross section of the clubs who were involved on finals day representing what is happening across all our venues. Above all the young players really enjoy playing.

In recognition of the positive work of our clubs the Hertfordshire Management Committee enthusiastically supports clubs and coaches in developing their programmes and provides considerable financial contributions towards player development. In 2018 - 2019 nine new clubs joined the Herts Tennis Clubs and Performance Network, with a total of fifteen clubs now involved. The Herts Tennis Clubs and Performance Network supports tennis clubs recognised as having a track record of increasing participation and developing young tennis players. Clubs involved deliver the Pathway to Tarbes, Herts Inspires Tennis and Herts Inspires Tennis Potential programmes which provide funded training for mini-tennis players showing the potential, determination and commitment to become competent competitors at County level and above.

As our clubs continue to strengthen their programme delivery and player support we see continual improvement in the standard of players representing their clubs in the Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter League so the future of tennis looks very bright!

The results on Finals Day in March 2019 were as follows:

RED MAIN DRAW FINALS

Winners	Batchwood Red Buffalos 1
Runners Up	Gosling Red 1s
3rd Place	Gosling Red 2s
4th Place	Langley Reds

RED CONSOLATION FINAL

Winners	Letchworth Red A
Runners Up	Red Eagles - Northaw & Cuffley

ORANGE MAIN DRAW FINALS

Winners	Gosling Orange 1s
Runners Up	Batchwood Orange Bulldogs 1
3rd Place	BSLTC Orange Dragons 1
4th Place	Harpenden 9U A

ORANGE CONSOLATION FINAL

Winners	Letchworth Orange A
Runners Up	Legends Tennis Orange

GREEN MAIN DRAW FINALS

Winners	Gosling Green 1s
Runners Up	Batchwood Greens
3rd Place	Langley Green
4th Place	Gosling Green 2

GREEN CONSOLATION

Winners	Radlett Green
Runners Up	Green Tigers - Northaw & Cuffley

Hit Red Tour

When changes were made to the Mini Red Stage Ratings we recognized that many of the young Red stage players felt that competing was not an important element of the game. After all the game of tennis is about playing matches and it was vitally important to offer our young enthusiastic players the opportunity to play Red stage matches at a high level.

To re-ignite their enthusiasm for competing we set up the HIT Red Tour comprised of seven tournaments based around the Grand Slams, WTA and ATP Finals events. Included in the Tour is our very own Hertfordshire Junior Championships which takes place every year at the end of August.

The two Pathway to Tarbes venues, Batchwood and Gosling, and the four HIT Venues, Langley, Legends, Letchworth and Harpenden run these events for the Red players in their performance groups. In addition, Teresa Lilley our Performance Manager invites players from other Hertfordshire clubs, who are attending Red stage County Training to play as well.



Toby - HIT Red Tour Mini Winner

We introduced a Leaderboard based around players getting 100 points for entering the event with the opportunity to gain further points by qualifying for the knockout stage. 75 Mini Red players competed from September to August and the winners, Toby and Emma from Gosling were presented with a Hertfordshire sweatshirt. Well done to them both.

Jennifer Keates, Mini Tennis