



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

ISSUE 8

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Top stories in this bulletin



National Champions



Wimbledon Champion



More Wimbledon Champions?



Hello again everybody and welcome to the 8th edition of the Herts Bulletin. You can find the earlier editions here. [HERE](#)

It may be getting colder and the nights starting to drawing in big time, but fear not, there's still plenty of scintillating tennis being played and stories from across the county to share with you.

We'll bring you news of another outstanding triumph for our Ladies team at the Summer County Cup, more national success for young and very old (sorry guys!) Herts stars, another World Record (actually two) for Rickmansworth's amazing Mark O'Brien and a lovely piece provided by Elliswick on what looks like a wonderful day for the club at Wimbledon as part of their Centenary celebrations.

That's not enough for you? It's like that is it! In that case, why don't we take a look at how a few of our competitions are shaping up. I'll bring you the latest from The Herts League and The Harris Cup and tell you what, we'll also share a few highlights from this year's County Champs with you. Is that more like it?

Oh and we're not even going to ask for much in return! Just a little help in recognising some of those among you who make this game of ours so enjoyable please. I know what you're thinking... it can't be a year since we last came to you for help with that. Unbelievably, yes it is!

I can't let you go without one final request. Tell us what you'd like to hear about in future bulletins. Message us at hertstennis@gmail.com or cut out the middle man and send in a contribution all of your own.

Oh ok...two. Help us by sharing the Bulletin with the volunteers at your venue. This is their communication.

Thanks everybody!

Lee Evans

Dates for your diary

- LTA Awards – Nomination period open now and until 30th November
- Safeguarding Awareness Day, Saturday 5th October
- Harris Cup Finals Day at Codicote LTC, from 10.30am on Saturday 12th October
- LTA registration – just a reminder that venue registration opens shortly; Club Main Contacts should receive a communication directly from the LTA. Further information is available [HERE](#) if you want to check out what is required ahead of renewing your registration
- Support our Men’s and Ladies County teams in the National Winter County Cup at Bath (Men) and Boston (Ladies), 22nd to 24th November
- Padel County Championships Finals at Bishop’s Stortford, Sunday 15th December
- LTA Coaches forum at Batchwood, 9.30am on Thursday 31st October. 4 hours, £30, 4 coach credits - you can book your place [HERE](#). *Overview - Mental skills are critically important in tennis but are rarely trained. This session will help you to better develop your players by training mental skills and drills across concentration, control of emotion and communication in a practical on-court session.*
- Save the Date! – Open Court Coaches/Clubs Conference on Thursday 21 November, *location and timing tbc*, 3 hours. Herts Tennis is teaming up with Middlesex Tennis to deliver a short conference covering all things open court. The event is aimed at BOTH coaches AND club committee members or open court leads with practical on court sessions and discussion topics. If you want to know more about how you can deliver open court sessions and make your venue more inclusive then this conference is for you.

Tennis Volunteer Community:

Q&A Sessions

- Thursday 3rd October 1pm : ‘All you need to know about 2025 LTA venue registration. How to do it and why your club should register.’

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMldeCqgT4vE9zl92ioqLBqIfBiHRT_dwji

- Tuesday 13th November 7-9pm: We will be joined by Abbie Lench (LTA head of national delivery) and Olly Scadgell (LTA Managing Director) A real opportunity to speak to the people running our game at a national level.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUodeCsqDltHtRixkEUJNzVGWM1Og-17O_8

For information on all of the Tennis Volunteer Community events and to register, please go to <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisCommunitiesHub> or contact Simon Spalter at tennis@eceltd.co.uk



Help to recognise someone you know who makes a difference to the sport we love

Nominations for the LTA Tennis Awards for 2025 are up and running!

Is there somebody out there who has been making a real difference to how much you, or perhaps your children, have been enjoying your tennis? If so, this is your opportunity to do something about it.

As a county we still don't make anything like as many nominations as we could. On our visits to venues, my colleagues and I see at first hand wonderful stuff going on at each and every one, yet not a single nomination is made at most.

You can help change that. If you know a person, be it a volunteer, a coach or an official, or else a club, a school or even a competition that is making a real difference to people's enjoyment of the game, please do something about it today. Nominate them for an award using this link: <https://www.lta.org.uk/what-we-do/lta-tennis-awards/>

There are no excuses for us now. The form for submitting a nomination has been simplified, making it much easier to recognise someone than ever before, so please don't do what most of us do and leave it to somebody else to put in that nomination. They probably won't. Nominate somebody today!



Our amazing Ladies triumph again!

Another wonderful week of tennis on Devonshire Park's lush grass courts in Eastbourne in late July saw our Ladies team crowned National Summer County Cup champions for a mind boggling 5th year on the trot!

The team once again won all 5 of its matches to seemingly clinch the title earlier in the week than ever before. Huge congratulations to captain Amanda Elliott and her all conquering team from everybody involved with Herts Tennis.

Our Men also played beautifully but had literally no luck whatsoever. This was particularly true when it came to tie breaks, where they lost what must be a record 13 out of the 14 Champions tie breaks played! As a result, they will play in Group 2 next year. Had they won just half of those tie breaks, the story could have been so very different and in fact more akin to the Ladies. They should be rightly proud of their record of successive years in Group One – a staggering 20, way ahead of any other team – and should look forward to the next campaign with optimism.



Our Men's Over 80s team is the best in the country

Huge congratulations to our Men's Over 80s team, whose recent nail biting last gasp win against main rivals Essex means they can call themselves national champions for the very first time.

The squad of John Barnet (captain), Richard Rowlandson, Rex Poulter, Peter Morton and David Whiteson won all four matches they played against the best from Kent, Dorset, Hampshire and Essex. Your county is proud of you, Gentlemen!

**Photo courtesy of Raphaele photographs*

Codicote LTC ready to host this year's Harris Cup finals



Townsend will be looking to make it three titles in a row

Codicote is the place to be on Saturday 12th October to see some of the county's best players battling it out for their clubs in the finals of this season's Harris Cup, the county's 2-Pair Knockout Cup competition.

Everybody is welcome. Play starts at 10.30am and is expected to go on beyond 4pm, with light refreshments and an open bar available throughout the day.

With these mouth-watering semi-finals being played over the next two weeks, I can't announce the finalists yet, but I can guarantee the level of the tennis on show.

Ladies semi-finals	-	St Albans v Harpenden	Moor Park v Townsend
Men's semi-finals	-	Townsend v Welwyn	Rickmansworth v Harpenden

So why not join me at Codicote on Saturday week for a sandwich and a cuppa (or something stronger). Oh and some scintillating tennis!

Codicote LTC John Clements Sports & Playing Fields, Bury Lane, Codicote, SG4 8XY
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CodicoteTennisClub>

And this year's Herts League Champions are.....

There may still be a handful of matches to be played in this season's Herts League, but following good away wins over the weekend our Men's and Ladies champions for 2024 can be officially crowned.

Wins at West Herts for Gosling's Ladies and at Gosling for Harpenden's Men mean they can no longer be caught. In fact both teams have had magnificent campaigns, each winning all six of their matches.

The contrast in the history of the two clubs couldn't be starker when it comes to success in the Herts League. While this is just the 2nd time that Gosling has won the Ladies title, Harpenden has now lifted the Men's shield a whopping 34 times.

However, for Gosling both titles have come in the last 5 years, whereas Harpenden has had a relatively barren spell since winning their 32nd title back in 2007. Challengers to their crown should be warned though. They're back with a bang!

A wonderful week at the 2024 County Championships

Players of all ages from across the county headed to beautifully sunny Rickmansworth in late August for this year's County Championships.

There were so many highlights it would be unfair to single anyone out. Instead, I'll let you peruse the Champions and Runners-Up, which you can do [here](#) and focus on the wonderful behaviour of our current crop of players. The Herts values, which I'm sure you all know off by heart by now – Honesty, Excellence, Resilience, Teamwork and Sportsmanship - were everywhere to be seen and thankfully barely a racket was thrown or bad word uttered.

Huge thanks as always to the members at Rickmansworth for giving up their courts for the week and for making everybody feel so welcome and to the army of officials and volunteers who helped to ensure the event ran so beautifully.



Honesty – Excellence – Resilience – Teamwork – Sportsmanship



Mark gets himself a New World Record

In our [September 2023 edition](#) we brought you the tragic news that Rickmansworth's Mark O'Brien had been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), a terminal condition that impacts the brain, nerves, and muscles and eventually leads to respiratory failure.

Mark's reaction, to tackle the condition head on, came as no surprise to everyone who knew him. Last year he broke the World Record for the longest ever unaided open water swim for a person living with the condition, by swimming a crazy 11km in Denham Lake.

Has he taken it a bit easier this year? Not on your Nellie! On 1st September Mark attempted not one, but two World Record swims in one day, with the focus on speed not endurance this time. How did he get on? He smashed them!

You can read about Mark's story, journey and record swims on his just giving page <https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/4026/guinness-world-record-attempts/> and if you or your venue haven't donated yet but would like to, you can do that there too. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed so far.

Editor's note: Apologies to any ELO fans among our readers, who were expecting to read all about their classic 1976 album



GB No. 1 from Watford wins Wimbledon Visually Impaired Tennis Finals without dropping a game.

19 year-old Ivan Rodriguez Deb has just won the tournament of his life having played at the Visually-Impaired Tennis Finals at Wimbledon on Saturday 17th September without dropping a single game.

Ivan who is a member of the hugely supportive West Herts and Watford Tennis Club and David Lloyd Northwood started playing visually-impaired tennis when he was 13 years old and has been in the GB squad since he was 14. "Receiving the singles winner's trophy at the world's most prestigious tennis club is every tennis player's dream and I still can't quite believe it." says Ivan who now has his sights set on winning the National Visually-Impaired Tennis Championships for the 5th consecutive time later this year.

Ivan would like to thank Herts Tennis and West Herts and Watford Tennis Club for their generous support and all those who have helped him bring the Wimbledon trophy home to Watford.

Visually impaired tennis is very similar to traditional tennis except that the court is slightly smaller and an audible ball is used.

Elliswick at Wimbledon



Elliswick Lawn Tennis Club was invited by the All England Lawn Tennis Club to participate in its Centenary Clubs Tournament at the Wimbledon Championship Courts on 4th September. A total of eight clubs from all over the country, including Scotland and Wales (and Moor Park!), took part. Elliswick's Chairman, Eric Rovick, said, "The opportunity to play tennis on Wimbledon's famous grass courts was fantastic. Andy Murray's club from Dunblane played in the tournament and we had the pleasure to meet Jamie Murray on the day."

The day at Wimbledon included tours of the grounds and museum, and a champagne reception and dinner in the Centre Court clubhouse. Elliswick will conclude its centenary celebrations with a dinner dance in October.



Eric Rovick, Andree Haxton (Elliswick), Jamie Murray, Alastair Heapy (Moor Park TC), Vivien Mrowiec (Moor Park TC) and Dan Bloxham (Wimbledon Head Coach)



Meet Stuart Foster



We'd like you to get to know us better, so in each bulletin we focus on a different member of the Management Committee. I decided to pick on Stuart Foster, our Community Lead, this time, although having seen that I'm one of his favourite opponents I'm starting to wish I hadn't!

Have you always been a Herts lad?

Born in Watford and lived in Herts thereafter.

You've been a member at a few of our clubs haven't you?

Leverstock Green, David Lloyd (Heston), West Herts & Watford and Chesham Bois (Bucks).

Have you represented the county?

Yes I have at tennis, football, volleyball, racketlon, pickleball and now padel.

How long have you been involved with Herts Tennis?

Initially in 2002, when I was given the honour of captaining the Herts Over 35 Team for 8 years. I jointed the Management Committee about 6 years ago.

Have you got a favourite tennis related story?

In 2003, I played in the Over 40s ITF World Championships singles and had to play an ex pro, Anders Jarryd, on the stadium court in Germany. One of my friends carried a borrowed racket bag onto court for me. Alas I lost 1-6 0-6, but a great experience indeed.

Something tells me you like travelling. Have you got a favourite holiday destination?

Vancouver (Canada).

What's all this about you and a Golden Slam? I know you're good but you're not that good, surely!

In 2024, my partner and I managed to pull off the Golden Spectator Grand Slam (Australia Open, French Open, Wimbledon, Paris Olympics and US Open) from the end of January to the end of August.

Oh and tell us about your entry in the Guinness Book of World Records?

Graham Fish and I have appeared in the 2006 book for the most club doubles championships won as a pair. We then went on to win 25 titles at Leverstock Green. Thanks Fishy!

When you're playing for Leverstock Green, have you got a favourite club to play away matches at?

West Herts & Watford.

I know you love all of the forms of tennis (Beach, Padel, Pickleball etc) but have you got a favourite?

Beach Tennis, which favours my favourite tennis shot - the lob volley! But they all have their merits to help people stay active whatever the age.

Favourite artist/band?

Talk Talk.

Favourite food/meal?

Thai.

Favourite opponent on a tennis court?

Graham Fish and Lee Evans.

Least favourite opponent?

Nick Fulwood.

Safeguarding and Welfare Officer Update



Venue Registration

The 2024/2025 window has come round again and all Chairpersons will have received a link to their venue portal to check if the safeguarding standards are met.

Standards for Deployment

Take this opportunity to remind yourself of the checks and training that should be in place for anybody that you employ on court who is not an LTA Accredited Coach:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/4a2862/globalassets/standards-for-deployment-aug-2024.pdf>

Improved DBS Process

Digital ID now allows you to verify your documents using your smartphone, tablet or PC without leaving home. This new service is cheaper than going to the Post Office and saves time.

Safeguarding Training

The new LTA induction training for Welfare Officers is still available online:

<https://vimeo.com/941909003/300cf4f8a8>

Young Person's Welfare Ambassador Programme

YPWAs are young people aged 14-24 who can play an important role in safeguarding at LTA registered venues. Get involved by completing this online form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/FGbpmtvf7d>

LTA Safe to Play Annual Safeguarding Conference 5th October 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

This is a must in the diary for all Welfare Officers, but is open to all. You may still register:

<https://eur.cvent.me/ZGwv3>

Herts Sports Partnership

Sign up to the free HSP welfare newsletter [HERE](#)

Communications

Please ensure our Bulletins are circulated to your Welfare Officers as they are not on our distribution list. LTA Newsletters for Welfare Officers are also issued quarterly, so please make sure their contact details are up to date on your venue registration.

Tessa Terry

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<https://hertstennis.co.uk/about-about-us/safeguarding>

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

**Photo courtesy of the LTA*