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**Club Focus- Dellcott Family Tennis Club**



A very warm welcome to the first *Herts Bulletin* of 2023!

We're hoping *The Bulletin* will give you more of an idea about what's going on around the county and who knows, in some cases even provide some useful or inspiring ideas which may lead to trying out new things wherever you play your tennis.

We'd love Herts' wonderful army of volunteers to get to see it, so if you are one of the lucky ones who receive the communication directly, can I count on you forwarding it on to as many volunteers at your venue as you can please. Thank you!

What have we got in store for you inside this edition? Quite a lot actually....and a real variety at that! There's something for those of you who like their club to be one for all the family with a look at the amazing Dellcott Family Tennis Club, there's a bit of spice too with news of our first Extraordinary General Meeting for years, there's great news if you follow how our representative teams do, there's something for those who want to learn more about what the heck we get up to all year round on the Management Committee...and there's even something for those of you who have dared to dream of becoming a county champion!

We're still not getting inundated with feedback on what you've seen so far or ideas on what you want to see in future editions of *The Bulletin*, so if you ever get the urge, please, please do let us know. You can do that at [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com).

Finally, my colleagues and I are really looking forward to visiting even more venues this year. Many thanks to those of you who have thrown their venue's doors wide open to us so far – it's been a real treat to find out first hand what you have to offer - but while there's still half a tank in the tour bus, please keep the invitations coming!

Who are my colleagues? Well, I could have been speaking about a multitude of people when I say that because there are so many amazing volunteers in Hertfordshire who give up their time to help develop this lovely game we all enjoy playing. On this occasion though, I was talking about my colleagues on the County's Management Committee. Each of them put their hand up once again at December's AGM to give their all for another year. As you're about to find out, we're on the look out for new kids on the block, but for now huge thanks to the current team for everything that you do.

And with that, let me leave you to enjoy the rest of the Bulletin.

*Lee Evans*

***Dates for your diary***

- Tennis Volunteer Community Virtual Coffee Meetings, 12th April, 2–3pm and 7-8pm
- Tennis Volunteer Community 'In Conversation with Scott Lloyd', 25th April, 2.00-3.30pm
- Closing date for entering the County Champs Open and Senior events (29th April)
- Coach Ed event with Lucie Ahl, 9th May
- National Girls Schools Doubles Tournament, 13th May (Closing date 30th April)
- Volunteering with Herts Tennis, 22nd May, 7pm

## Proposed Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023



As explained at the recent Annual General Meeting, there have been certain governance changes within the organisation of the game's governing body, The LTA, which require some changes within the organisation of Herts LTA. The changes at the LTA are to move the year end to 31 December and to change the way in which Counties are to be funded going forward.

There has also been considerable discussion with the LTA about the merits of each County Association operating within a limited company arrangement, in order to limit the liability of the members, as well as the members of the County's Management Committee.

For several years, Herts LTA has operated two not for profit companies limited by guarantee. The first of these provides support to our indoor tennis centre at Gosling, receives court hire income and operates our staff payroll. More recently, this company has also served to provide services to the Herts Tennis Foundation. The second company receives sponsorship income and provides funds to run our county teams and coaching programmes.

The purpose of the EGM will be to approve the proposal to change the year ends of our operating companies to 31 December from their existing date, 30 September. This means they will be coterminous with the LTA.

We also wish to transfer the assets and undertakings of Herts LTA, the unincorporated association, into the operation of Herts Tennis Centres Ltd. and to change the name of this company to Herts LTA Ltd. The existing Herts LTA will then cease to trade.

Complicated? Yes! All will be explained in more detail at the EGM though. Upon approval, the Management Committee will be able to implement the necessary changes so that with effect from 1 January 2024 all changes will be implemented.

We look forward to seeing many Member clubs and venues at the EGM in order to obtain agreement to these changes.

Should you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact our Honorary Treasurer, Martin Corrie, our President, Lee Evans, or our LTA Councillor, Bridie Amos.

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### Coming up:

#### Tennis Volunteer Group 'In Conversation with Scott Lloyd' 25th April, 2.00-3.30pm

The Tennis Volunteer Group is holding a virtual event with Scott Lloyd, the Chief Executive of the LTA. Scott will be responding to questions about British Tennis and the LTA. To attend this event, please register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/ZctcOmgrDMsGNNTxsVq5375annhjOeRLdvg>

Any questions for Scott need to be pre-submitted to Simon Spalter at: [tennis@eceltd.co.uk](mailto:tennis@eceltd.co.uk)

**Tennis Volunteer Community**

Join us for a  
**A Virtual Coffee**  
Wednesday 12th April 2-3pm and 7-8pm

The theme of the next conversation is: 'Attracting new members to your clubs in 2023'. Please register via links in caption.

Join the group by finding us on Facebook!

**Tennis Volunteer Community**

To join the Tennis Volunteer Community Facebook group, search for us or scan the QR code

**In Conversation with Scott Lloyd**  
Chief Executive of the Lawn Tennis Association  
**Tuesday 25th April 2023 2pm-3.30pm**

Your chance to hear from Scott live, responding to the questions you've always wanted answered about British Tennis and the LTA.

Scott is very excited to meet (virtually) volunteers from clubs, venues and counties to engage with you all.

What does the LTA do for you? And what do you do for British tennis?

Questions to be submitted in advance.

Please register for the Zoom call using this link:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/ZctcOmgrDMsGNNTxsVq5375annhjOeRLdvg>

## Performance News



Huge congratulations to our Boys and Girls 18U teams and their dedicated Captains who have won Group 2a and 2b and gained promotion to Group 1 next year. Put early March 2024 in Bath in your diaries for fabulous tennis and great Herts team spirit. Photos can be found on our Herts website or Facebook page.

Alongside this great result our Men's and Ladies' team were invited to a match versus the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon on the 12th of March. They represented us with style and expertise showing our great values of team spirit and commitment. The men had a 3-1 win and the ladies shared at 2-2.

Our 10U-18U 12 Counties teams have been competing at Corby throughout the winter and with just the 14U teams to play we are sitting 2nd in Division 1. This is a very high standard competition and again thank you to our County Captains.

Congratulations also go to Gosling Tennis Centre on their inclusion on the LTA Performance Pathway as a Regional Player Development Centre from September 2023.

Our Herts Inspires your Tennis Future Programme goes from strength to strength. This Herts initiative is to encourage our players from 14-18 to stay involved in our game and learn every aspect we can source to help and include them in our sport. Highlights in recent months have been an on court session with ex Professional Ed Corrie (achieved ATP 200 ranking), showing how drills and learning can be fun, plus some anecdotes of life on the tour. The group also accessed a zoom meeting giving help and advice on the application processes for university in both the UK and the USA.

The programme is open to applications for players of all standards from year 9. Please contact Teresa Lilley at [teresa.lilley@ntlworld.com](mailto:teresa.lilley@ntlworld.com) if you have any players or families interested in joining this great programme

*Janet Corrie*

*Photo: Herts ladies' team at Wimbledon: Erin, Georgie, Kat and Marelie.*

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## What's happening in Education?

*Herts Tennis teams up with the regional LTA team and coach development centre to connect with teachers.*



In January a team from Herts Tennis together with Josh Dashwood (LTA regional workforce development partner) participated in the **Herts Schools PE Conference**.

This is an annual event organised by the Herts Sports Partnership where all primary heads and PE leads are

invited to a full day's conference including lectures, workshops and the opportunity to engage with sports providers via the 'marketplace'. We manned a stand in the marketplace to promote the LTA Youth Schools teacher training programme, available both as a two-hour online course and now as a face-to-face course by arrangement. The LTA Tennis Foundation is providing £250 of vouchers for curriculum time coaching or equipment to any school that completes the training. We were also able to share information from the Herts Schools Association about the friendly schools competitions they run at red, orange and green – a perfect way for pupils to get their first taste at representing their school at tennis.

It was a great opportunity to engage with lots of teachers about the LTA training and about developing links to their local venues and coaches. If anyone wants any further information about teacher training or about school competitions, please contact Carole at [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com)

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We had another opportunity to connect with the education sector in February at the **Generation Welwyn Hatfield Careers Fair** for secondary school and college students organised by Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council. This time Carole and Josh were joined by Liz Jones from UCoach (UCoach being the Coach Development Centre for Herts). Schools and further education colleges booked slots throughout the day for their 16-18 year olds to come and explore potential career options and this was a great opportunity to talk to them about a potential career in tennis coaching, or just to get them interested in exploring doing their coach assistant qualification as a way to help out at their local club and earn a few pennies. UCoach offered a discount on the coach assistant course for those who attended and Josh's amazing patter was an inspiration

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for how to engage teenagers, so we're optimistic we've inspired many budding new tennis coaches! Bridie joined the Herts team for the open session at the end of the day, where pupils visited the stands with their parents. It was great to chat to so many enthusiastic young people and hopefully we'll see some sign ups to coach qualification courses this year!

Huge thanks to Carole, Liz and Josh. If you know of any young people thinking of exploring a career in coaching, wanting to do their coach assistant (level 1) or just starting out with a leaders course, then do get in touch via Carole at [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com).



*Josh Dashwood and Liz Jones manning the stand.*

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### *National Girls Schools Doubles Tournament – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at Queenswood School.*

Herts Tennis is now organising this annual event (now in its 101<sup>st</sup> year and formerly held at Harpenden LTC) which attracts female players from across the region who compete for their school in 14U, 16U and 19U doubles events. Entries come directly from schools so please encourage students to get their school to enter here:

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/dMCEgFygDz> Entries close on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

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### *Herts Tennis Coaches Forum and UCoach working together to develop coaches.*

There are lots of good CPD opportunities this year from both UCoach and the Herts Tennis Coaches Forum. Do visit the UCoach website for full details of their workshops, qualification, safeguarding and first aid courses: <https://ucoach.org.uk/>



In February, Alison Allard and her Herts Tennis Coaches Forum team hosted a very successful training day with **Enrique Guldberg** (pictured), Director of the Elite Tennis Academy in Barcelona. The theme was combining traditional coaching

insights from neuroscience to develop mental strategies and the day was attended by 23 coaches.

### *Coming Up*

On 9<sup>th</sup> May the Herts Tennis Coaches Forum and UCoach are teaming up to deliver a coach ed event with **Lucie Ahl**, former British No. 1, now coach, LTA tutor, and commentator. It will be an interactive session, learning drills used by the top British players and how to adapt and use them in your own coaching programmes. Visit [www.hertstennis.co.uk](http://www.hertstennis.co.uk) for full details and an application form.

*Bridie Amos*

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### **Find out about volunteering with Herts Tennis**

Many people choose to volunteer in tennis, from helping at events, supporting local clubs, getting involved in opening tennis up to new audiences or helping on committees. Volunteering can be incredibly rewarding and is vital to delivering tennis right here in Herts – so huge thanks to all our volunteers!

Herts LTA is largely run by volunteers and we would love to welcome new recruits to join the family! There are a range of committee and non-committee roles available, as well as opportunities to help at county competitions. We're hosting a short session to provide a little more information about how you can get involved and give you the opportunity to ask the team any questions.

### **Volunteering with Herts Tennis – 22 May 2023 on zoom at 7pm**

Please register your interest by contacting Carole at [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com)

## Club Focus – The Wonderful Dellcott Family Tennis Club



Based in Welwyn Garden City, Dellcott Family Tennis Club is a three court club set in a unique and tranquil location. We are tucked away in an original Garden City residential area just a short walk from the town centre.

Since the Covid lockdown we have been on a journey to develop the club into a hub for the community. We want to broaden our offering and have invested heavily in the facilities and grounds so that we can use our space in other ways.

The club benefits from large grounds. It is an area where children play and people gather and we want to encourage that. An overgrown and derelict area has been cleared to create an open grassed multiuse space. Original fruit trees have been pruned and new trees planted so we now have an orchard and members can help themselves to apples.

We are also looking to broaden our sporting offering. Like many clubs we have the challenge of keeping the older generation active. In 2020 we introduced Pickleball thanks to some initial funding from GLL. This has grown rapidly, attracted new members and brought retired tennis members back to the club. We now offer a reduced-rate Pickleball-only membership and a number of our Pickleball members have trained to become level 1 PB leaders.

Our junior programme has grown rapidly in the last two years, benefitting from tennis being one of the few permitted sports after the first lockdown. In 2022 we had over 140 different juniors attending one of our courses; either at a local school, at one of our tennis Fun Days, or at LTA Youth coaching sessions. We are fortunate to have been supported by 7 coaches and a team of 6 Tennis Leaders who work to ensure that their sessions are fun and engaging.

A significant challenge for our adult members has been finding a way for members to communicate with each other. We have created a number of WhatsApp groups that members can join by scanning a QR code on the club noticeboard. These groups have helped new members to meet others and find people to play with. This year the groups have been more active than ever, as members use WhatsApp to arrange ad hoc matches and some competitive doubles.

Next year will be a big year for DFTC as we will be celebrating our centenary. In the run up to 2024 we have some ambitious plans to partner with a mental health support charity as part of our community hub development. We will also train 10 more of our juniors through the LTA Tennis Leaders programme and expand our tennis offering so that 2024 will be full of activity.

*Dan Kennedy*

*Chair*

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## New events at this year's County Championships



The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that the entry period has just opened for several new events that come under the banner of The County Championships.

Entries for the Open (adult) events at the County Champs, which are typically held over a week at the end of the summer school holidays, have been extremely low for many years, often leading to us having insufficient players to even run them. We were therefore all ears when our organiser in chief, Jamie Broomfield, suggested trying something completely different.

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There are 15 new events; Men's and Ladies singles, Men's and Ladies doubles and Mixed doubles in each of the three categories, Open, 35+ and 50+; and these events will be played across the county in the form of postal tournaments over the summer before culminating in finals, which will be played alongside the other (junior) finals at the wonderful Rickmansworth Tennis Club on 26th August.

We plan to dedicate a section in a future edition of the Bulletin to recounting tales of fantastic competition and newly crowned Herts Champions, so please do get behind the new style events. We could be talking about you!

You can take the first step here:

<https://bit.ly/HertfordshireOpenandSeniorCountyChamps2023>

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## Safeguarding Update

There is a new LTA Code of Conduct which sets out the standards that are expected and required of participants, reflecting the LTA's vision to open up tennis to everyone in the community. It is important to uphold good sporting behaviour and promote the use of appropriate language both on and off court and there is a link to this and other useful guidance on the use of Social Media on our recently updated Safeguarding page <https://hertstennis.co.uk/about-about-us/safeguarding/>

Member welfare has been brought into sharper focus since the impact of covid and lockdown. Experiencing difficulties with our mental health is common but can be frightening and confusing. The LTA is currently piloting training for coaches that will also be rolled out to key volunteers and a number of venues are exploring how to provide local signposts for members.

MIND is one organisation which offers some useful information and support; call 0300 123 3393 or email [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk) You may always call the Samaritans in confidence on 116 123 or Childline on 0800 1111, who are available 24/7.

The LTA has just launched a Young Persons Welfare Ambassadors Pilot, designed to attract young volunteers between the ages of 11 - 25 to support their venue Welfare Officer. We are grateful to Jessie Hosking from Harpenden for volunteering her services and look forward to seeing how this positive initiative develops over the next 12 months.

All Level 2+ Coaches are now required to be accredited and it is best practice for your committee to monitor deadlines for renewing DBS checks and training for all staff and volunteers. If you are in any doubt as to the minimum safeguarding requirements, please refer to the LTA Safeguarding page:

<https://lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding-protection>

The Regional Safeguarding Officer, Melissa Miller, has now resumed her visiting programme and both planned and unannounced visits are being made. Please feel free to seek support from Tessa Terry concerning the completion of the online Self-Assessment Form <https://lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding-protection/venue-safeguarding-standards>

We are planning to bring Welfare Officers and other key officers together at a number of informal networking events this year following the cluster meeting boundaries and we thank Moor Park for volunteering to host the first one of these. If you would like to register your interest in attending or hosting a future event, please let Tessa or Carole know.

Tessa Terry: [csohertfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:csohertfordshire@gmail.com)

Carole Draper: [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com)

However, where there is a concern about abuse/disclosure from a child or adult at risk, (unless someone is in immediate danger or risk of harm, in which case the police should be called on 999), please follow the Safeguarding Report Procedure:

Contact the LTA Safeguarding Team on [safeguarding@lta.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@lta.org.uk);  
complete the Online Concern Form <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk>; and  
inform the County Safeguarding Officer on [csohertfordshire@gmail.com](mailto:csohertfordshire@gmail.com)

If you are unable to contact/feel uncomfortable contacting the LTA Safeguarding Team/CSO, you may contact the Local Authority Designated Officer through Children's Services on 03001234043 or Adult Services on 0300 123 4042 or the NSPCC on 0800 500 5000.

*Tessa Terry*  
*County Safeguarding Officer*

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