

Play was suspended...
but Herts stayed strong...!



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HERTS TENNIS

Issue 14 November 2020

Herts LTA 200 Club

200 Club winners HERTS LTA 2019-2020

OCTOBER

£40 244 Mr A Sheridan
 £30 47 Codicote TC
 £20 132 Mr S Clay
 £10 86 Mrs P Hall
 £10 264 Mrs B Thomas

NOVEMBER

£40 40 Codicote TC
 £30 254 Mr M Morgan
 £20 291 Mr M Knee
 £10 199 Mr M Bowler
 £10 103 Mrs E Taylor

DECEMBER

£40 60 Mr J Hicklin
 £30 292 Mr M Knee
 £20 3 Mrs J Allnut
 £10 206 Mr M Bowler
 £10 93 Mr A Sheridan

JANUARY

£40 173 Mr R Greenwood
 £30 118 Codicote TC
 £20 103 Mrs E Taylor
 £10 138 Mr A Sheridan
 £10 63 Mrs P Rawlings

FEBRUARY

£100 266 Mr A Sheridan
 £40 112 Mr M Knee
 £30 53 Mr G Westwell
 £20 222 Mrs A Allard
 £10 132 Mr S Clay
 £10 31 Mr R Sneesby

MARCH

£40 179 Mr C Borthwick
 £30 17 Mr R Mace
 £20 12 Mr J Bennet
 £10 101 Mrs C Morris
 £10 118 Codicote TC

APRIL

£40 269 Mr A Sheridan
 £30 123 Mrs G Sampson
 £20 149 Mrs C Herbert
 £10 133 Mrs M Thomas
 £10 33 Codicote TC

MAY

£40 96 Codicote TC
 £30 2 Mr G Masterton
 £20 79 Mr N Aves
 £10 153 Mrs C Herbert
 £10 32 Mr R Sneesby

JUNE

£40 230 Mr I Duncan
 £30 117 Mrs D Gaffney
 £20 29 Mr A Sheridan
 £10 49 Mrs S Howgego
 £10 51 Mr G Westwell

JULY

£40 2 Mr G Masterton
 £30 62 Mr G Westwell
 £20 40 Codicote TC
 £10 88 Mr C Grigg
 £10 109 Mrs M Cartmell

AUGUST

£100 70 Mrs M Thomas
 £40 5 Mrs C Ayling
 £30 91 Mr M Knee
 £20 273 Mr J Stone
 £10 173 Mr R Greenwood
 £10 149 Mrs C Herbert

SEPTEMBER

£40 31 Mr R Sneesby
 £30 112 Mr M Knee
 £20 73 Mr A Sheridan
 £10 2 Mr M Masterton
 £10 234 Mr I Duncan

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	and thereafter every	Frequency
			until further notice

And debit my/our account accordingly

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Signature(s) _____ Date _____

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

TP ICAP Plc **Stuart Ditcham**
CJS Consultants **Peter Alexander**
Jonathan Lewis **Investments**
Pentland Group **Deal Agency**

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

HERTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2020

Trevor Adamson Chairman
 Bridie Amos
 Janet Corrie
 Martin Corrie Hicks & Co, Treasurer
 Carole Draper Office Manager
 Helen Elliott Secretary
 Lee Evans LTA Representative
 Stuart Foster
 Matt Willcocks

Welcome to the annual Herts Newsletter

NOTE. The original President's Report for 2020 that was sent to clubs with the notification of the AGM had to be amended due to late, unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances with changes to the nominations for the Election of Officers and Members of the Management Committee. Below is the final report that was presented and adopted at the AGM on 3rd December 2020.

Before I start my report, I feel I should announce some changes to the original information sent out to you for this meeting. Corrections have been sent to the clubs.

Covid has not only impacted the playing of tennis, it is now impacting the organisational side of Herts Tennis.

In the documents originally sent to you, it stated that Lee Evans and I were leaving the Management Committee. However, due to unforeseen circumstance changes have had to be made.

Stuart Foster, who was going to take over as Treasurer, is unable to take on this role due to an extra work situation, and will in fact be leaving the Management Committee.

To prevent a complete upheaval, it has been agreed that Martin Corrie will remain Treasurer and I will remain in the position of President for another year.

Lee Evans has also agreed to continue his role on the Committee and will continue to look after the leagues and competitions.

Terry Mackie has decided to decline the opportunity to join the Management Committee due to personal reasons.

This will all become clear when we come to the Election of Officers later in the meeting. All this information will be sent out to clubs.

I write this Annual Report of Hertfordshire Tennis for 2020 at a time when the world is a bit upside-down and tennis is even more important to us all.

Just as the year was getting going Covid-19 came in and in March everything stopped... at least for a while.

The LTA brought in a scheme to financially support full time coaches during lockdown and also refunded registration fees paid by clubs and venues for the 2019-2020 year to help support them. To support the part time coaches Herts Tennis came in with more financial help.

Our office staff were furloughed as County tennis activities came to a halt and our County Centre at Gosling was closed. We set up a new email account and developed online home working practices to stay in touch with our clubs and key contacts. We were back to near normal from the beginning of October.

When tennis was allowed to resume in June the LTA launched a 'Back to Tennis' campaign called 'Play Your Way'. The Herts Tennis management committee decided to launch a pilot scheme to attract new and lapsed tennis players to reflect this which has become 'Play Your Way in Herts'. For this we involved several venues and invited non regular players to come along and receive free and then very subsidised coaching. This scheme has been well supported and over the next 12 months we look to continue to grow this with other venues across the county. Please contact the County Office at hertstennis@gmail.com if your club/venue would be interested in joining the scheme.

The County Doubles League had to be cancelled along with County Week and also Winter County Cup and most Junior County Cup events. Our annual Junior County Championship scheduled to be held at Rickmansworth LTC at the end of August unfortunately was also cancelled.

Pleasingly, at the time of writing, training for the County Juniors has restarted and hopefully some friendly matches are in the process of being arranged.

Prior to lock down we had some great successes when competitive tennis was being played. Our 18U girls County Cup team gained promotion back to group 1, our 9U team won the Mini Orange festival, Herts won the 12 Counties Championship and at the beginning of March our 8U boys and girls teams obtained Silver in the Mini Red Inter Regional Event.

The Harris Cup, the mixed knock out event, is being played somewhat later than normal but at least clubs have the chance to play some competitive tennis.

The administration of the County affairs has continued at pace with more meetings than ever, albeit virtually, as we make sure that we are well positioned for the full return to tennis whenever that will be. A big thank you from me to the whole of the committee for their committed work during what has been a difficult and frustrating period. My thanks also to Teresa Lilley for her work in helping our performance players and coaches.

From 1 January 2021 Teresa is also taking over responsibility for our award-winning Pathway to Tarbes development programme from Jennifer Keates who has been an exceptional worker and contributor to Herts Tennis for 40 years.

A reminder that you can put forward any questions or resolutions for debate at the AGM by contacting the office in writing before October 1st each year and likewise anyone wishing to apply for a position on the Management Committee can do so by October 1st each year. If there are more applicants than spaces, then a vote will be taken at the AGM.

As explained at the beginning of the of the meeting, there are no great changes to the Management Committee. Lee Evans is staying on the Committee but is relinquishing his role as Herts Representative on the LTA Council. This is a very time consuming and important job and over the past three years Lee has done a fantastic job in promoting Herts Tennis at the top level. Sincere thanks Lee for all your hard work.

Bridie Amos will be replacing Lee in the LTA post and we feel sure she will continue to place Herts at the forefront of British tennis.

Tessa Terry is the County Safeguarding Officer has been nominated for the vacancy on the Herts Management Committee. Most clubs will be familiar with Tessa as she has been working very hard on safeguarding issues. This is an important issue at the LTA and we are very lucky to have someone as competent as Tessa.

Trevor Adamson, President

VENUE REGISTRATION 2020

The LTA has introduced a number of changes to LTA Venue Registration from October 2020. One of the key changes is the introduction of tailored packages at relevant price points to cater for tennis venues outside of the traditional club environment.

To find out more about all changes please visit <https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/tennis-venue-support/venue-registration/> where you will also be able to find a link to frequently asked questions.

People and Clubs

With tennis being one of the activities allowed to resume within the lockdown period we asked if our clubs could give us an idea of how they adapted to the new restrictions and expectations. Read how some of our clubs adapted their activities...



Play Your Way in Herts

The Play Your Way in Herts programme is an initiative that sees Hertfordshire Tennis and its partner tennis clubs and venues work together to create welcoming, fun and affordable tennis opportunities for adults and children.

The ultimate aims of the programme are to make tennis widely accessible, to increase participation and to impact positively on the lives of people in Herts by helping them feel they belong within the sport and are part of the Herts Tennis family.

Our strategy is to play a role in the county by assisting non club members to get active using our infrastructure of clubs, coaches, volunteers and venues. Herts Tennis seeks to work with clubs who wish to open tennis up to the wider community and offers funding and administrative support to bring new and lapsed players into our great game. So far, we

West Herts LTC player Ivan Deb selected to represent Great Britain in Visually Impaired tennis.

Ivan Rodriguez Deb, who is just 15 years' old, is the youngest member ever to have been selected for Great Britain's LTA men's Visually Impaired tennis squad.

Ivan was born with a rare connective tissue disorder which means that he's partially sighted. Access to sport had always been frustrating and he quickly found that participation in mainstream sport was never on a level playing field due to his visual impairment. Two-and-a-half years ago (May 2018), he took part in a "Have-a-Go" day organised by British Blind Sport, where he discovered visually impaired tennis, played on an indoor court which is slightly smaller using an adapted sound ball with a rattle in it. Since then, he hasn't stopped.

In two-and-a-half years, he has progressed from a novice player to Great Britain's No. 1 ranked player in the Men's' B4 category and national champion (there are different sight categories from B1 to B4).

This year, Ivan was selected to represent Great Britain internationally as their youngest squad player at the World Visually Impaired Tennis Championships in Italy, although unfortunately the tournament was cancelled due to Covid-19.

However, this has not stopped him training for when the competition season restarts. Ivan's ambition now is to become World Champion when the competition is rescheduled. Visually

have reached over 65 players across 4 clubs running 8 sessions a week. We have found that many of these players have returned and been retained because of the welcome they feel both at the partner club and within the wider Herts Tennis community. Some of these players have also accessed additional coaching sessions and looked at joining the club as a result of this collaboration.

If you would like to find out more and get your venue involved in Play Your Way in Herts, please contact the County Office for further information at hertstennis@gmail.com

Herts Tennis Values

Honesty - Excellence - Resilience - Teamwork - Sportsmanship

Our values have been chosen as we feel they are reflected in the actions and behaviours of everyone involved in Herts Tennis, both on and off the tennis court. Ours will be a sport that everyone will want to be part of as a player, spectator, volunteer, competitor and partner.

HERTS TENNIS



Ivan (L) with brother and hitting partner Aaron

impaired tennis is the fastest growing blind sport in the country and competition is becoming fierce. In order to maintain his ranking as GB No.1 and to become the next world champion in the B4 sight category, Ivan has been training hard both on and off the court, mainly with his elder brother Aaron and with additional support from David Shann at West Herts LTC. The club and its members have been hugely supportive and generous in helping Ivan prepare for his goal.

With thanks to Anita Deb

You can read more about Ivan here:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/tennis-news/news-and-opinion/general-news/2019/december/national-visually-impaired-tennis-champions-crowned-in-wrexham/>

Jennifer Keates

Hertfordshire Tennis would like to congratulate a long-standing member of the Herts Team, Jennifer Keates, on her outstanding contribution to Herts Tennis.

She will be stepping aside at Christmas from her role in masterminding many mini tennis initiatives in Hertfordshire for many years. This role will be continued by Teresa, a very capable pair of hands. She will be helped and mentored by Jennifer every step of the way and I am sure Jennifer will stay part of the team.

We have a snapshot of Jennifer's wonderful career.

An introduction from Jenny Thomas:

"It was over 40 years ago that I ran a short tennis group at Harpenden Sports Centre. One of my pupils was a five-year-old Sophie Keates. My usual helper was absent and I appealed to the watching mums if one could come and help me. No one rushed forward but a very apprehensive Jennifer agreed to give it a try. The rest as they say is history, and in this case what a history.

Very soon Jennifer took over from Sue Miller and myself as Herts short tennis organiser. Aply assisted by Sybil Howgego and Jenny Marlow, short tennis, the forerunner of mini tennis, was rolled out to clubs and schools. The short tennis year culminated in a massive tournament at Stevenage Leisure Centre. Many of our present men's and ladies' county cup teams had their introduction to competition at this short tennis event. All players left with some moments of the day and no child escaped Jennifer's watchful eye, everyone included and directed to a place to play.

We shared many memorable moments but one we always talk about today happened at another of Jennifer's initiatives, a sift day, later known as a talent identification day.

And talent we did find. A group of tiny seven-year-old girls were all practising their overarm throw from the baseline, most of them not reaching the height of the net. I then watched in utter disbelief as from one baseline to the other side of the net a ball is thrown, it hits the back green netting without bouncing. I looked at Jennifer she looked at me did that actually happen?

Jennifer nonchalantly asked her to throw again and Amanda Elliott was found!"

Since those early days we have all benefitted from Jennifer's enthusiasm and great ideas. A flagship Hertfordshire programme is Pathway to Tarbes (P2T) which has been run efficiently by Jennifer co-ordinating Batchwood and Gosling in their quest to develop mini talent from 5-12 for over the last 13 years. Hertfordshire players that have achieved the goal of playing at Tarbes in the European masters event considered the world's leading International 12 - 14U tournament are Indi Spink, Oliver Tarvet, Hannah Read, Hephzibah Oluwadare, Georgie Walker, Mafalda Almela-Lozano and Sophia Underwood and P2T continues to launch our future International players on their tennis journey.

Inclusivity is also in Jennifer's mantra and our Herts Mini Leagues are testament to that. These leagues have been

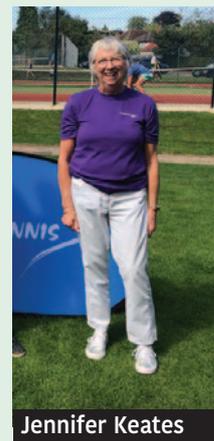
running since the 1990s involving a large number of clubs and introducing hundreds of young players to competitive tennis in a team (we in Herts feel that is the best way). Again, Jennifer has organised these very successful leagues.

Jennifer also volunteered alongside her husband Andrew at the Olympics and Paralympics 2012. At Wimbledon she and Andrew were assigned to Athlete Services which involved assisting all the top players and at the Paralympics they supported the Wheelchair Tennis events at Olympic Park.

And so as you can see in this snapshot, Jennifer's influence on the development of tennis in Hertfordshire cannot be overestimated. Her pursuit of tennis opportunities both for players and young coaches have reaped a great reward. Her meticulous organisation and dedication have been the basis of so much of Herts success.

An often-used phrase describing someone is "we will never see their like again", in Jennifer's case this is true.

Janet Corrie, Herts Management Committee, Nov '20



Jennifer Keates

Hoddesdon LTC

Hoddesdon took a disused and overgrown hard court and with the hard work of some of their volunteers, they have made it into two Pickleball courts.

Pickleball is a fast-growing game from the US which is a mixture of Table Tennis and Badminton. It's popular with the more mature player, requiring less movement but still plenty of skill.

Many players have only played Pickleball indoors and Hoddesdon has found that their outdoor facilities are proving extremely popular.

Hoddesdon LTC



Before...



After...

People and Clubs

Potters Bar LTC

With a global pandemic taking place and the accompanying government restrictions, Potters Bar Tennis Club believed that 2020 was going to be the first year since 1953 without their annual club championships taking place.

However, although the Junior finals couldn't take place, the club was able to get it together and host its 69th club championships strictly following all the social distance guidelines.

Even though it wasn't possible to have an audience present, with the help of club members Holly and Jack Romero, the club was able to live-stream three of the matches for members. Through the club's social media channels, the matches reached 6,325 people with 966 views and 398 people engaging with the event.

Thanks to the Welwyn Hatfield Times - read a full report here:

<https://www.whtimes.co.uk/sport/annual-tennis-tournament-carries-on-despite-pandemic-1-6858699?fbclid=IwAR0pEMc6vb36qZ2hYyGIy32Xv5fN5AkAAr6BLULfuh80A1QGyQ0cbS6joQ>

Potters Bar LTC



Holly and Jack Romero



Hitchin Tennis Club

When lockdown arrived in March and forced closure of courts, Hitchin Tennis Club had just started a membership recruitment drive and a new tennis participation coaching programme.

Undeterred, the club and Head Coach Louise Penny powered ahead with a series of social media initiatives to maintain interest in tennis amongst the club's followers, to promote health and fitness especially to the younger participants and to engage them in the club's challenges and activities.

Using combinations of Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Zoom, key components included weekly tennis challenges such as "Keepy Uppies" using a tennis ball and encouraging followers to send in their best efforts for sharing. With the challenges aimed at children, their parents were pleased to have something different to occupy them with and the children enthusiastically engaged with each new task.

Alongside these challenges, donated tennis rackets and balls plus free court time prizes were offered to reward those who engaged in social media posts. By varying the content, the club ensured the widest possible audience for the output.

Once lockdown started to ease and the courts were slowly opened up (with appropriate social distancing, safeguarding measures and signage) the club was in a prime position to welcome people on to court. Using local print media as well to spread the message, Louise offered discounted coaching lessons and hitting sessions which were very popular and



Growing membership at Hitchin

indeed these will continue to be offered throughout the winter. The focus being on the benefits that tennis brings to both mental and physical well-being.

As a result of all their hard work, the club has seen overall membership numbers increase by over 160% in the five months since lockdown and the club's new multi-faceted tennis programme has ensured that the courts are as busy as social-distancing requirements can possibly allow.

Hitchin LTC

Brookmans Park TC

BPTC has faced many trials and tribulations since it was formed 95 years ago, and we are hopefully coming out of the latest one. Luckily, we have an active Committee who have the time and desire to make changes.

We are about mid-way through our planned developments which could not have been done without sound financial planning and budgetary controls or without the help of the LTA, Herts LTA and local clubs.

We have restructured our coaching programme and now have a team of four coaches led by head coach Steve Shea who has a Level five coaching qualification. Steve provides a well-balanced and considered programme and has created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, along with the desire of many to improve their games.

We have updated our courts and now have two new Tiger Turf courts to supplement the two synthetic grass courts that were replaced three years' ago. One of our tarmac courts has just been resurfaced with a view to adding Tiger Turf in due course. The sixth court will be made into a Kids Zone, with back board and practice area.

Two of our courts will be fitted with LED floodlights in November and eventually all four floodlit courts will have LED lights with cashless operation.

With indoor facilities having to close over lockdown we had a noticeable increase in our membership and it is hoped many



The working party in action

will stay as members in the future. Our committee has organised regular weekly events which are very popular and at present we have a men's and a ladies' practice session each week often with up to 30 attendees.

Our members are responsible for the clubhouse and grounds and we have a team of over 30 people who turn up for regular work parties. The clubhouse looks great as do the grounds. We feel truly blessed as a club to have a beautiful setting and location and we look forward to our 100th anniversary in 2025.

Brookmans Park LTC

Elliswick LTC

We welcomed our members back on court on the 13th May 2020. The courts have been very busy since we reopened and it was a real pleasure to see many of our members back to enjoy the sport we love whilst continuing to respect the basic principle of social distancing.

Since then, we have used the LTA Clubspark booking platform for our members to book courts. At the beginning of June 2020 we welcomed our juniors back on court accompanied by their parents (members or not) in accordance with the LTA's and ELTC's guidelines. In July 2020, the Government eased the lockdown, so we could socialise, maintaining the 2m social distance and enjoy our beautifully maintained club's grounds after a game of tennis. However, the clubhouse remained closed so we encouraged members to bring their own refreshments.

Our coaches have been working very hard since the club reopened, spending long hours on court to make up for time lost during the lockdown. During the summer holiday, our holiday camps were very busy with pods of five children in each pod. The camps were very popular and have contributed to a growing waiting list for membership. In August 2020, the LTA advised that match play could return to normal from Autumn. Therefore, we entered our teams to play in the Ladies' vets (six teams) and Men's vets (six teams) as well as in the Winter Mixed (six teams). We have also entered four of our junior teams into the Herts National Winter League 2020/2021. It has proved that the Covid-19 pandemic has not dampened our enthusiasm to play tennis.

So, all in all, despite the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, we have not



Elliswick Tuesdays Ladies' Mornings



Elliswick Thursday mix in

had a bad year. We believe that the future of our club is bright and we are continuing to advise our members to play tennis, maintain hygiene and minimise unnecessary interactions with others. We also encourage our members and visitors to be fully compliant with the national rules as well as the LTA and ELTC rules.

Elliswick LTC

Herts Tennis Awards 2019

In what seems a lifetime ago now, back in March, we had a very prestigious LTA and Herts Tennis Awards Dinner evening lined up at Harpenden Golf Club to celebrate the wonderful work of our volunteers and tennis workforce in the County stage of the annual LTA Tennis Awards for 2019. This would have been as always, a very enjoyable evening with all the nominees for 2019 invited and where we would have announced the county stage winners.

With lockdown becoming an ever-imminent reality, the reluctant decision was taken to postpone the evening so as not to put anyone's health at risk, with our greatest hopes being that we would be able to re-schedule for a few months ahead and celebrate as normal. Unfortunately this was not to be, as it became apparent that we would not be able to have any celebratory gathering of any meaningful numbers for the rest of the year. We look forward to seeing everyone in person when we are able.

Here is a list of the 2019 winners. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following on their success and thank everybody for all that they do to support tennis in Hertfordshire.

LTA Tennis Awards 2019 – County Stage Winners

Lifetime Achievement	Nick Birchall
Volunteer of the Year	Ainsley Culbert
Young Person of the Year	Sam Jordan and Johnpaul Knell (joint winners)
Coach of the Year	Ian Zellner
Club of the Year	Bishops Stortford LTC
Community Programme	Parktennis
Disability Programme	Suman Sharma
Official of the Year	Jamie Broomfield
Competition of the Year	Watford & District League

Additional County Awards

Mark Seymour Award	David Latter
Laing Award	Indianna Spink
County Colours	David Stevenson
County Colours	Mimi Bland

Performance Awards

Winning 15/15 at County Cup	Emily Arbuthnott
Performance of the Year	Annabel Davis

Herts League

Ladies Champions	Letchworth
Men's Champions	Welwyn

Harris Cup

Ladies Champions	Hoddesdon
Men's Champions	Moor Park

Harpenden LTC

After months of lockdown, Harpenden Lawn Tennis Club managed to run its annual Club Championships and Junior Tournaments.

The Finals Day was in September instead of the usual



Wimbledon weekend, but with no spectators, no BBQ and no bar. A total of 28 finals were held, ranging from 10U singles to 65+ men's doubles and everyone enjoyed a great day of play even with the unusual 2020 conditions.

Harpenden LTC



Herts Teams Reports

Herts Men's Roundup Winter 2019-2020

The LTA Winter Cup 2019 - Group 2

The competition was held in Bromley, Kent, and a super competition it turned out to be, although our Herts Men fell short by one rubber that would have gained them promotion back to Group 1.

Not only was it the one rubber that decided our promotion, but it was also at 4-4 and a third set tie-break that ended our ascendancy.

The Herts Men were represented by an excellent mixture of two of Herts' long-standing 'greats' - Neil Bamford and Ed Corrie (with Ed also partnering brother Tom on Day 1), as well as those who have previously competed for Herts or were coming into the Men's team for the first time.

All gave everything one could have hoped for.

Our team consisted of -

Neil Bamford, Ed Corrie, Josh Rose, Oliver, David Latter, Sam Price, Tom Corrie and Cip Onufrei

I am very grateful for the contributions made by each of our Herts Men - especially having lost on Day 1 to old rival Kent, 4-5 but then coming back over the next two days to secure two consecutive 'W's - 7-2 over Staffordshire, and 5-4 against Berkshire, even though it was this match where we fell short by that one elusive rubber.

As an observation, over the 32 years from when I took over the Men's Captaincy, I've seen our rise from Group 4 in the Summer and Group 6 in the Winter to achieving Group 1 status and winning 14 National Titles collectively. While great Singles performances in the Winter did happen, the foundations of our triumphs have reliably been the doubles.

Not so on this occasion, and while I hope it may have been a 'one-off', I also ask that as our new generations of players come through, we can rebuild that doubles foundation, while extending the excellence of our singles.

There was, as always, great camaraderie amongst the team. Team events are in the minority over a tennis players life, so coming together in County competitions is always that bit more special.

The LTA Summer and Winter Cups - 2020

There isn't much to say that isn't already very well established, but for the record, both Cup events this year were cancelled due to the Coronavirus. The Summer's cancellation by the LTA was reasonably close to the event itself, and with an already quality team in place, I was convinced we had an excellent shot of regaining the national title in Group 1.

The 2020 Winter Cup team was shaping up really well along with a Friendly against Oxbridge - but again, Covid-19 not only cancelled the Cup and Friendly match out, but as I write this report, we as a nation, are back in lockdown until December 2 which would have crossed over the dates of the Winter Cup.

For those amongst the Herts Tennis community as well as their friends and families, I hope illness or worse, has been kept from your doors, and will continue to do so. If this has not been the case, then I can only add my sincerest wishes that life will begin again as soon as it's possible.

And while not relating to the Corona virus, I'd like to pass my condolences on behalf of all from the Herts community, to David Rice, whose mum recently passed. For those who know him, David has been living and coaching in San Diego, California over the last couple of years, and aside from being a great guy and a highly talented tennis player, the loss of his mum, has impacted on him deeply.

Let's try and stay in touch over the coming months, and hope that the Summer Cup 2021 will indeed happen.

Come on Herts!

Jeff Wayne, Herts Men's Captain

Herts Teams Reports

Herts Ladies

Winter County Cup 2019 (Sheffield Group 2a)

Our Group 2 Winter County Cup campaign began against Warwickshire. We were joined this Winter by some younger players making their debut for the Ladies team which is always great for the county.

Danielle and Rachel kicked off our campaign with respective wins at no. 6 and 5 singles, shortly followed by Jessica, who after dropping the first set won the next two, only conceding three games. Francesca was having a battle at no. 3 singles, and after losing the second set she bounced back to dominate the third set and win the match. With Annabel securing another win at no. 1, we found ourselves 5-1 up after the singles line up. It's always a great position to be going in to when starting the doubles, especially as we were testing some brand new pairings. Warwickshire had some solid and experienced doubles pairings, but we came out on top winning two out of the three matches to finish the day with a 7-2 win.

Day two always involves the two winners on day one playing the two losers, and for us that meant facing Lancashire. The first two singles matches were close and we just lost out in two tie-breaks in the first set. The momentum continued to swing in Lancashire's favour, and Danielle and Rachel were unable to stop their opponents in the second set. Jessica, who was making her debut for the ladies' team won a tough first set 7-5 and then didn't drop a game to take the win and get us on the scoreboard.

Francesca, also making her debut in the ladies team played a great match and narrowly lost out in two tie-break sets. At 3-1 down, we were hoping for at least another match to go our way before the doubles. Catherine played an excellent match, staying strong to take the win at no. 2 in her debut whilst Annabel was beaten by Lancashire's no. 1 player. We went into the doubles 4-2 down in matches, but with continued belief, and a fresh pair of legs and experience in Kat Whiteaway. Rachel and Francesca dominated their match at no. 2 dropping only two games, whilst Kat and Jessica narrowly missed out in a third set tie-break. Annabel and Catherine lost against a very experienced pair at no. 1 and we ended the day with a tough 6-3 loss.

The last day was our chance to play the undefeated team of the weekend, Hampshire & IOW. We knew they would be tough, but in true Herts style, our determination remained high. We went 2-1 down after our first three singles, with Jessica remaining undefeated in her singles campaign over the weekend! Unfortunately, we couldn't quite overcome the strength of Hampshire & IOW in the other singles matches, and they went ahead to 5-1 securing first place and promotion to group 1.

We played some great tennis over the weekend, and certainly kept teams on their toes! It was great to be joined by some new team members as always – and when we can, we will be back again to strive for first place! A huge well done and thank you to the team consisting of **Annabel, Catherine, Danielle, Francesca, Jessica, Rachel and Katherine Whiteaway.**

Alissa Ayling, Ladies Captain

Hertfordshire Adult and Junior Autumn League

The Hertfordshire Autumn Junior and Adult League 2019 attracted 80 teams from 21 clubs.

We ran 18 events and 354 players took part in the competition. Well done to all.

Congratulations to the following division winners:

12U Boys Division A

Radlett

12U Boys Division B

Harpenden Tornados

12U Boys 2 player Division

Wheathampstead

12U Girls 2 player Division

Harpenden

14U Boys Division 1

Bishops Stortford

14U Boys 2 player Division

Elliswick

14U Girls Division 1

St Albans

14U Girls 2 player Division

Townsend

16U Boys Division 1

St Albans

16U Boys 2 player Division

Townsend

16U Girls 2 player Division

Townsend

18U Boys Division 1

St Albans

18U Boys 2 player Division

Townsend

Women's Division 1

David Lloyd Bushey

Men's Division 1

Barnet 1

Men's Division 2

Brookmans Park

Men's Division 3

Bishops Stortford

Claire Thandi

Hertfordshire Junior County Team Report 2019 – 2020

2019–20 saw a heavily reduced county team schedule. However, when our Herts juniors had the opportunity to represent the County in team events their performances were fantastic! The Herts 9U won the Orange Festival for the second year in a row, the 8U were runners-up in the East Region Inter-County Competition and in the County Cup our 18U girls team won division 2 to gain promotion back to division 1 and we were crowned 12 Counties Champions!

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019 – 2020 RESULTS

- Under 18 Girls County Cup Division 2 – **Winners**
- Under 9 Boys & Girls Winter Orange Festival – **Winners**
- 12 Counties Championships - **Winners**
- Under 18 Boys County Cup Division 2 - **Runners-up**
- Under 8 Boys & Girls East Region Inter County Competition – **Runners Up**

Mini-Tennis Orange Festival – **WINNERS**

The Mini-Tennis Orange Festival is the first mini-tennis competition of the year; it is a popular event for players in the 9U age category and involves eight counties competing in round robin boxes with over 80 singles matches being played in one day. The Hertfordshire 2020 team proved to be formidable; their team spirit, enthusiasm and level of play was superb! They topped their group and won the semi-final versus Hereford and Worcester to set up a repeat of the 2019 final against Cambridgeshire. The team competed



U9 Mini Orange Festival WINNERS

brilliantly and took the tie 8 – 1 to retain the title dropping only one match all day!

Team: **Adam, Xander, Ava-Rose, Tara,**
Captain: **Andre Mouskides**
Team Assistant: **Sofie.**

Mini-Red East Region Inter-County Competition – **RUNNERS-UP**

The Herts girls were first to play in the 2020 Mini-Red East Region competition and they got the Herts 8U off to a great start! They performed very strongly in their round robin group versus Suffolk, Bedfordshire and



12U 12 Counties Team



18U Girls County Cup Div 2a winners!

Norfolk and progressed to the semi-finals as group winners. In the semi-final the girls battled hard against an improved Berkshire team and won the match to set up the final versus Essex. The final was a very close match; the girls had to draw on all the skills they had practiced in training and their fantastic efforts saw the match finish in a 3-3 tie resulting in the need for a point count back to determine who would claim the gold medals... after some complicated maths it worked out that Essex had pipped Herts by 1 point! Our girls were brave, focussed and determined from start to finish and can be enormously proud of their silver medals.

Up next were the Herts boys who started their event with confident performances and convincing wins against Cambridgeshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire to win their group and progress to the semi-finals where they played Bedfordshire. The Bedfordshire team was tough competition, but our boys battled and fought hard to clinch a 4-2 victory. Both of our under 8 teams made the finals and as with the girls, the boys were also up against Essex. Every match in the final was strongly competed with sweat, tears and a grazed knee or two! Our boys gave it their all but on this occasion the Essex boys clinched the victory 4-2.

With both the girls' and boys' results taken into account Essex took the overall title for 2020 and Hertfordshire claimed a strong silver medal position. For most of our young team it was their first opportunity to represent Hertfordshire and they can all hold their heads high.

Girls: **Adaugo, Catherine, Esme, India, Macy, Mylie**
Boys: **Finlay, Huxley, Leo, Matthew, Oliver, Thomas**
Captains: **Monica Beccera and Charlotte Gibbons**

Herts Teams Reports

12 Counties Championship – Division 1 – CHAMPIONS

The annual 12 Counties event takes place over six months between October and March and sees county teams of 4 girls and 4 boys compete in singles matches in



10U 12 Counties Team

the 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s age groups. The results of each age group accumulate points to determine the overall finishing positions of participating counties.

After being promoted last year Herts were back in the top division for the 2019 – 2020 competition along with Essex, Middlesex and Buckinghamshire. Our teams competed strongly throughout the winter period and by the end of February we sat top of division 1 with only the 14s left to play their round. The Covid-19 lockdown halted play and we had to wait until September 2020 to get back into action. The 14s team went into the final day of the event knowing that Herts were just one point ahead of Middlesex, two points ahead of Essex and with the trophy up for grabs it was all to play for! In a modified team format, on a sunny day in Corby the 14s continued the brilliant run started by our teams earlier in the competition. The 14s boys finished a close 2nd just behind Essex and the girls won their group. These strong finishing positions added another 7 points to our overall tally resulting in Herts being crowned champions!

10u Boys – 2nd Place: Brandon, Daniel, Harry, Stefan

10u Girls – 3rd Place: Grace, Katie, Rose, Sophia,
Captain: Sammie Williams

12u Boys – 4th Place: Alexandru, Ben, Kaaviyan, Spencer

12u Girls – 1st Place: Arabella, Dina, Georgiana, Tamara,
Captain: Ian Zellner

14u Boys – 2nd Place: Alexander, Ben, Theo

14u Girls – 1st Place: Erin, Jody, Mafalda
Captain: Teresa Lilley

16u Boys – 2nd Place: Ben, Fabio, Joe, Michael

16u Girls – 1st Place: Anya, Catherine, Jessica, Lillie
Captain: Jamie Fallis

18u Boys – 1st Place: David, Fabio, Joe, Myles

18u Girls – 2nd Place: Catherine, Dascha, Jessica, Natalie
Captain: Chris Martin

County Cup 2020

In February 2020 our 18 & under teams were in action at the County Cup; the boys travelled to the Wirral and the girls to North Devon. Both were placed in Division 2 giving them a shot at getting back into the top national division.

The boys got off to a great start. Day one and two saw the boys take strong wins against Warwickshire and Cheshire to set up a final day promotion showdown versus Middlesex.

The boys put up a great fight but despite all their best-



16U 12 Counties Boys Team



16U 12 Counties Girls Team



18U 12 Counties Team



14U 12 Counties Teams

efforts Middlesex took the win. The captains reported great teamwork and Herts spirit both on and off court throughout the weekend and all can be very proud of their efforts.

The girls team were one of the youngest under 18 teams ever fielded by Herts and they proved to be a force to be reckoned with! It was a roller-coaster weekend with injuries



U18 Boys County Cup Div 2b Runners Up

and illness and despite the challenges on and off court the girls displayed great resilience and determination. There were fantastic individual and doubles performances, shrewd tactical decisions from the captains and some nail-biting matches. The girls won all three ties versus Dorset, Avon and Somerset to gain promotion back to the top division.

18u Boys – Runners-Up – Division 2b: **Alex, Andre, Ben, David, Joel, Michael, Myles, Oliver**

Captains: **Jamie Evans and James Buswell**

18u Girls – Winners – Division 2a: **Anya, Catherine, Dascha, Francesca, Jessica, Mafalda, Marelie, Natalie,**

Captains: **Sammie Williams & Ben Roberts-Law**

Unfortunately, the 18s were the only County Cup age group able to play in 2020 however, a number of friendly matches were organised throughout the summer and it was great to see our players back in team action. Everyone involved displayed the Herts Tennis values brilliantly, competed to a very high level and wore their Herts team shirts with pride! Friendly matches give more of our young players the opportunity to represent their County and have proved to be extremely popular so they will certainly be an ongoing

fixture.

Preparations for the 2020-2021 season are now underway with county training taking place on a regular basis across the age groups. To reflect the strength of Hertfordshire players at county level we have scheduled extra sessions for the 11U and 12U boys plus introduced new training sessions for 16U girls and 13U boys. As well as great preparation for team events county training is also an opportunity for our most committed, keen and strongest players to get together to enjoy and develop their tennis in a fun, focussed and high intensity environment underpinned by positive teamwork and the Herts Tennis values.

Despite tricky times the energy, enthusiasm and commitment shown by everyone involved in Herts Tennis has, as ever, been excellent and we would like to thank players, captains, assistants, parents and reserves for their ongoing support and loyalty to the Herts Tennis family.

Go Herts!

Teresa Lilley, Herts County Performance Manager

Honesty - Excellence - Resilience - Teamwork - Sportsmanship

Exciting New Programme for Herts Junior Tennis Players

The Herts Inspires My Tennis Future Programme

Herts Tennis is excited to announce the launch of a new programme for Hertfordshire tennis players in year 10 and above. The programme is for those who are actively involved in tennis and have a keen interest in exploring tennis careers and university pathways, developing their game and expanding their tennis knowledge and experiences.

The Herts Inspires My Tennis Future Programme will strengthen the pathway for Herts tennis players by providing participants with support, guidance and opportunities to improve their game, develop a range of transferable life skills and explore future tennis options.

Through the programme we aim to create a sense of engagement and belonging with the goal of keeping tennis players aged 14 – 18 involved in the game for the longer-term.

Players on the programme will have access to:

- Experience days ‘working in the world of tennis’,
- Personal playing development opportunities through on-court workshops and squad access,

- Tennis careers and university advice,
- Involvement in recognised Herts County activities and initiatives,
- Access to discounted LTA leaders, Level 1 and Level 2 courses,
- Support and mentoring towards achieving coach qualifications. And more...

On successful completion of the programme participants will qualify for:

- A certificate of achievement and recognition of involvement,
- An opportunity to request a reference for employment / university / DoFE,
- An opportunity to apply for ongoing career path training and support

The Herts Inspires My Tennis Future Programme is being made possible through partnerships between Herts Tennis and tennis coaches, Ucoach, clubs, venues and tennis professionals. The programme is not for profit and is funded by Herts Tennis; to assist with ongoing sustainability participants will pay an annual £100 fee.

For more information or to submit interest in being involved either as a tennis player or to work with us in the delivery of the programme please email Teresa Lilley at teresa.lilley@ntlworld.com

Individual Successes 2019-2020

Hertfordshire players continue to shine on the International and National stage. We are very proud of all their achievements. These statistics were accurate at the time the newsletter was produced.

MEN/BOYS

- USA Uni boys - Charlie Broom** - Baylor University; ATP 1162 singles, 1730 doubles, GB - 66 Brit Tour NTC singles W.
- Finn Bass** - Baylor University; ATP 1575 singles, 1120 doubles.
- Jake Penny** - Lipscomb University Nashville reading Psychology.
- James Wilkinson** - University of Delaware reading Economics.
- David Stevenson** - Memphis reading Business Economics; ATP 1910 Doubles.
- Daniel Martin** - University of Minnesota.
- David Latter** - Loughborough University.
- Myles Hall** - Leeds University.
- Joel** - ITF - 504, ITF 18U Norway Gr 4 D R/U, LTA Sutton 18U Gr 3 S W.
- Oliver** - ITF - 839, GB -131,18U - 39, ITF Gr 4 Cyprus S R/U, Brit Tour Glasgow S R/U, LTA Gr 2 Corby S W.
- Fabio** - ITF - 1160, TE - 361, GB 18U -111, 16U -26. LTA WNT - Champ. LTA Nat Youth Series wk. 2 16U - Champ. ITF Belgium Gr 5 S S/F.
- Ben** - GB 16U - 37.
- Joe** - GB 16U - 44. GB team in 15th Maccabi Games 18U doubles Gold, singles Bronze.
- Enrico** - GB - 14U - 37. LTA Nat Youth Series 14U S/F.
- Henry** - GB - 14U - 60.
- Spencer** - GB 12U - 46.
- Pavana** - GB 11U -12, Nat Youth Series 11U Champ.
- Rhys** - GB 11U -13, Nat Youth Series 11U 5th, Gr 3 12U Woodford Wells S W.
- James** - GB 11U - 17.
- Daniel** - GB 11U - 48.
- Adam** - LTA 10U recognised, LTA Nat Youth Series 10U 7th,
- Xander** - LTA 10U recognised, LTA Nat Youth Series 6th.

LADIES/GIRLS

- Katy Dunne** - WTA - 322 singles, 779 doubles, GB - 15. S.Africa 25K S S/F.
- Joanna Garland** - WTA - 551 singles, 748 doubles. Egypt 15K S W and S R/U.
- Anna Popescu** - WTA - 1213 singles, 593 doubles. Germany 25K D R/U, Latvia 15K D S/F. GB - 67.
- Emily Arbuthnott** - Masters Oxford linked with Stanford; WTA - 962 singles, 494 doubles, GB - 35, Egypt 15K D R/U.
- Uni girls - Georgie Walker** - Furman University 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.

Indianna Spink - University of Arkansas; GB - 62, 18U - 21.

Bella - ITF Liverpool Gr 5 D R/U, GB - 61, 18U - 20.

Annabel - ITF Liverpool Gr 4 D S/F, GB - 56, 18U - 18. Brit Tour Loughborough Gr 2 S S/F.

Catherine - GB 18U - 44, 16U - 10.

Natalie - GB team in 15th Maccabi games 18U Doubles Gold, singles Bronze.

Jessica - GB - 87, 18U - 38, 16U - 8. LTA GR 1 16U Nat Finals Q/F. 16U Nat Youth Series wk 3 3rd. Brit Tour Wrexham Q/F Giffnock Q/F, Glasgow Q/F, Loughborough Q/F.

Hannah - ITF 18U Gr 5 Germany D W, Gr 4 Liverpool D W, Gr 5 Italy D R/U, TE 14U -10, France Cat 1 D W, Sweden Sup Cat 1 D R/U. GB 42, 18U - 7, 16U - 1, 14U - 1. LTA 16U Nat Youth Series - 4th.

Hephzibah - TE 14U - 14, Denmark Cat 2 D R/U, France Cat 1 D W, Sweden Sup Cat 1 D R/U, Bolton Cat 1 S R/U, Russia Sup Cat D W, Turkey Cat 3 S W, Liverpool Cat 3 SD W. GB 18U - 53, 16U - 4, 14U - 3. Brit Tour Glasgow S/F.

Anya - GB 16U - 21.

Mafalda - GB 16U - 31, 14U - 9.

Marelie - TE Germany Cat 2 14U D S/F, GB 14U - 21.

Erin - GB - 14U - 23.

Ava - GB - 14U - 43, LTA Nat Youth Series 14U - 3rd.

Arabella - TE 12U Netherlands S R/U, GB 12U - 4. LTA Nat Youth Series 12U 3rd, WRT 12U S W.

Georgiana - GB 12U -15.

Michaela - GB 12U - 19.

Sophia - GB 12U - 22.

Gabby - GB 11U - 12.

Grace - GB 11U -13.

Erika - GB 11U - 15.

Katie - GB 11U - 22, LTA Nat Youth Series 11U - 5th.

Rose - LTA Nat Youth series 11U - 5th.

Tara - Winter Nat Tour Champ, LTA 10U recognised.

Julia - LTA 10U recognised.

Janet Corrie, Performance Chairman, Nov 2020

HERTS TENNIS VALUES

Honesty - Excellence - Resilience - Teamwork - Sportsmanship

Overview of Men's Seniors

HERTS SENIORS TENNIS – WINTER SEASON 2019 – 20

Over 45s

I will start this report by saying that from now onward, until who knows when, we may all be saying ARE WE PLAYING? or IS EVERYTHING OFF UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE?

Such was the situation in March when we all went into “lockdown” and everything closed. So where did that leave our Tennis League? With matches unplayed in EVERY division we had to decide in the end what to do and how to format our return to playing in 2020 – 21.

We subsequently decided to leave everything where it was at “lockdown time” so looking at The Over 45 CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION you will see it was won by Harpenden 1 who played ALL SIX matches. But if DL BUSHEY would have been able to complete their fixtures and won BOTH remaining matches it would have been a 1st time for DL Bushey. But that was not to be and unfortunately where this happened in other divisions, we could NOT allow any further matches to be played even after lockdown ended.

Fortunately the HERTS MENS SENIORS WINTER LEAGUE appears to be one of the few leagues running through the new season or 2020 – 21, which managed to get started by the end of September 2020, who knows how much of it will get completed? But with so many wanting to give everything a chance, it is “up and running”.

Returning to the League tables for 2019–20...

THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

A close fought battle between 2 teams - HARPENDEN 1 & DL BUSHEY - won by HARPENDEN 1

GROUP 1a

Winners: Townsend 2, Runners Up Elliswick 1

The big surprise here was that Berkhamsted were expected to do well but they really came unstuck and got only 8 points finishing just above Hertford who were relegated.

In other groups the winning pattern was very similar and the scoring very close.

Herts Men's Seniors Teams 2020

Unfortunately, there is nothing to report on county matches as they were all cancelled as a result of the pandemic.

The only comment I would make is that additional players are being sought in the 55 and 60 age groups, so any players who would like to be considered for the teams should contact me (via the County Office – hertstennis@gmail.com)

With the 45, 55 and 65 leagues we were faced with the situation that a number of matches were not played when the shutdown began and conditions did not allow for the

GROUP 1B – HARPENDEN 2

GROUP 2A – ORCHARD

GROUP 2B – POTTERS BAR

GROUP 3A – CODICOTE 1

GROUP 3B – CASSIOBURY 2

GROUP 4A – NORTHAW & CUFFLEY

Over 55s

THE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

Two teams dominated the CHAMPIONSHIP with LETCHWORTH 1 and HARPENDEN 1 far too strong for all the others. Letchworth won 6 matches, winning the league by 2 points from Harpenden 1 but then “dropped a bombshell” by withdrawing completely from league, as apparently, they were unable to find anyone to continue running their team. A big shame, but hopefully they may return in the future.

GROUP 1A – HODDESDON 1 (2 Promotions in succession)

GROUP 1B – HARPENDEN 2

GROUP 2A – ST ALBANS 1

GROUP 2B – WEST HERTS 1

GROUP 3A – BROXBOURNE

GROUP 3B – BROXBOURNE

GROUP 4A – ORCHARD

Over 65s

DIV 1A

With the Over 65's now running two Groups –

The competition has now been running for 4 years – it was thought that HARPENDEN A would be dominant but as it stood at “Lockdown” it was TOWNSEND who grabbed the honours!

DIV 1B

HARPENDEN 2 won the division

BASIL WEIN, League Organiser

few matches that would have confirmed the final league positions to be played. By the middle of the summer it was still not possible to play matches owing to the restrictions on competitive play. It was therefore decided to finalise the leagues based on the results available before the shutdown.

As I write this report we are again faced with a shutdown that may put the new winter season's leagues in jeopardy, but we will have to wait until restrictions are lifted before a decision can be made on finalising the current season.

I will close by thanking Basil Wein for all his hard work in running the leagues. He puts in a great deal of effort to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all those who take part.

Malcolm Fraser, Senior Men's Coordinator

Seniors Tennis

Overview of Ladies Seniors 2019-20

2019-2020 Well What a Season!

At the start of the season, storms Ciara and Dennis and other extreme weather weekends required many matches to be rearranged.

Then COVID-19 and Lockdown arrived and all match play ceased shortly before the end of the season. An average points system that had been used previously was again used to complete groups with un-played matches.

Current Season

All clubs and teams have been advised to follow LTA and Government guidelines, to keep on top of the latest guidance and to be responsible for COVID security. The Committee sent out to all clubs involved a COVID-19 League Delivery Plan. This provided guidance on organising outdoor sport and physical activity participation events; i.e. playing outside, avoiding car sharing, arriving at clubs dressed for tennis.

This year there are 117 teams in the league. Some teams have understandably not been able to field a team, but will try next year.

Over 40s

At the end of the season seven matches remained unplayed and calculations had to be made. Hoddesdon A won Group 1 and the following teams were all winners of their groups and were promoted for the 2020/21 season:

Orchard A, David Lloyd Hatfield A, Cassiobury, Broxbourne, Radlett A, Barnet A, Elliswick B, Potters Bar B.

Club Sign-Up for the Harris Cup

The summer of 2019, which seems like a lifetime ago now, saw the introduction of a new competition for clubs. The Harris Cup (named after two great servants to tennis in the County over many years, John and Val Harris) is a 2-pair knockout event culminating in a Finals day held at a different club each year.

With competitive inter club tennis dramatically limited over the summer for obvious reasons – the Herts League being perhaps the most notable casualty amongst events put over to next year - this was an opportunity to offer some competitive doubles to clubs and players who felt comfortable stepping out onto a court for matches against like minded opponents.

Last year's inaugural event proved to be a hit. A good entry, a raft of close matches decided on sets and in a number of cases, games, and a standard of tennis on a wet finals day at Hoddesdon which wouldn't have been out of place in the top divisions of the County Cup.

Would clubs want to enter the competition this year though, with limitations placed on everything from travelling in the

Over 50s

Harpenden had a good season. Their A team maintained the top spot in Group 1, having returned there the previous season and their B team topped Group 2B. Newly promoted St Albans A were worthy runners-up in Group 1, closely followed by Letchworth A. Group 2A was won by Bishop's Stortford A closely followed by Potters Bar A. Group 3A was won by Townsend A, Group 3B by Leverstock Green A, Group 4A by Rickmansworth C, Group 4B by Welwyn B and Group 5 by new team Townsend C.

Over 60s

Fortunately, almost all of the 60+ league matches were completed before lockdown. This year we had the same number of teams competing with the following teams winning their league:

Div A Harpenden A

Div 2A Potters Bar A

Div 2B Sawbridgeworth A

Div 3A Sawbridgeworth B

Div 3B Bishops Stortford 60B

We have started to get in results for the leagues as teams have mostly been quick off the mark to get matches played before Christmas.

Over 70s

Due to Covid-19 this will not take place in 2020 but hope to be back for 2021.

Patricia Rayner

same vehicle to entering club houses and with the threat of enhanced restrictions being introduced during the event? The answer was a resounding yes.

The entry in the competition's second year has been extremely promising, with three more clubs in both the Ladies' and Men's competitions and once again the quality of the teams on show looks mightily impressive.

The four finalists from last year – Moor Park and Bishops Stortford's Men and Hoddesdon and Berkhamsted's Ladies – are in separate halves of their respective draws, offering the tantalising prospect of at least one repeat final, but some great new teams have entered and one or two others who fell at the final hurdle last year will be determined to go one better this time, so everything is set for an exciting event.

The competition is in its early stages and with restrictions imminent looks like it will be played over a longer period than hoped, but with the desire that is very clearly out there for this sort of tennis I have absolutely no doubt it will get played to a finish.

Finally, many thanks to Berkhamsted for offering to host the finals this year and for being so flexible over when that day will actually be!

Lee Evans

Our organisation prepared our normal programme for the 2020 tennis season with no idea that the pandemic would totally change everything.

A month before the lockdown our entry forms were being updated, our venues booked and notifications were in the process of being sent out to schools. Then everything changed!

We were not able to run a single event this year. However, our work continued as our web host closed in June and we had to find a new host to start in July. We were not able to use the same software and will have to learn to use WordPress. As soon as we find someone who could set this up for us (for a small financial reward) or as soon as one of the officers can become proficient the website will re-emerge with the planned programme for 2021.

We can only proceed on the basis that the pandemic will end eventually and there will be a tennis season next year. Currently there are no interschool sport fixtures as the

events we run would bring too many schools together. This would make our events more equivalent to clubs in terms of social mixing and schools may not want to take the risk. It is one thing if a student catches Covid 19 at their sports club, quite another if they catch it at a schools' competition.

I would like to thank our teacher volunteers for their work in the organising of events for 2020. Much of the work is done before the day of the event, so thank you all for taking time out of your busy teaching schedules to support Herts Schools Tennis.

Our AGM will be on Zoom this year, we are finalising the details and will send them out to schools shortly.

So, in current circumstances, there is really nothing we can do except hope and plan. Hopefully a vaccine and better weather will improve things in 2021.

Pam Burrage, Chair

Mini Tennis

Hertfordshire Mini Tennis Winter Team League 2019-20

We tried very hard to get the Mini League completed and it was so sad that we were unable to run Finals Day as planned.

Over the years Mini League Finals Day has definitely been my favourite event of the year. We brought together some of our very best players in the Mini age groups and the standard of play year on year improved.

Many of the matches would go down to the very last few points but were always played in the best of spirits and the camaraderie amongst the competing clubs and their coaches was so good to see.

This season, again we had 70 teams entered from 22 clubs and 338 players participating.

The clubs that qualified for the main draw on Finals Day were as follows:

RED EVENT

Batchwood Red 1
Gosling Red 2
Letchworth Red A
Gosling Red 1

ORANGE EVENT

Gosling Orange 1
Harpenden Hurricanes
Letchworth A
Batchwood Orange 1

GREEN EVENT

Due to the number of teams entered we modified the Main Draw for this event. Sadly, there was insufficient time due to the pandemic situation to progress to the final four teams. We had hoped that by October of this year we would be in a position to complete the event but as we all know the virus seems to be winning.

I would like to thank all the clubs, coaches, volunteer parents and players who have made the Mini League possible. It has been a pleasure to set this up and organise it over the years and I have met so many lovely people during this time.

I shall remember Herts Tennis with fondness and will keep in touch.

Jennifer Keates, Mini Tennis

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