



HERTS TENNIS

Glory days are here again!



IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Report
People and Clubs
Teams Reports
Individual Successes
Herts Awards
Seniors Round-up
Schools

HERTS TENNIS

Issue 18 February 2025

Herts LTA Monthly Draw (200 Club)

The County runs a 200 Club to increase the funds available to support tennis at both junior and senior level. The 200 Club is open to all members of affiliated (registered) bodies and to individuals that are interested in supporting the aims of the county.

Winners 2024

JANUARY 2024

£40	95	Greenwood Park
£30	47	Codicote
£20	40	Codicote
£10	207	Mr Bowler
£10	235	Mr I Duncan

FEBRUARY 2024

£100	219	Mrs A Allard
£40	137	Mr A Sheridan
£30	82	Mr A Sheridan
£20	221	Mrs A Allard
£10	211	Mr M Corrie
£10	77	Mrs D Gaffney

MARCH 2024

£40	100	Mrs C Morris
£30	199	Mr Bowler
£20	201	Mrs S Vallance
£10	221	Mrs A Allard
£10	7	Mr T Adamson

APRIL 2024

£40	111	Mrs S Astley
£30	139	Mrs P Hall
£20	234	Mr I Duncan
£10	134	Mr G Westwell
£10	35	Codicote

MAY 2024

£40	201	Mrs S Vallance
£30	86	Mrs P Hall
£20	205	Mr M Bowler
£10	61	Mrs C Grigg
£10	13	Mr G Westwell

JUNE 2024

£40	18	Greenwood Park
£30	15	Mr J Banham
£20	3	Mrs J Allnutt
£10	205	Mr Bowler
£10	44	Mr B Dixon

JULY 2024

£40	48	Mr B Hosier
£30	163	Mrs E Mann
£20	21	Mrs R A Chisholm
£10	299	Mr G Westwell
£10	189	Mrs C Herbert

To join the 200 Club and be entered into the monthly prize draw each member pays a subscription of £1 per month or £12 per year which is payable by standing order. A member may increase their chances of winning by holding more shares at £1 per month per share. Each month a draw takes place for prizes of **£40, £30, £20, £10, £10. Twice per year there is an additional prize of £100.**

Applications can be made by contacting the Herts Tennis office at hertstennis@gmail.com

AUGUST 2024

£100	209	Codicote
£40	268	Mr A Sheridan
£30	113	Mr G W Lamb
£20	138	Mr A Sheridan
£10	153	Mrs C Herbert
£10	174	Mr A Greenwood

SEPTEMBER 2024

£40	140	Mr C J Hollis
£30	53	Mr G Westwell
£20	277	Mrs H M Engel
£10	234	Mr I Duncan
£10	275	Mrs B Hayward

OCTOBER 2024

£40	82	Mr Sheridan
£30	99	Elstree
£20	299	Mr Westwell
£10	31	Mr Sneesby
£10	126	Mr Sheridan

NOVEMBER 2024

£40	270	Mr Sheridan
£30	267	
£20	299	Mr Westwell
£10	36	Mr I Duncan
£10	266	Mr Sheridan

DECEMBER 2024

£40	94	Mr N Luckett
£30	224	Mrs S Carter
£20	231	Mr I Duncan
£10	44	Mr B Dixon
£10	230	Mr I Duncan

Herts Management Committee

Lee Evans	President, Director, Competition
Helen Elliott	Honorary Secretary
Martin Corrie	Treasurer, Director, past LTA President
Bridie Amos	Director, LTA Councillor, Development
Tessa Terry	County Safeguarding Officer
Mark George	Performance
Matt Willcocks	Participation
Stuart Foster	Community
Carole Draper	Office and Community Manager

Front cover photos:

The Ladies Summer County Cup team
The Lionel Cox team
Ivan Rodriguez Deb
18U Girls County Cup team
The Men's Winter County Cup team

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



Bugler Developments



CJS Consultants

Debbie Simmons

ICAP PLC

Jonathan Lewis

StoneX

Titan Wealth Holdings

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

President's Report



Welcome to what is my final report as President of Herts Tennis, but perhaps more significantly as a member of the county's Management Committee, which has felt like a second home for me now for quite some time. Oh and I know what you're thinking, I should have been kicked out of this particular home a long time ago!

Now clearly this being my last report doesn't mean I can get away with writing any old nonsense, but I think it at least gives me a bit of leeway to venture a little off the beaten track. That doesn't mean I'm going to go completely off-piste - I'm a blue run kind of guy - but I would like to take the opportunity, which leaving something behind that's been a big part of your life affords, of reflecting on some of the changes I've seen in that time and remembering some of the people who have left their mark, not just on me but also on this wonderful game of ours and how it has developed in the county.

Let's begin with some of the changes. Well, for starters the whole outlook surrounding tennis has changed. No longer is it acceptable, or thankfully the norm, to tread the same tired lines and think it's ok to only open the game's doors to the same old demographic group. Happily the outlook has been transformed and the game is now being opened up to our many diverse local communities, which has attracted lots of fabulous people who might otherwise not have considered picking up a racket.

The huge number of procedural and policy changes everybody involved in tennis has been putting in place as a result of sport's governing bodies' desire (and need) to make sport and every aspect that surrounds it a better place has been another game changer. It's been a long hard journey hasn't it, but my colleagues and I have looked on with a huge amount of pride as so many of you have dedicated incredible amounts of time to make improvements to the way your venues are run, with safety and fairness now at the heart of everything. Safeguarding is a prime example. Under the direction of our wonderful County Safeguarding Officer, Tessa Terry, our brilliant Welfare Officers have been helping to transform the landscape.

The demands that are being made of our army of volunteers have increased out of all proportion as a result - an unfortunate and inevitable consequence - but with so much good ground work now done to ensure the foundations of the sport are safe and fair, my very real hope is that those demands will begin to drop.

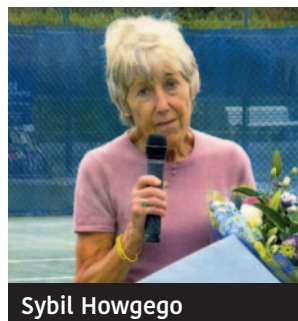
Ok, just one final change to reference and although it doesn't carry the same gravitas as the others, it still means a lot to me...and I know I'm not alone, Yes, it's the Herts League. Still my favourite competition - even though I've been dropping down the teams at West Herts with gathering pace in recent years - boy has it changed since I took over running it in 2009. If you're too young to remember, in 'the good old days' matches often used to finish deep into the evening...and for some reason we didn't seem to mind...whereas these days, you're likely to be home in time for a cuppa before the afternoon's football! I'm so pleased that it's still popular and very happy...if a little

perplexed...to see a number of players I used to compete fairly well with still taking part in the higher echelons of the competition. How do you do it, guys?

It's been a real privilege to spend a few years as your President (oh no, please tell me I'm not starting to sound Donaldsque!). I didn't particularly want the role - at least I certainly wasn't looking - but actually I've quite enjoyed it!

That's got nothing to do with the role though, at least very little. It's been down to all the wonderful people I've been lucky enough to team up with and the unbelievable support they've given me.

With sincere apologies to anybody that I miss - my memory is not what it was - I would like to mention a few of those who have had a huge influence on the county being where it is today and while they were at it helped to make my involvement such an enjoyable one. I don't know what it is about tennis, but don't you meet some lovely people through the game!



Sybil Howgego



Sue Wolstenholme

I'd like to start with the delightful Sybil Howgego, who phoned me out of the blue many years ago to ask if I was interested in getting involved. Who could say no to Sybil! A truly lovely lady and a wonderful member of the Management team until 2014.

Next up for me is the ever-present and evergreen Sue Wolstenholme, who is still providing the same unwavering unbelievable support to us all she was when I said yes to Sybil all those years ago.



Jeff Wayne

From the world of county tennis, I shall never forget the impact the one and only Jeff Wayne had on the Men's team when he began his...wait for it...ridiculously successful 35 years in charge! Incredibly and no doubt inspired by that, our Ladies have somehow matched that success, led to glory first by Sarah Donovan, then Alissa

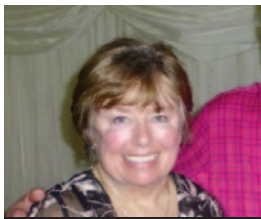
Ayling and latterly Amanda Elliott. An amazing 27 national titles have come the county's way under the captaincy of these four Herts legends!

Success like that doesn't just happen and the groundwork for it was set a long time ago now by two people with Herts blood running through their veins, Martin and Janet Corrie, when they developed the master plan which created the



Martin & Janet Corrie

President's Report



Jenny Thomas



Jennifer Keates



Gavin Masterton

right environment in the county for our young players to shine, an environment which has stood the test of time and has been the envy of every other county (not to mention the LTA!).

Under the masterful stewardship of former President, Gavin Masterton and with the boundless enthusiasm and dedication of two wondrous Herts legends, Jenny Thomas and Jennifer Keates, who took mini tennis in the county to a whole new level, the recipe for success was born and the foundations for all the success we're now seeing set.

I would also like to pay tribute to all of you who have made tennis in Hertfordshire so welcoming and enjoyable, from all my wonderful colleagues, past and present, on the Management Committee who have often been nothing short of inspirational and occasionally just

brilliant – take a bow Carole Draper, Trevor Adamson, Bridie Amos, Kelly Baker, Janet Corrie, Martin Corrie, Helen Elliott, Stuart Foster, Mark George, Sybil Howgego, Gavin Masterton, Tessa Terry, Jenny Thomas, Leo Tutt and Matt Willcocks – to everybody who sits on one of our working groups and sub-committees for their wonderful support, to all the fabulous people across the county whose contributions often go unnoticed but genuinely make all the difference. Thank you!

Right, time to focus on the future....and what a bright future it is! I'm delighted to say some bright new faces will be welcomed onto the Management Committee at the AGM in early March (subject to your approval on the night of course) and who knows, you may even get an outstanding new President! I won't divulge the names here but without exception I have been so impressed with their enthusiasm for wanting to get involved and as for some of the ideas that have already been put forward....wow! I can only see Herts tennis being taken to a whole new level over the coming years.

If I've made it sound as if everything is perfect and that developing the sport in the county is straightforward and just happens, it doesn't. Even with fantastic volunteers and a really good management team – and that's what you will have – it won't always be a bed of roses and the team will need your help.

So what can you do? One of the areas there's plenty of room for improvement in is in the level of engagement and good old fashioned communication with your county team. We can benefit so much from talking to each other – the county team is able to offer support and real expertise and in venues there are so many examples of good practice which we could all share – it makes so much sense to get together more, yet at times it feels as though only a select number of venues want to join in. My final ask of you is therefore to get to know your county team more. Get in touch and invite us along. My fabulous colleagues have got heaps to offer and would love to pay you a visit.

Speaking of visits, we have always received such warm welcomes wherever we go, which has made them a real highlight for me. Special thanks to Oxhey Hall, Leverstock Green, Codicote, Elliswick, St Albans, Croxley Green, Barnet, Rickmansworth, and Townsend among others (remember, the memory's not great) for welcoming us this year with such open arms...and minds!

Each year amazing achievements and contributions that are being made by wonderful people at a venue just like yours are recognised through the LTA's national Tennis Awards scheme and our county event gives us a golden opportunity to say thank you to members of the Herts family, young and old, our clubs, coaches, officials and more for their contributions as well as a chance to recognise some outstanding achievements.

Which leads me to my final final ask of you (I said I'd get a bit more leeway!). Please do something to recognise any unsung heroes at your venue. You can do it locally and that is a fantastic thing to do – people at your venue hearing what great things others are getting up to for their benefit will often inspire them to get more involved themselves – but you can also nominate somebody deserving of recognition under the LTA's scheme. You may have done it (or tried to do it) in the past when, frankly, the process was painful. I promise you things have improved though and it will genuinely only take up a short amount of your time these days. We'd love you to do that because the county would like to say thank you too but we can't do it if we don't hear about them!

As you have come to expect, the Newsletter covers the highlights from the last year beautifully, but I can't leave you without mentioning one or two.

In July, our record breaking Ladies county team won the national title again, which means they have won a frankly unbelievable five successive Summer County Cups! There's nothing better than watching our teams battle it out on the lush grass courts of Devonshire Park in the summer sunshine, especially when they're so good. Come on down and cheer them on. The ice creams are on me!

If you can't make that but might be free on the last weekend in November, Bath is the place to be for some similarly amazing indoor tennis at the Winter County Cup. Our Men's team will be looking to defend the title they somehow managed to win in November after what had been a 7 year gap. Our Ladies team will be there as well this year after a fabulous last promotion campaign and in the evening the town looks beautiful in the run up to Christmas.

Those results plus those of our fantastic junior and seniors teams during the year, which included a national title for our 18U Girls team and a win at the Lionel Cox event for our younger players, saw us to 4th place in the overall National County Cup race. When you consider some of the counties we're up against, that's a superb performance. Huge congratulations to everybody who played their part.

Our wonderful visually impaired player, Ivan Rodriguez Deb, added a Wimbledon title to yet another triumph at the National Championships in what was another unbelievably successful year for him.

For the first year ever we held two County Championships, with wonderful Rickmansworth playing host to the finals of the tennis event for the 6th consecutive year and the finals of the

inaugural padel event held on Bishop's Stortford's lovely new courts.

The 76th Herts League titles were won by Gosling's Ladies and Harpenden's Men, while the Welwyn Men and Townsend Ladies were crowned Harris Cup Champions at the finals day hosted by Codicote.

Our Herts Tennis Foundation, which covers our community outreach, Open Court and Schools work, goes from strength to strength under the brilliant watch of Phil Martin and Marion Stevenson amongst others. If your venue would like to work with us to open tennis up to your local community, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch with the county office, where you'll find all the support you need.

Huge thanks to everybody involved in the county's schools network, where we continue to be so indebted to the wonderful Pam Burrage. What is always a massive team effort has involved supporting the Schools Games Finals and the County Sports partnership's annual PE Conference, where many children gain their first experience of playing the game.

A big thank you also to Alison Allard for overseeing the Herts

Tennis Coaches Forum group, which runs some fantastic coach education courses and co-hosts a number of Coach Forums and Female Workforce networking events.

Not for the first time, the young people on our Futures programme, which looks to give juniors in Year 10 and above experiences of all aspects of the game, have been so impressive. I see them at the County Championships, where they help the organisers and officials out and set the players a fantastic example by demonstrating the values the county holds dear. A huge thank you to our wonderful Performance Manager, Teresa Lilley, for the major role she plays in that.

My final thank you is to our Partners for their wonderful support, which is so important in helping us develop the sport in the county.

Ok...I know...enough's enough! Let me tear myself away and leave you to enjoy the Newsletter in the very capable hands of our wonderful editor in chief, Sharon and all of our fabulous contributors. Thank you, everybody!

Lee Evans

Herts Tennis Foundation report 2024

The Herts Tennis Foundation has had another productive year in supporting tennis to grow throughout the county enhancing and developing networks in both education and disability/inclusion. Also supporting a good number of the county's clubs in their work to engage more players from these areas in the community.

Hertfordshire was again leading the way in offering opportunities for disabled people to play tennis and was top of the participation charts in the country. This has been achieved again by the fantastic work done by the growing number of clubs now offering and supporting disabled players to access the game.

There are a few examples below of some of the successes but this is only a snapshot of what is being delivered both through disability-specific sessions and the increased number of club programmes running inclusive sessions that allow disabled participants to enjoy our game.

- Sessions run for St Elizabeths SEND college by the team at Bishop's Stortford and SEND students at Oaklands college run by Batchwood. These were both supported by The Graham Rowlandson Fund. They also support and fund a number of other projects across the county which we are very grateful for.
- Six SEND schools across the county have regular weekly delivery run by Get set 4 tennis, Batchwood, Hertford and Independent tennis. These are supported by the Give It Your Max charity. Potters Bar also links and delivers in a number of local SEND schools.
- The continued development of walking tennis offered at a number of clubs including Hoddesdon, Batchwood, Bishop's Stortford and Get Set 4 tennis. We hope to continue to grow this offer in 2025 to more clubs.
- We have had a number of clubs including Hitchin and Letchworth run inclusive school delivery sessions and link these participants back to their junior club sessions very successfully.
- A county project was run to train a number of SEND school

teachers in the LTA youth training and to have follow up festivals for their school pupils. Five new schools are currently engaged.

- Hertfordshire LTA linked with Middlesex LTA to run our first coaches' disability forum which was a huge success with over 20 coaches attending the day. It included guest speakers Jon Wildman and Stuart Wilkinson running on-court sessions.
- Building on the link with Middlesex LTA, a number of Hertfordshire players played in the Para standing and wheelchair county championships run in Middlesex.

As a county we are here to help any club that wants to deliver disability/inclusive tennis sessions and are always happy to talk through ideas, programmes and how we can support. We have a growing number of partners in this area so our network of support is constantly growing.

Within the education area of work the Herts Tennis Foundation team has continued developing its links with the county's School Games network. We were again at the Herts PE conference where we had the chance to promote the LTA Youth Schools teacher training offer with now just over 50% of the county's schools having completed it. We have used these links to help tennis clubs in Hertfordshire build new links with schools and increase their delivery opportunities.

As a county team we were involved in the delivery of the Hertfordshire School Games events both at Oaklands and in the schools' games tennis finals run by the team from Welwyn Tennis Club.

We are also piloting local school festivals and linking with the local SGOs to do this which is an exciting addition to our offer and partnership.

As a team we are here to support any club that wants to make new links with schools or is interested in running local school festivals. Please do get in touch with us to discuss further.

We are looking forward to working with as many clubs as possible across the county this year and supporting in any way needed within schools and Disability/inclusion programmes and projects. Please do get in contact to PYWHerts@gmail.com to talk further with the team.

Phil Martin, Herts Tennis Foundation team.

People and Clubs

Safeguarding Report

Keeping Up To Date

It is not always easy for venues to track LTA changes in policy and procedures, but we strive hard to do so on your behalf and have collated all the key documents on our website for ease of reference:

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

Welfare Officer Support

Herts Tennis has long lobbied for additional support to be provided to Welfare Officers. The LTA now distributes quarterly newsletters to all registered in the role and the new LTA induction training has been well received. It is actually relevant for new and existing volunteers alike, so look out for more sessions in 2025.

Herts Sports Partnership (HSP)

Tessa Terry, County Safeguarding Officer, has been forging an alliance with Joe Gamble, the new HSP Sports Welfare Officer and a number of venue Welfare Officers have benefitted from attending multi-sport workshops, webinars and networking events designed to share best practice. You may sign up to the free HSP welfare newsletter [HERE](https://sportinherts.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ff5a1127b644e719b2df6dc95&id=9ec3db7549). <https://sportinherts.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ff5a1127b644e719b2df6dc95&id=9ec3db7549>

Young Person's Welfare Ambassador (YPWA)

Young volunteers can play an important role in safeguarding at LTA registered venues. Our grateful thanks to Jessie Hosking at Harpenden, who volunteered to support the LTA pilot phase and is stepping down from the role, as a number of young people have now put their names forward to take the initiative forward. Contact Tessa Terry for more details at csohertfordshire@gmail.com

Tessa Terry, County Safeguarding Officer

Small Facilities Grant

Herts Tennis has several grants available for small venues that are looking to refurbish and update facilities and equipment.

Salisbury Tennis Club was able to benefit from a grant this year towards providing bicycle parking at the club. The area has been cleared and concrete hard standing laid. When it is completely dry cycle stands will be fitted.



New Initiatives

Venue Engagement

We have launched an exciting new initiative in partnership with a Tennis Consultant offering bespoke support to help you increase your membership and programme numbers. A limited number of free consultations are available to qualifying venues and you may register your interest with our Venue Engagement Team by emailing a brief outline of your action plans and support needs to Carole Draper at hertstennis@gmail.com

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Building a culture of inclusion and driving greater diversity across tennis is everyone's responsibility and Herts Tennis has developed a 3-year plan designed to make tennis look and feel more opened up through more inclusive leadership, governance and behaviours. Carole Draper is our new EDI Lead in this key development area.

Elliswick LTC Centenary

Elliswick Lawn Tennis Club celebrated its centenary year in 2024. To mark the occasion, the club held a big party with 200 members and guests at its grounds in Harpenden on the 8th of June.

There was music from three member-led bands, organised games for kids and food carts offering a variety of food. Of course, there was also lots of tennis with tournaments for all and a 1920's exhibition match featuring wooden rackets.

Elliswick's Men's Captain Jem Collier-Garrity was honoured to be given the opportunity to design a commemorative clock. This was unveiled by Harpenden's Deputy Mayor, Gill Haynes to mark the club's centenary.

The club's President Jim McGown and Chairman Eric Rovick gave speeches about the history of the club and looked forward to the next 100 years of tennis at the club. It was a wonderful day of celebration for the club.



In Memoriam

A few words about Ann Toogood who died June 4th 2024

Whatever she did, Ann threw herself one hundred percent into it. This was exactly her approach to tennis, whether she was practising, playing matches, captaining teams, organising leagues, volunteering for her club or for Herts Tennis. She absolutely loved tennis.

She was immensely proud to captain St. Albans LTC ladies team in 1978 in their first title win in the Herts League. A remarkable feat as Harpenden won it every other year from 1970 to 1983. She demanded a high standard of loyalty in a team and many of us who played with her will have been influenced by her determination, fairness, kindness and team spirit. She played for Herts in the Summer County Cup in 1979, and several Winter County Cups, always accompanied by team mascot, Sam!

Ann was made a Vice President in 1990 and became Herts Ladies Senior Organiser from 1992 to 2010, a time during which the Herts Senior Winter Ladies League expanded hugely due its success and brilliant organisation by Ann and the committee, chaired by Val Harris.

She always continued to support Herts Tennis and to meet up with ex tennis friends. Ann had a long and distinguished career working for De Beers Diamonds and was the first woman Quality Control Manager. She



1979 County Team - Left to right: Ann Toogood, Janet Corrie, Wendy Parsons, Sam, Iris Luckett, Pam Yates, Mary Ingram, Judith Strain (Allnutt), Jean Walker-Smith.

travelled the world which she loved. On retirement she took on the dog world, breeding and showing Bichons all over the country including Crufts. Her dog medals rivalled her tennis trophies!

Ann made a huge contribution to tennis in Hertfordshire. She gave it everything. She is much missed by family and friends.

Judith Allnutt

Sadly, we also said goodbye to two long-standing friends from the Herts Tennis family in 2024 – Mike Knee and Iain McLellan. Our thoughts and sympathies are with their families and friends.

Teams Reports



2024 Herts Ladies - Summer County Cup Champions for the fifth time in a row!

Herts Ladies Summer County Cup, Eastbourne

We approached County Week 2024 with four successive victories under our belts and aiming for number five (and some better weather than last year).

Day 1 saw us take on Northumberland and with some grey clouds overhead and the potential of rain we got off to a

fantastic start going 3-0 up and winning two close third set tiebreaks in pairs 2 and 3 (Georgie Axon / Hannah Read and Erin Pearce / Marelle Raath). After some rain and a long lunch, things went a little smoother and we ended up finishing the day with a 9-0 win and not dropping another set. An amazing start!

Day 2 Our second match on Tuesday was against Surrey, our local rivals who we have had tough matches against in recent years. Surrey had a strong pair 1 of Danielle Hack / Sally Pethybridge, a pair that picked up their 3 rubbers of the day. Erin Pearce and Marelle Raath won a super close match in the second round winning 14-12 in the 3rd set tiebreak – a match that gave us great momentum going into the 3rd round at 4-2 up. The third round also went according to plan with some strong performances throughout the team to secure a solid 6-3 win over Surrey.

Day 3 On Wednesdays we wear pink. In our pink shirts we took on Yorkshire and again we got off to another great start finishing round 1 of matches 3-0 up. We continued the dominance throughout the day and stormed through Yorkshire 9-0 with clinical performances from the entire team, Hannah Read and Georgie Axon clinching two third set tiebreak victories. With rain expected on Thursday, we decided to play our Thursday match round 1 against Middlesex on Wednesday evening to try and get ahead of

Teams Reports

the schedule and the weather. This was a unique experience playing a 'night session' at Eastbourne on a lovely summer's evening. The girls rose to the challenge of playing a 4th round of the day with 3 victories to take a 3-0 lead into Thursday

Day 4 When I woke up on Thursday and saw the pouring rain, I realised what a good decision it was to play as much as we could the day before. It was decided that we would play Fast4 matches (each set is first to 4) on the local astroturf courts due to the poor weather. We made good use of our substitutions throughout the week and Thursday was no different, with Jo Garland and Georgie Walker introduced in round 3 with a final result of an 8-1 victory for Herts. We finished the day off with a lovely evening meal with the Herts Men's team in the local Italian.

Day 5, and we knew that we only needed a few rubbers to secure the title – an amazing situation to be in on the final day. We played Hampshire & IOW on the grass at Devonshire Park and got off to a good start with Emily and Amanda winning at pair 1, Erin and Marelle winning at pair 2 and Georgie Axon and Hannah losing a tough one 12-10 in the 3rd set breaker. In round two, we picked up another 2 wins with the Hampshire & IOW pair 1 picking up the 1s vs 1s in a tight match, and then Emily and Amanda won their round 3 match to secure the victory (a fifth in a row) for Hertfordshire ladies. The final score was 6-3 with Hannah and Georgie Walker winning and Erin and Marelle losing a tight one to the Hampshire & IOW pair 1 who won all three of their matches. What an end to an amazing week!

I'm so proud of this team, their level of tennis and attitudes throughout the week were exceptional and it was a pleasure to be part of such a great group. To only lose 7 matches all week is a fantastic achievement. Congratulations again to the whole team and thank you to all the

wonderful Herts supporters who braved the elements and came down to support us. We go again in 2025!

Team: Amanda Elliott (captain), Emily Arbuthnott, Georgie Axon, Joanna Garland, Jessica Matthews, Erin Pearce, Hannah Read, Marelle Raath, Georgie Walker, Kat Whiteaway.

Ladies Winter County Cup, Orpington

After coming close to promotion last year (we narrowly lost out to Kent 5-4 on the final day), we were keen to secure promotion to group 1 this year.

Day 1 Day 1 saw us play Lincolnshire on their home territory, and we got off to a fantastic start with Sophia Christodoulou, Marelle Raath and Erin Pearce all winning singles with just the loss of 6 games between them to give us a 3-0 lead. Georgie Axon, Indi Spink and Emily Arbuthnott then rose to the challenge of one-upping the younger generation and won their 3 matches with just the loss of 2 games between them. A confident start! The final result after doubles was 8-1.

On **day 2** we were up against Lancashire who had lost the previous day to Surrey. Again, our juniors started the day strongly and got the momentum going, before our more experienced players Emily Arbuthnott, Georgie Axon and Indi Spink finished off the job in the singles taking us to an unassailable 6-0 lead before the doubles even went on court. We won all three doubles to beat Nottinghamshire 9-0 and bring us to a final day showdown with Surrey for promotion to group 1.

More often than not, we have tight matches against Surrey,

Herts Men's Summer County Cup 2024, Eastbourne

This year saw an eventful week of tennis which sadly concluded with the team getting relegated from the top division. We were without some of our lead players going into the week but still felt very confident with the squad we had. The team consisted of Finn Bass, Neil Bamford, David Stevenson, Ben Feltham, Ryan Storrie, Ed Corrie, Dan Martin and Neil Roskilly.

The guys battled all week and gave their absolute all – however we lost 5-4 on the final day which sealed our fate. I believe we may have set a new record this summer but not one to shout too loudly about...The most tie breaks lost in a week. As a team we managed to lose 14 out of 15 tie breaks played. I worked it out that if we'd won 7 of them, we'd have likely been champions. This is a record I hope we never come close to beating again.

Hamid Hejazi, Men's Captain



2024 Herts Winter County Cup Team - national champions!

Men's Winter County Cup 2024, Bath

Moving on to the winter county cup we had two last minute changes to the team with Charlie Broom and David Stevenson making themselves available. They were joined by Oliver See, Albert Calin, Enrico, Ryan Storrie, James Wilkinson and Luke Jackson.

but with our confidence bubbling from the first 2 days we were excited to take them on. After another 6 great singles matches, we found ourselves 6-0 up and won promotion! Arabella and Georgiana snuck on to play their doubles as Emily was still on for her singles at that point, so we finished the day (and weekend) with a 7-0 victory over Surrey. After 2 years of being really close to promotion, we finally did it and what a team effort it was.

This is a fantastic event mixing juniors and seniors and is an important step on the pathway of our Herts Ladies team progression. Well done to all team members and thank you for all your efforts in representing Hertfordshire!

Amanda Elliott, Ladies Captain

Team: Amanda Elliott (captain), Arabella, Emily Arbuthnott, Erin Pearce, Gabby, Georgiana, Georgie Axon, Indi Spink, Marelle Raath, Sophia.



On day one we played Essex and we took the win 7-2. There were some close matches but the match became comfortable when winning all 3 of the doubles rubbers. (Being 4-2 up after the singles).

On to day two and we had a monumental match against Surrey. It really could have gone either way. Going into the doubles all square it was all to play for but we won 2/3 doubles matches to secure the win 5-4. This set up a thrilling end to the weekend with a winner takes all show-down with Yorkshire. Not only would the winner of this match be Division 1 champions, the way the other results had gone over the weekend, the losers would be relegated. In a first to 5 match, we were 4-1 down with relegation looking almost certain...well that's what everyone at Bath Tennis Centre thought apart from the Herts team. With Charlie Broom playing his singles (a strong favourite to win) we decided to rejig our doubles pairings and hope that Lady Luck was shining down on us. She was!! We made the most miraculous come back to win the match 5-4 and with it become national champions. I can't give enough credit to all of the players; their fight and determination was incredible. Well done to everyone including the many who had come down to support us over the weekend. **Come on Herts.**

Hamid Hejazi, Men's Captain

Hertfordshire Junior County Team Report 2024

Our Hertfordshire juniors have had a busy 2024 travelling across the country to represent their county in team events; the commitment from all involved has been fantastic, the level of tennis superb and all underpinned by the Herts Tennis values. We hope everyone who participated in our team events and county training throughout 2024 enjoyed being part of it and we thank you all for your contributions to the Herts Tennis family!

We have had another year of excellent results across the age groups from 8Us through to the 18Us.

JUNIOR TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Girls 18U - Division 1 - *National Champions*

Lionel Cox Trophy - Winners

12 Counties Championships

Division 1 - Runners-up

8U Inter-Regional Competition - Runners-up

8U Girls County Cup - Runners-up

9U Girls County Cup Group Winners & South Area Finalists - 3rd place

9U Boys County Cup Group Winners & South Area Finalists - Runners-up

12U Boys County Cup Division 2 - Winners

14U Girls County Cup National Finalists - 7th

COUNTY CUP 2024 - RESULTS & TEAMS

Girls 18U - Division 1 "National Champions"

Hannah Read, Marelle Raath, Sophia, Erin Pearce, Arabella, Dina, Georgiana, Gabby.

Captains: Sammie Williams, Jamie Fallis

Boys 18U - Division 1 - 4th

Luke Jackson, Oliver See, James, Ace, Daniel, Luke, Dylan Warren-Cafferty, Kaaviyan.

Captains: Dave Airey, Scott Lawrence

Boys 14U Qualifying - 3rd

Noah, Samuel, River, Xander, William

Captains: Chris Martin, Support: Lewis King

Girls 14U National Finalists - 7th

Adaugo, Lillia, Macy, Ava-Rose, Ellie

Captain: Teresa Lilley, Support: Chloe Hughes

Boys 12U Play-Off Div - 1st

Travelling Team = Thomas, Rafi, Alexander, Toby, Vihaan, Samuel

Captain: Craig Blythe, Support: Madalina Nash

Girls 12U Play-Off Div - 3rd

Mylie, Ivy, Anne-Marie, Amaya, Theresa, Daenerys

Captain: Ian Zellner, Support: Teresa Lilley

Boys 11U Qualifying Group - 4th

Noah, Andrian, Ari, Rufus, Riyan

Captain: Fran Ruiz-Lopez, Support: Reece Marshall

Teams Reports

Girls 11U Qualifying Group – 2nd

Ivy, Theresa, Amelie, Sophie Lin, Yoyo
Captain: Sammie Williams,
Support: Ben Feltham

Boys 10U Qualifying Group – 3rd

Thomas, James, Brandon, Tykhon, Albie
Captain: Craig Blythe,
Support: Ben Feltham

Girls 10U Qualifying Group – 4th

Yoyo, Annabelle, Kim, Helena, Mya
Captain: Sammie Williams,
Support: Reece Marshall

Girls 9U – Qualifying Round - Winners. National “South” Finals – 3rd

Natalia, Amelie, Chloe, Lucinda, Sophie.

Boys 9U – Qualifying Round - Winners. National “South” Finals – 2nd

Eric, Seth, Hayden, Abir, Andrew
Captains: Ben Stockley, Sarah Jackson,
Teresa Lilley

8U Girls x 2 Teams County Cup – 2nd & 4th place (Herts fielded two girls and two boys teams)

Mikaela, Annabel, Tamara, Grace, Alice,
Olive, Evelyn, Olive.
Captain: Monica Beccera / Assistants:
Ben Feltham & Matt Sands, Herts
Future Participant: Catherine L

8U Boys x 2 Teams County Cup – 5th & 6th place

Mateas, Hugo, Thomas, Alessio,
Sebastian, Shakil, Oliver, George.

LTA COUNTY CUP RACE *FOURTH PLACE*

- The LTA County Cup Race is a recognition of a County's performance in County Cup events across junior and adult age groups. Points are allocated after each event, starting with the 18U event in March concluding with the adult Winter County Cup in November. The County with the most points across all events is recognised as the County Cup Race Champion with

placings for all other counties. Hertfordshire's 2024 placing of fourth is a great achievement and very much a team effort – well done to everyone who contributed to our county cup teams both on and off court.

County Cup Race -

<https://www.lta.org.uk/4ae2df/siteassets/compete/adult/file/2024.county-cup-race-leaderboard---without-seniors-as-of-04.12.2024.pdf>

LIONEL COX TROPHY 2024 – WINNERS

This year's Lionel Cox competition had a new look and format with it converting to doubles matches as a trial for 2024. The event continued to involve boys and girls in the 9U, 10U and 12U from ten counties across the East region. It was great to see young players enjoying the opportunity to play doubles with their county friends and the new format came with positive feedback from players, coaches and parents. Each team accumulated points for their county to determine overall finishing positions and after an exciting weekend of great tennis and tallying of points Herts were crowned **LIONEL COX CHAMPIONS!**

AGE GROUP FINISHING POSITIONS & TEAMS

9U Boys – 3rd Eric, Seth, Hayden, Abir.
Captain: Ben Stockley

9U Girls – 3rd Natalia, Amelie, Chloe, Lucinda, Sophie. Coach: Sarah Jackson

10U Boys – 1st Roc, Thomas, James, Brandon. Captain: Sam Curry / Teresa Lilley

10U Girls – 2nd Yoyo, Annabelle, Kim, Helena. Captain: Tony Staley

12U Boys – 3rd Thomas, Rafi, Alexander, Toby. Captain: Christian Colvin

12U Girls – 1st Mylie, Ivy, Theresa, Amaya. Captain: Ian Zellner

10U & 12U Events -

<https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=75a2dc66-589c-4587-b0ec-7223dbca5965>

9U Events -

<https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=e674a26b-6cc8-4732-a7b4-a2dab5ca1b81>

12 COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023 - 2024 – DIVISION 1 – RUNNERS-UP

The 12 Counties Championship continues to be a popular winter event for county players in 10U through to 18U age groups. As in the name there are 12 Counties who are placed in three divisions with players competing in singles matches between October to March. The finishing positions of each age group are tallied to determine overall positions with a promotion and relegation system. The 2023 – 2024 event was one of the closest fought contests for many years, with only 4½ points between 1st and 2nd place, and just ½ a point between Hertfordshire in 2nd and Cambridgeshire in 3rd. Middlesex topped the group and Berkshire came 4th. The atmosphere and camaraderie during the match days was excellent and it is clearly a fun, team event for players, parents and captains. Herts maintain their position in division 1 for 2024 – 2025 along with Middlesex, Essex and Buckinghamshire.

AGE GROUP FINISHING POSITIONS & TEAMS

10 & Under Teams

Boys – 3rd / Girls – 4th

Boys = Roc, Thomas, Leonardo, Brandon.

Captain: Craig Blythe



8U Boys Inter-County Team



18U Girls Team



8U Boys Inter-County Team

**9U Girls Team**

Girls = Annabelle, Kim, Mya, Helena.
Captain: Sammie Williams

12 & Under Teams

Boys – 2nd / Girls – 3rd

Boys = Thomas, Rafi, Alexander, Freddie
Captain: Christian Colvin

Girls = Mylie, Ivy, Theresa, Amaya.
Captain: Ian Zellner

14 & Under Teams

Boys – 2nd / Girls – 3rd

Boys = Noah, Samuel, Adam, Xander.
Captain: Lewis King
Girls = Tara, Sophie, Ellie, Sienna.
Captain: Teresa Lilley

16 & Under Teams

Boys – 1st / Girls – 1st

Boys = Brandon, Ace, Kaaviyan, Luke.
Captain: Chris Martin
Girls = Sophia, Arabella, Scarlett-May, Michaela.
Captain: Jamie Fallis

18 & Under Teams

Boys – 2nd / Girls – 1st

Boys = Brandon, Luke Jackson, James, Oliver See.
Captain: Chris Martin
Girls = Sophia, Arabella, Gabby, Dina.
Captain: Sammie Williams

LTA Results link -

<https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=78c7bf0f-728c-4bd0-a436-aa3f98a4c9bd>

MINI-RED EAST REGION INTER-COUNTY COMPETITION - Runners-Up

This inter-county competition sees 8U players from across the East Region come together to compete in singles matches on one busy day in Cambridge. The 2024 event proved to be fun, energetic and highly

**12U Boys Team**

competitive; there were lots of close matches and young players competed with great determination, focus and enthusiasm. Both the girls' and boys' teams progressed through their qualifying groups to the knock-out round where they earned themselves bronze medals. The support from our coaches, parents and supporters was fantastic and all involved can be very proud!

Girls – 3rd Annabelle, Mikaela, Grace, Tamara, Alice, Olive

Boys – 3rd Hugo, Shakil, Sebastien, George, Thomas, Alessio
Captain: Monica Beccera / Assistants: Ben Feltham & Jessie Hopkins

LTA Results link -

<https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=7860a3ac-49cf-4ac0-a87d-6a70092448f4>

Junior County Training and Herts Tennis Potential Sessions

Alongside our team activities Hertfordshire Tennis also organises regular junior county training sessions for age groups 8U to 18U. The sessions are designed to assist players to develop their all-round skills, practice match play, prepare for team events, build team spirit and give our strongest, most committed competition players the opportunity to train together.

To recruit and identify new players we organise regular “Herts Tennis Potential” sessions for children in the 8U age category who are starting to show a love for sport, enthusiasm for tennis, good levels of athletic / tennis athletic potential and are keen to learn and compete. The sessions involve a variety of fun activities in a friendly environment and are a first

**14U Girls Team**

introduction to county training activities. They are also a great way for Herts Tennis to meet new tennis players.

The Herts Inspires My Tennis Future Programme continues to provide Herts junior players in school year 9 and above with on-court training sessions, work experience, career and university workshops, discounted LTA coach qualification courses and opportunities to be involved in a variety of Herts Tennis events. Throughout 2024 we have seen Herts Futures participants gain LTA coaching qualification, support Herts players at county team events, court supervise at competitions, attend Wimbledon qualifying and train on grass courts. Planned activities for 2025 include UK and US University workshops, padel and pickleball training, involvement in county sessions and more!

If you would like to know more about our junior programmes or are interested in getting involved, please contact us at hertstennis@gmail.com

GO HERTS!

Teresa Lilley - Herts County Performance Manager

Honesty - Excellence - Resilience - Teamwork - Sportsmanship

**18U Girls Team**

Inter-Club Competition

Townsend and Welwyn triumph at 2024 Harris Cup Finals Day

An enthusiastic crowd braved all the elements and were treated to some superb tennis when Codicote LTC hosted the finals of the 2024 Harris Cup Men's and Ladies competitions in the Autumn.

Named in honour of two of the County's greatest ever servants to tennis, John and Val Harris, the Harris Cup is the county's prestigious 2 pair knockout cup event.

The Ladies final was a re-run of the previous year's and as in 2023 it was Townsend who came out on top in an exciting clash with St Albans to take the trophy home for the third year in a row and in so doing become the most successful Ladies Harris Cup team ever.

St Albans' quality would have been too much for most opposition, but this Townsend team has been producing tennis of the highest quality for several years now and

seems to thrive under the competition's two pair format.

The Men's final pitted the 2023 winners, Rickmansworth, against a star studded Welwyn team which featured local lads Max and Sam Howard. Once again the tennis was superb and in a gripping match which swung one way then the other, the result was in the balance right up until the final few games.

Welwyn eventually managed to get their hands on the trophy and in so doing followed the lead of the Townsend Ladies in becoming the competition's most successful Men's team.

Huge thanks to all four teams for treating the plucky spectators to some scintillating tennis and to everybody at Codicote for being such welcoming hosts.



The Herts League: Gosling and Harpenden are our 2024 Champions

Congratulations go to Gosling's Ladies and Harpenden's Men on winning the 2024 Herts League titles.

The contrast in the history of the two clubs couldn't be starker when it comes to success in the competition. This is only the second time that Gosling has been crowned Herts League Champions, whereas their latest title means that Harpenden has now lifted both the Men's and Ladies' shields a staggering 34 times.

Let me put that into a bit of perspective though. The Herts League has been running for well over 70 years and we didn't have a Gosling for most of it! So, while their two titles have come in the last 5 years, Harpenden has had a relatively barren spell since winning their 32nd Men's and last Ladies' titles back in 2007.

Both of our champions had perfect seasons, winning all 6 of their matches, but neither will be resting on their laurels for the forthcoming campaigns. In the Ladies' competition, sitting ominously just below Gosling in the table last year was

Letchworth, whose performance in their first year back in the top flight after a spell in the Premier Division was outstanding, with just the one loss to the champions. Herts League buffs will remember that not so very long ago Letchworth were making the Ladies competition their own. Second only to Harpenden in terms of overall titles with 11 – including an incredible run of 10 on the trot between 2008 and 2017 – last year's showing begs the question, are they ready to return to the top? This year will give us a good indication.

Similarly, Harpenden's Men won't be dropping their guard any time soon. Hounded all the way last year by the Welwyn 1st team, winners of 4 of the last 7 titles on offer, they were pushed to the limit in a superb match of extremely high quality on their grass in August. In the end, Harpenden's 5-4 win in that match proved pivotal in the title race.

Barnet and Bishop's Stortford's Men made swift returns to the top flight after the briefest of sojourns in Division 1 and with

Elliswick, Gosling and Rickmansworth all starting to look like they belong at that level, this season promises to be one of the most exciting for years.

Congratulations to all of the divisional winners and promoted teams throughout the two leagues, with special mention to Knebworth, who were the only other Men's team to post an unbeaten record and in the Ladies competition to the 1st teams from Welwyn and Radlett and the 2nd teams from Hoddesdon, Berkhamsted and Townsend who also scored zero in the 'matches lost' column.

It's time for me to pass on the Herts League baton to the fantastic Jamie Broomfield, but before I do I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who has played a part, however big or small, in its success over the years. The format might have changed beyond recognition from when I was handed the reins, but for me it remains the premier doubles competition in the region. Your efforts, be it as match secretary, as captain or yes, as a player, may not always have been recognised, but you have helped make the competition what it is and so very enjoyable. Thank you!

Lee Evans

Individual Successes

Top-class tennis from Ivan Rodriguez Deb

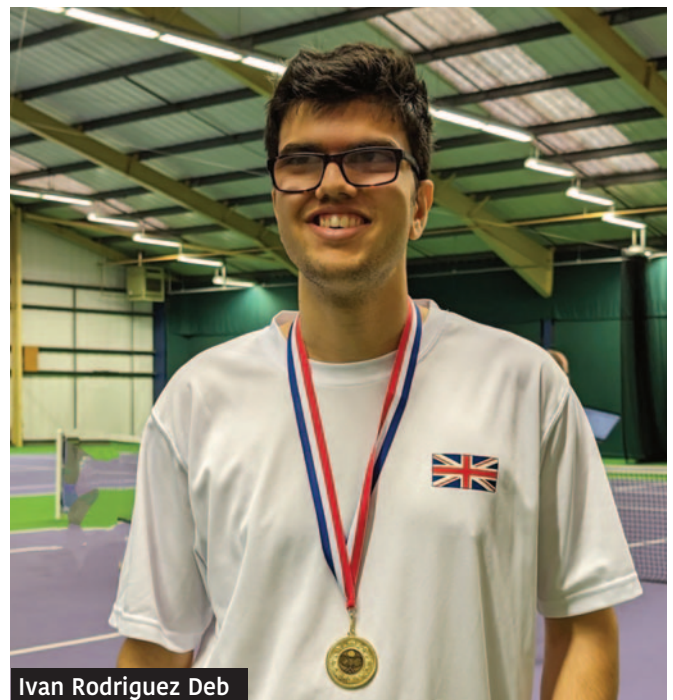
2024 was quite a year for 19 year-old Ivan Rodriguez Deb, a young visually-impaired tennis player from Watford who has held the number 1 spot in Great Britain since the age of 14.

It's a position he cherishes, never takes for granted and never gets used to. Each time he goes on court, he says it's "like a clean sheet". If you ever watch him train at West Herts Tennis Club or David Lloyd Northwood, or play at any of the regional tournaments around the country, you will see a quiet-mannered young man, totally focused on the job in hand, no different to any of the better-known household names that you might have watched on the tennis tours over the years. He shares their focus, discipline, good sportsmanship, talent and essentially winner mentality. If it wasn't for the slightly larger adapted ball that essentially enables him to track it better and compensates for his low vision, you would think he was playing conventional tennis. You wouldn't think "this is a disabled national champion". You would think "this is a national champion". You won't be able to identify him on court by a white cane or a cute guide dog who might divert your attention and which, although act as indispensable tools for many visually impaired people in daily life off court, often detract from matter being fought out on court – top-class tennis.

Top-class tennis is exactly what Ivan delivered once again in 2024. The culmination of his tennis career (albeit unpaid unlike able-bodied and wheelchair tennis players) was winning the Wimbledon Visually Impaired Tennis Finals without dropping a game. As Ivan put it, "receiving the singles winner's trophy at the world's most prestigious tennis club is every tennis player's dream". It goes without saying that he intends to return this summer to try to repeat last year's victory. Three months later saw the National Finals where he won for the fifth consecutive year in lighting conditions that proved to be his biggest challenge and that of many of the other players who competed there.

Ivan was also selected for the LTA's GB squad to represent

Great Britain at the World Blind Tennis Championships in Italy last year, organised by the International Blind Tennis Association. This was a privilege he felt forced to decline as he considered that the poor conditions in which the players were being forced by the organisers to stay and play in were unsatisfactory and would not enable him to play at the level expected of him. He was unfortunately not mistaken given that the medal count for GB last year in Italy was one bronze medal compared with 14 medals (of which Ivan won two) at the World Blind Games in Birmingham in 2023. "With holding a top spot comes the responsibility of trying to make the sport better as a whole and pushing for equality if anything is to change. This also comes with a risk but it's a risk I'm willing to take because for me, it's always been about playing and competing in tennis on the same



Ivan Rodriguez Deb

www.hertstennis.co.uk

Individual Successes

level playing field currently enjoyed by able-bodied players and wheelchair players. Herts Tennis and West Herts and Watford Tennis Club have managed to do this and I am incredibly grateful for their support. They have shown that supporting and including a national-level visually-impaired tennis player is no different to supporting any other national-level player.” says Ivan.

Besides Wimbledon, this year Ivan hopes to win the Nationals for the sixth consecutive time and represent Great Britain internationally if the opportunity arises. Let’s hope this year’s “clean sheet” is full of continued success.

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

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 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.

County Championships 2024



County Championships winners and runners-up 2024

Event	Winners	Runners-up
Men’s Singles	Brandon	James West
Men’s Doubles	Luke Jackson & Oliver See	Stuart Leach & James West
Mixed Doubles	Max Howard & Helen Lloyd	James & Danielle West
60s Men’s Singles	Derek Walker	Andy Knibbs
60s Women’s Singles	Jenny Stokes	Jane Walker
50s Men’s Singles	Mick Hooker	Paul Guppy
50s Men’s Doubles	David Gray & Mick Hooker	Jonathan Gosbell & Simon Knee
50s Mixed Doubles	Paul & Julie Guppy	Rodney Wicks & Karen Gore
35s Men’s Singles	Michael Tatham	
35s Men’s Doubles	Elliott Adams & Atul Kariya	Dimitris Koronakos & Michael Tatham
18U Boy’s Singles	Oscar	Milo
18U Boy’s Doubles	James & Kaaviyan	Charlie & Vincent
18U Girl’s Singles	Sophia	Amira
16U Boy’s Singles	Charlie	Kaaviyan
16U Girl’s Singles	Rose	Mikaela
16U Boy’s Doubles	James & Kaaviyan	Charlie & Sam
16U Girl’s Doubles	Rose & Erika	Macey & Miley
14U Boy’s Singles	Leo	Jet
14U Boy’s Doubles	Jamie & River	Leo & Finlay
14U Girl’s Singles	Mylie	Ava-Rose
14U Girl’s Doubles	Macy & Miley	Ellie & Romy
12U Boy’s Singles	Rafi	Alexander
12U Girl’s Singles	Ivy	Anne-Marie
12U Boy’s Doubles	Vihaan & Rafi	Toby & Alexander
12U Girl’s Doubles	Anne-Marie & Alexandra	Theresa & Isabella
11U Boy’s Singles	Roc	Andrian
11U Girl’s Singles	Ivy	Sophie
10U Boy’s Singles	Thomas	Brandon
10U Girl’s Singles	Natalia	Annabelle
10U Boy’s Doubles	James & Joseph	Toby & Albie
10U Girl’s Doubles	Mya & Yoyo	Amelie & Kim
9U Boy’s Singles	Seth	Jacob
9U Girl’s Singles	Runy	Chloe
8U Boy’s Singles	Hugo	Shakil
8U Girl’s Singles	Mikaela	Danisha

Hertfordshire Player Successes



Charlie Broom

The only way is up!

What a year 2024 was for St Albans' Charlie Broom! In June he reached the final of the ATP Challenger event at Nottingham, with magnificent wins against South African Top 100 player Lloyd Harris and Top 50 player Dan Evans on the way. Charlie, who is a regular member of our trailblazing Men's County team, was then awarded a wild card for Wimbledon where he played Stan Wawrinka in the singles and reached the 3rd round of the doubles.

2025 hasn't started too badly either, with Charlie representing GB alongside Katie Boulter in the United Cup in Australia. Good luck for the rest of the year, Charlie!

Adults MEN/BOYS

	GB Ranking		Top Tour Ranking	2024 Highlights
Charles Broom	17	M	278 ATP Singles	Wimbledon MD R2 vs Stan Warwinka! 5 titles, inc. \$25k singles winner (Nottingham)
David Stevenson	29	M	130 ATP Doubles	10x Doubles Finals, 5 x Double wins inc. Chu Taipei \$164k
Finn Bass	66	M	380 ATP Doubles	5x Doubles titles, inc. Tunisa \$25k
Rhys	84	M	WTN 15.3 (singles)	
Fabio Nestola	110	M	2,062 ATP Singles	
Ryan Storrie	123	M	1,953 ATP Singles	
Albert Calin	124	M		
Oliver Tarvet	167	M	742 ATP Singles	

Junior (MEN)

Rhys	9	U18	497	ITF Singles	ITF u18 2x Singles finals, including a win in Stirling
Brandon	40	U18			ITF u18 2x R/U Doubles, inc Edinburgh & Washington
Enrico	132	U18	595	ITF Singles	ITF u18 3x R/U Doubles, inc Liverpool & Loughborough
James	133	U18			
Samuel	147	U18			Tennis Europe U14 Singles winner (Liverpool)
Oscar	157	U18	1,247		

BOYS

Eric	U9			Grade 1 singles R/U in Bolton
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Adults LADIES/GIRLS

Joanna Garland	28	W	284	WTA Singles	7 WTA Tour wins! Including Kenya \$30k (x2), Egypt \$25k (x2), Italy \$25k (x2) & Turkey
Hephzibah	31	W	844	WTA Singles	
Katy Dunne	47	W	589	WTA Singles	WTA D R/U Tunisia \$25k
Erin Pearce	56	W	290	ITF Singles	Vanderbilt Uni ITF S R/U Morocco (J100)
Marelle Raath	62	W	181	ITF Singles	North Western ITF D W Tallin (J100)
Emily Arbuthnott	94	W			
Anna Popescu	95	W			
Hannah Read	97	W	86	ITF Singles	San Diego Uni ITF D R/U Cyprus (J100)
Annabel Davis					Idaho Uni
Jessica Matthews					Iowa Uni

Junior (WOMEN)

Hephzibah	4	U18	89	ITF Singles	Main Draw Wimbledon (R2) & Australian Open (R3) (Juniors) S Win Oberhaching (J200)
Georgiana	65	U18	569	ITF Singles	ITF D R/U Stirling (J60)
Rose	68	U18	2,998	ITF Singles	
Sophia	79	U18	1,336	ITF Singles	ITF D Winner Liverpool (J30)
Grace	82	U18	537	ITF Singles	7 x finals (J60/J30)
Gabby	84	U18	2,684	ITF Singles	
Arabella	98	U18	2,161	ITF Singles	
Dina	112	U18	2,976	ITF Singles	
Katie	72	U16			
Lilia	84	U16	634	Tennis Europe	WTA Singles Winner Halton
Adaugo	92	U16	403	Tennis Europe	TE U14 D Winner Ireland (Cat3)
Macy	136	U16	366	Tennis Europe	TE U14 D Winner Liverpool (Cat3)

GIRLS

Natalia	U9			National Championships Grade 1 singles WINNER in Nottingham
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Toby Bentall & Janet Corrie

Herts Tennis Awards 2024



Rickmansworth LTC



Ben Stockley



Ben Roberts-Law



Welwyn Men

We were delighted to hold our Annual Awards Dinner at Harpenden Golf Club.

This special occasion was a chance to express our thanks to the clubs, players, coaches and volunteers who work so hard to make tennis happen in Hertfordshire.

After a lovely meal, the LTA County Awards were presented – the winners of these advance to nominations in the regional awards round and, if successful, on to the national awards round. Also presented were a number of specific county and team competition awards.

It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by everyone.



Gal-on Broner



Rickmansworth Men



Hannah Read



St Albans Ladies



Katherine Whiteaway and
Amanda Elliott



Get Set 4 Tennis



Janet Corrie



Tessa Terry

LTA Tennis Awards - Winners

Club of the Year – Rickmansworth

Development Coach of the Year – Ben Stockley

Performance Coach of the Year – Ben Roberts-Law

School of the Year – Heath Mount

Tennis for All Award – Get Set 4 Tennis

Official of the Year – Gal-on Broner

Volunteer of the Year – Tessa Terry

Lifetime Achievement Award – Janet Corrie

Rising Star – Reece Marshall

Outstanding Achievement – Mark O'Brien,
Richard Glass



Reece Marshall

Herts Tennis Award winners:

Mark Seymour Award – Luke Jackson

The Laing Award – Hannah Read

County Colours – Katherine Whiteaway,
Oliver Tarvet

Harris Cup Winners 2023 Ladies – Townsend

Harris Cup Winners 2023 Men – Rickmansworth

Herts League Winners 2023 Ladies – St Albans

Herts League Winners 2023 Men – Welwyn

Outstanding Contribution – Leo Tutt,
Kelly Baker



Kelly Baker



Mark O'Brien



Gary and Jeny Tarvet on behalf of Oliver Tarvet



Leo Tutt



Luke Jackson

Seniors Tennis

Herts County Ladies Seniors

Ladies 35s

The Herts team of Amanda Elliott, Holly Bagshaw, Katharine Dearing, Caroline Lacy, Sian Southwell-Sander and myself headed back to Eastbourne last August for another shot at promotion to group 1, having narrowly missed out in 2023.

On the first day we took on Cheshire, on a grey and typically windy Eastbourne day. Amanda took to the court first and wasted no time in putting us 1-0 up – a great start to the weekend. I followed her on court and found myself in a battle, a set and 3-1 down before rain came to my rescue. After a good team talk play resumed and I levelled the match at a set all,



before the rain returned for the rest of the day. Luckily conditions the following morning were much calmer and I scraped a win. Due to the rain the format for the first match was reduced from 5 rubbers to 3, so Holly and Kat could enjoy their doubles knowing we had a win under our belts and eased to victory for a 3-0 win. An ideal start.

The format returned to best of 5 rubbers for our second match, against Bedfordshire. The sun came out and our supporters were much happier, enjoying a Pimms or two in their courtside seats. Caroline and Sian arrived to complete our team for the weekend. Amanda and I won our respective singles matches, before Holly and Kat won our vital third point to ensure victory. Amanda and I combined for our first doubles match of the weekend, followed by Caroline and Sian who wasted no time in securing a 5-0 win. 2 matches, 2 victories, no rubbers lost – a captain's dream! Promotion to play for against our old rivals Surrey – also unbeaten – on the last day.

Amanda got us off to the perfect start with a fantastic win against Anna Bedbrook. It was a great match to watch and played in great spirit, both players giving their all and barely anything to separate them. Unfortunately, I was unable to continue our winning streak and was swept aside by Mel South, so we went into the doubles 1-1. Kat and Holly fought all the way in the next match and narrowly lost in a match tie-break, again there was nothing between the two pairs and on another day this match would have gone in our favour. Amanda and I levelled the tie at 2-2, but Mel and Anna combined to make an indomitable pair, beating Kat and Caroline to clinch the tie 3-2.

A tough one to take for the second year running, but as always, it's an absolute pleasure to spend this weekend of the year with such a fantastic team who have all known each other for decades and remain close friends. Thanks to the team for all their efforts on the court and for their company off it – we go again in 2025.

Kate Elliott, Captain

Over 40s

After a very difficult season last year in terms of player availability, it was a delight to have a committed group of players turning out regularly for our matches and enjoying the tennis. There has been a lovely team spirit which along with numerous close rubbers has made the matches a joy.

Wins have still been few and far between however. Our highlight

was a great win over Shropshire in our last match, after two very narrow losses to Staffordshire and Warwickshire where we were on the wrong side of championship tie breaks. Nottinghamshire, who have topped our group, were very strong and that loss was not so close, but the quality of tennis was great.

Thanks so much to my players this year: Alice Eggleston, Rachel Sheridan, Caitrin Roskilly, Claire Morrison, Katie Hill plus thanks to Rebecca Gates and Louise Grubb from the 50s for helping us out.

Rachel Sheridan, Captain

Over 50s

The Ladies over 50s team finished a creditable fourth and just one win behind Buckinghamshire, the winners of what was a highly competitive league. There was a high standard of tennis, lots of close rubbers and matches with all the victories coming thanks to great team efforts. Away trips to Somerset and North Wales (somewhere past Wrexham!) provided lots of opportunity for team building – particular thanks to Pippa Parkes for driving the team to Wales and back. Memorably, the match in Somerset went right to the wire, Alison Felton and Kirstie Caneparo winning the final doubles of the day on a champions tie-break (and after saving match point) to take the match 3-2. Also notable was Pippa teaming up with Olga Blecher against Buckinghamshire. Pippa was delighted with a win against Caroline Neil-Dwyer and Alison Longfield – her first ever win against Caroline after many years of trying!

Team players: Pippa Parkes, Rebecca Gates, Jenny Webster, Olga Blecher, Louise Grubb, Alison Felton, Emma Wilson, Nicola Buckwald, Kirstie Caneparo.

Kirstie Caneparo, Captain

Over 55s

As our season draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the success, hard work, and dedication the O55s team has demonstrated. Through each match we have displayed resilience, teamwork, and ambition to fight for every point, game and set allowing us to finish Second in Division 1a!

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jenny Stokes, Miranda Hosking, Bridie Amos, Catherine Ellis and Hazel Lupton for your hard work this season. Each one of you has contributed to our shared success, and I am incredibly proud of all we have achieved. Every match was competitive, played in good spirits, and we had a whole lot of fun.

Thank you for all your efforts in making this an incredible season, and I look forward to seeing and playing with you in 2025!

Patricia Watson-Miller, Captain

Over 60s

This year we got moved into the northern group 1 so a completely different group of really tough teams to challenge us.

We started off in early May with Norfolk away. In our usual high spirits with a top team of enthusiastic players, Jude, Jane, Ali and Margie, and no idea quite how strong they would be having checked the 2023 results, so hoping for the best... luckily the team have a "can do" approach and dug in with Ali and Margie winning both doubles (match 1: 6-1, 6-2; match 2: 6-2, 7-6), Jude

winning her tough singles (3-6, 6-2, 1-0) and Jane and Jude winning their doubles (7-5, 6-0), so a brilliant 4-1 winning start. Top of the league at this point!

A week later we had our first home fixture against the mighty Yorkshire, who'd won the age group in 2023. Undaunted, the team of Jude, Jane, Ali and Claire valiantly battled with Ali and Claire exhausting the doubles pair and narrowly losing on a 10 point tie break (1-6, 6-4, 0-1), but that gave Jane and Jude the chance to snatch a close doubles win (6-4, 6-4). We will gloss over the singles, but had lovely games! So, a 4-1 loss.

Mid June we played Lancashire at home, Jude was unavailable for this one, so Ali "stepped up" for the singles in her place, with Jane keeping her solid position as No 2 singles player, and Margie and Claire as the top doubles team...somehow and very unexpectedly, Jane won her singles 6-3, 7-6 (having been 4-1 down in set 2), and our doubles team(s) won all their matches (M&C match 1: 6-2, 6-1. Match 2: 6-4, 6-3. A&J 6-1, 6-1). So, another 4-1 win.

Early August saw the team off to Derbyshire with Jude, Jane, Ali and Annie. The weather was lovely and we fought hard but unfortunately lost 1-4 despite a very hard fought first round close doubles loss 6-2, 6-7, 1-0. Again, that gave Jane and Jude the chance to win their doubles against a rather tired pair (6-1, 6-1), and then Ali and Annie had another epic 6-2, 5-7, 0-1. (Singles: Jude 4-6, 3-6; Jane 3-6, 0-6).

With Ali, Jane, Margie and Claire as the team, Jane lost her singles "comfortably" (6-0, 6-1), Ali battled for hours and lost 7-5, 6-3. Meanwhile Margie and Claire won 6-4, 6-1 followed by an incredibly long 3-6, 6-1, 1-0. Jane and Ali teamed up for a 6-0, 6-0 win. So, a 3-2 win for Herts. So, a great season for the 60s ladies finishing 3rd in the league behind Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

A huge thank you to the team of Jude Allnutt, Claire Booth, Margie Edge, Annie Hemsli and Ali Williams - a wonderfully supportive group of ladies. Also, many thanks to David Lloyd Bushey for their hospitality and courts - much appreciated.

Looking forward to another fun season next year. Thank you.

Jane Walker, Captain

Over 65s

The ladies have had another season of great tennis made a little easier by not having to play singles matches! Some very good doubles play produced a good win against Berkshire, a close win against Suffolk and a 2 game loss to Middlesex. Having managed a close win over South Wales last year we had to succumb to a 4-0 loss this year. Despite a few close tie breaks their strengthened team proved too strong for us.

So, we will remain in Division 2 next season and look forward to more good tennis and hopefully an away match that warrants a night away. We certainly missed a hotel stay and team dinner this year!

Players: Alison Allard, Joy Allsopp, Wendy Cottenden, Gill Dickey, Margaret Shahmir.

Alison Allard, Captain

Over 70s

All our matches were tightly fought with 5 professional sets required, all of which we lost!! Nevertheless, we have stayed in Division 2b.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our matches but I would love to hear from anyone who is coming up to the 70's age group and who wishes to play to get in touch with me as some of my squad could move into the 75s.

Players were Lorraine Oliver, Patricia Rayner, Sue McFayden, Margi DeFriez, Jenny Davis, Debbie Walker.

Debbie Walker, Captain



Overview of Herts Ladies Seniors Winter League

The 2024-2025 season is now underway and most clubs have managed to play 2 matches before Christmas. On the whole the weather has been kind for the Autumn.

Entries continue to hold up this season showing the interest remains.

DIVISIONS: for the 2024-2025 season

- 40+ 8 divisions and 46 entries
- 50+ 7 divisions and 43 entries
- 60+ 5 divisions and 34 entries
We had three additional teams taking part
- 70+ 6 teams entered the 2024 summer league.

Group Results for 2023-2024 winter season

Again, great to see a real mix of clubs winning their divisions and groups.

Division 70s

6 teams entered the 2024 summer league with Potters Bar Golden Oldies coming out as close winners with Elliswick as runners up. This just shows that ladies are everlasting, keen and fit! We hope to get a few more clubs to take part in the upcoming season for summer 2025.

Division 60s

- Div 1 Winner Harpenden 60s A
- Div 2A Winner Letchworth 60s A
- Div 2B Winner Radlett 60s A
- Div 3A Winner Moor Park 60s A
- Div 3B Winner Harpenden 60s B

Division 50s

- Group 1 Winner Letchworth A
- Group 2A Winner Harpenden A
- Group 2B Winner Elliswick A
- Group 3A Winner Brookmans Park A
- Group 3B Winner Radlett B
- Group 4A Winner Brookmans Park B
- Group 4B Winner Codicote A

Division 40s

- Group 1 Winner Kimpton
- Group 2A Winner Letchworth A
- Group 2B Winner Berkamsted
- Group 3A Winner Townsend B
- Group 3B Winner Radlett 40s B
- Group 4A Winner Hertford
- Group 4B Winner Hitchin 1
- Group 5A Winner Welwyn B
- Group 5B Winner Chorleywood B

Patricia Rayner

Seniors Tennis

Herts County Men's Seniors

Men's 35s

This year the team played Norfolk, Oxfordshire and Kent, we played hard and fought some very close matches with a narrow 2-3 loss to Norfolk, a 3-2 win over Oxfordshire and then finally a 2-3 loss to Kent following two match tie breaks. The results will see us staying in group 2 for 2025 whilst Oxfordshire will go up to Division One. A huge well done and thank you to the team

Players: Captain Hamid and the team of Jordan Miles, David Corrie, Ed Corrie, Neil Roskilly and Tom Corrie.

Hamid Hejazi, Captain

Over 45s

The team got off to a good start winning the first 3 matches.

First up were Bedfordshire where we secured a narrow 3-2 win. Richard Blakey, making his debut lost a tight 3 setter but with Venki Sundram and our doubles pairing of Rob Slack and Jonathan Downes both winning, we went into the second round with a lead. A win for Venki and Richard sealed the win.

The next 2 matches against Norfolk and Hants saw us win both 5-0. Against Norfolk, Dave King came in for Rob Slack for the doubles and the match was taken for the loss of only one set. For the Hants match, Charlie Attenborough and Pete Harris both made their debuts and teamed up to win both double matches without dropping a set. Again, Richard and Venki played the singles winning both and combining to win their doubles.

This left us with a promotion decider away to Essex who were also unbeaten. Unfortunately, we came away with a 4-1 loss with Venki and Jonathan picking up a consolation doubles win in the second round of matches.

Big thanks must go to everyone who played this year, so close to promotion back to Division 1, but hopefully one better next season.

Players: Charlie Attenborough, Richard Blakey, Jonathan Downes, Pete Harris, Dave King, Matthew Kleiner-Mann, Rob Slack, Venki Sundaram and Steve Jones.

Steve Jones, Captain

Over 50s

Another excellent season for the 50's team and notably heroic performances from David King, ever reliable at No.1 singles.

A 4-1 win v Essex in the final match secured top tier tennis again for 2025.

Always thanks to the players: David King, David Shann, David Reed, Rob Slack, David Gray, Greg Kraushar, Matt Foster and Matthew Kleiner-Mann.

David Reed, Captain

Over 55s

The team were promoted to the top division last year and have had a very unlucky season in 2024 unfortunately being relegated. We won a match convincingly 5-0 against Avon and lost a tough match 5-0 to Essex the County Cup finalists.

The other 3 matches were against Middlesex, Surrey and Hampshire. We lost 3-2 and in all those matches there were 3 championship tie-breaks that did not go our way, we narrowly lost them all.

Such small margins from potentially finishing runners up had we won 1 of the championship tie-breaks in each match to being relegated.

The 55 team has a great squad and I'm sure in 2025 we will bounce back up to the top division.

I would like to thank everyone that played this year. Roll on next year.

The squad this year was: Mick Hooker, David Shann, Neil Grassick, Greg Krashaur, Tony Illingworth, David Gray and John Garland.

Mick Hooker, Captain

Over 60s

The team competed in group 2a.

Our first match was against Gloucestershire and we won 3-2 achieved by winning the three doubles. The next match was against Somerset, which we lost 3-2 in a close encounter. Hampshire was the next one up and although we lost 4-1 it could've been very different had one of the first singles rubbers gone our way instead of being lost on a championship tie-break.

The final match was against Sussex we were well beaten 5-0. Our final match against Avon was not played.

The team spirit was great and we suffered from just having too small a squad of players. It was a very different squad of players from previous years.

I would like to thank all the team members for their efforts this year and let's look for a strong performance next season.

Players: Colin Davis, Derek Walker, Mike Seymour, Mike Clegg and Jon Bennet.

Colin Davis, Captain

Over 65s

Unfortunately, the team was relegated this season, three of the five teams in the division finished with 2 points but our percentage of sets won was the lowest resulting in us finishing bottom.

The team had two close matches, one a 3-2 victory over Wiltshire, with us winning the final doubles on a tie-break after saving match points. The other a 3-2 loss to Berkshire with a losing tie-break being the deciding factor. We were comprehensively beaten 5-0 in the other two matches against Devon and Sussex.

Player availability was an issue, nine players competed this year with three of those being drafted from the 70's.

Players: Stuart Walker, David Smith, Jan Malan, Andrew Collar, Mike Sarson, Andrew Innes, David Stanton, John Conway, and Paul Ware.

David Smith, Captain

Over 70s

This year was a successful year. We were playing in division 1B achieving wins over Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Berkshire and Staffordshire.

We went into the last match away in Hull against Yorkshire knowing a win would propel us to the National final weekend in Southampton.



County Mens 70s Team

In the end we lost 3-2 including a final doubles final tie break believing we would go through on rubbers however it turned out we lost in a head-to-head count back. My understanding is that this rule has been amended for 2025 competition year!

My thanks to our team of Neagle Cathcart, John Conway, Martin Corrie, David Stanton, Paul Ware all of whom chalked up wins against stiff opposition. Onwards to 2025

Martin Corrie, Captain

Over 75s

Lack of players proved too much for the team. We only had a squad of 4 players and were reliant on using those from the 80's team to make up the numbers.

The first match against Middlesex was only lost on countback as the score ended 2 rubbers all.

The second match against Kent had to be conceded as only 3 players ended up being available for the agreed date.

Against Hampshire away we lost 3-1 and home to Devon was lost with the same score.

In the final match we lost 4-0 away to Sussex.

With 2 of the squad going up into the 80's next season we will not be able to field a team in this age group.

Thanks are due to the players: Peter Harding, Tom Parsons, Barry Skelding, Rex Poulter, Peter Morton, Richard Rowlandson, John Barnett and Malcolm Fraser.

Malcolm Fraser, Captain

Over 80s

We started off with an unusual situation. The first match was away against Kent and we were leading both rubbers when unfortunately, Philip Levi became ill and the match was abandoned. Under the rules we could have insisted that the rearranged match was played at our venue, but we went again to Kent and won 4-0.

The second match was at home to Dorset where we again won 4-0. The next game was at home against Hampshire, who last year had ended up above Herts. The first round ended with one rubber each. A thunderstorm then intervened, the match was resumed and had to be ended with Herts being 2-1 ahead.

Lancashire were unable to field a team and gave us a walkover.

The final match was against Essex, last season's champions and favourites. This turned out to be one of the closest matches I have ever played in. After the first round, we were one rubber each but we were ahead by one set. The second round was also one rubber each, but Essex was ahead by one set so we finished with five sets each.

We then had to count up the games and fortunately it ended with Herts winning by 41 games to 38, so we won the division and became Over 80's team champions.

The players for the four completed matches were: John Barnett, Richard Rowlandson, Peter Morton, David Whiteson and Rex Poulter.

Whilst everyone played well, I particularly want to make mention of David Whiteson who was playing for our team for the first time being born on 31st December so was eligible to play for the 80s by that single day. He won all 8 rubbers that he played.

John Barnett, Captain

It has been a very mixed season with the 80's being the only team to win a division. I would like to thank all the captains for all their hard work in putting out teams and making all the match arrangements, as players are busy with all different teams to play in as well as tournaments, not an easy job.

Malcolm Fraser, Senior Men's Coordinator

Overview of Herts Men's Seniors Winter League

The League continues to thrive and remains as competitive as ever. Congratulations to Harpenden. Maybe we should rename Harpenden as the Manchester United of tennis!

Here are the results for the season:

Over 45s winning teams

Championship Division: Harpenden 1

Div 1A: West Herts

Div 1B: Harpenden 2

Div 2A: Welwyn 2

Div 2B: Kimpton

Div 3A: Hitchin

Div 3B: West Herts 2

Div 4A: Brookmans Park

Over 55s winning teams

Championship Division: Harpenden 1

Div 1A: Leverstock Green

Div 1B: Harpenden 2

Div 2A: Harpenden 4

Div 2B: Moor Park

Div 3A: Leverstock Green

Div 3B: Hertford 1

Over 65s winning teams

Championship Division: Harpenden 1

Div 2: Totteridge 65

Div 3: Sarratt 65

Over 70s

Championship Division: Harpenden 1

Basil Wein

Schools



2024 Mini Orange competitors

2024 has been a difficult year for Herts Schools Tennis. After setting up the events in the normal way I disappeared into hospital for several months and the team took over the running of everything. I am pleased to say that I am making a good recovery.

I want to especially thank Stuart for leading the organisation in my absence and for supporting all the organisers, including ensuring they all had the medals and tennis balls they needed. Special thanks to Anna, who ran the County Schools Girls – her first time running an event for Herts Schools without my help either in advance or on the day, and to Pam H for taking over the Year 4 tournament and for organising the whole of the Nicola Mabbitt Trophy – which is usually a full-time job for 3 of us!

Teachers Course

This year we were invited to take part in a Teachers Course in conjunction with the LTA. We used our secondary teacher networks to publicise the course and the LTA used their database and adapted their online course to run on court. Teachers who completed the course and who had not

already completed the online course, were able to claim £250 for their school tennis programme. Batchwood Tennis Centre agreed to host the course indoors. It was a great success, we had so many teachers interested in taking part that we required a second venue, and Queenswood School helped by providing their (outdoor) courts. All the teachers that attended were really pleased with the course, as was the LTA.

Year 3 Tournament

For the second year there have been problems with the organisation of our Year 3 event. Mark Howard was unable to find appropriate dates for the second year in a row, and the projected event at Dellcott Club, to be held in conjunction with the Gosling schools programme didn't materialise either, partly due to my absence. However, Chorleywood Tennis Club, who I have supported for the past 2 years were able to arrange the event in my absence – huge thanks to Steve Shea, their coach.

Chorleywood Tennis Club held this event for the 3rd year.

Nicola Mabbitt Trophy (District Leagues)

The competition consists of Boys and Girls Leagues in 3 age groups run across 6 areas of Hertfordshire. It is designed for less experienced players. The winners of each League compete in the finals at Queenswood School against the winners from their League in the other areas. A great tennis experience and a wonderful day of tennis!

The results were:

Boys

Year 8 St. Clement Danes (Watford)

Year 9 St. Clement Danes (Watford)

Year 10 Richard Hale (East Herts)

Girls

Year 8 Parmiters (Watford)

Year 9 Haberdashers Girls (Watford)

Year 10 Tring School (Dacorum)



2024 Nicola Mabbitt competitors

Year 4 Tournament

On a dry afternoon the Herts Schools Mini Tennis Tournament took place at Potters Bar Tennis Club. Watched by a crowd of spectators, 45 timed tie-break matches took place in excellent spirit.

Results as follows:

Experienced: Winners: Aldwickbury 1,
Runners Up: Nascot Wood

Less Experienced: Winners: Cassiobury 3,
Runners Up: Haberdashers 4.

The results of all the points were then added.

Team results: Winners: Aldwickbury 158 points
Runners Up: Haberdashers 156 points

Year 5 Tournament

On Monday 1st July 15 pairs from five schools: 4 from Aldwickbury; 4 from Berkhamsted; 2 from Cassiobury Juniors; 4 Haberdashers Boys and 1 from The Lanchester competed at Cassiobury LTC in this year's Mini Green Doubles Competition. We had two more pairs than last year although less schools took part. Five girls took part which was three more than last year. The teams were divided into Experienced and Less Experienced boxes. The children then played Round Robin FAST4s resulting in a full and fun afternoon of tennis with some very close matches, so close three pairs finished in third position in the Experienced box and three pairs finished in fourth position in the Less Experienced box. The results were as follows:

Experienced Winners: Aldwickbury,
Runners Up: Haberdashers Boys,
Joint 3rd Haberdashers Boys,
Aldwickbury and Aldwickbury,
6th Berkhamsted, 7th Berkhamsted.

Less Experienced: Winners: Haberdashers Boys,
Runners Up: Berkhamsted,
3rd Aldwickbury,
Joint 4th Haberdashers Boys, Cassiobury
Juniors and The Lanchester,
7th Cassiobury Juniors, 8th Berkhamsted.

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

Year 6 Tournament

The Year 6 Doubles Tournament took place at the Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth on Tuesday, 11th June on a dull, grey, cold, windy afternoon-but luckily there was no rain until just after the presentations! Last year it was so hot that we kept reminding the students to drink plenty of water; this year we were reminding them to keep warm between matches!

There were 16 teams competing from 5 Schools: Aldwickbury, Berkhamsted Prep School, Codicote, Royal Masonic School and St Albans High School. We were very pleased to welcome Codicote who had not entered this Tournament before. There were two timed sections- 'A' for the experienced and 'B' for the less experienced players. The standard was excellent in the A section with the players having long rallies and good teamwork. The less experienced players gained confidence during the afternoon, becoming steadier and producing good rallies. As the matches were timed the play was fast and exciting. All were played in such a wonderful spirit. There were no disputes, which was most encouraging for us running the Tournament, and the players kept the score well, calling clearly and playing competitively and competently. Huge thanks to Elizabeth Booth and the Royal Masonic School for hosting us on a most enjoyable afternoon.

Girls Experienced: Winners: St Albans High 1,
Runners Up: Royal Masonic

Boys Experienced: Winners: Aldwickbury 2,
Runners Up: Aldwickbury 1

Girls Less Experienced: Winners: Berkhamsted
Runners Up: Royal Masonic 2

Boys Less Experienced: Winners: Aldwickbury 1,
Runners Up: Berkhamsted 1



Schools



2024 Year 6 competitors

Year 7 Tournament

Boys:

On Wednesday 22nd May over 50 boys from a mix of state and independent schools competed in the annual Hertfordshire Year 7 Doubles Tournament in challenging conditions. In spite of the rain Berkhamsted 1st pair topped Group A after dominant displays against Sandringham and Watford Grammar. Haberdashers Boys finished top of Group B and Berkhamsted 2nd pair edged first place in Group C after overcoming a strong challenge from Dame Alice Owens. Berkhamsted 1st pair and 2nd pair emerged victorious from their respective semi-finals against Haberdashers Boys and Watford Grammar to set up a high-quality final with a large crowd of parents, teachers and participants watching on. Berkhamsted 1st pair eased to a 4-0 win after some superb shot-making and real determination. In the less experienced competition, there were fine performances from Marlborough, Chancellors and Aldenham, but in the end Dame Alice Owens came out on top. The event was a real success providing a fun competition for Year 7 schoolboys from across the county, with all teams showing great sportsmanship throughout. No photo due to the weather!

Girls: On the 4th of June 16 teams competed in the Year 7 Tournament at Royal Masonic School. There were two sections of the competition, Experienced and Less Experienced, where they played a round robin tournament in pools which went forward to play offs. The standard was high and there were some excellent rallies and points won. Well done to all competitors for an excellent afternoon. We look forward to seeing you in more of our tournaments next season.

Experienced: Winners: Goffs Academy,
Runners Up: Royal Masonic

Less Experienced: Winners: Berkhamsted,
Runners Up: Berkhamsted.

County Schools Competition

Girls:

Held in April 2024, it was a fantastic day of competitive play with several schools participating. A total of 17 pairs

competed across the U14 and U18 categories. In the U14 division, teams were split into two pools, culminating in a thrilling final between St Albans High School and Dame Alice Owens, with St Albans emerging as champions. The U18s competed in a round robin format, with another close contest between St Albans High School and Dame Alice Owens, but this time Dame Alice Owens claimed the 2024 title. We look forward to another exciting event in 2025.

Boys:

The weather held out for the whole afternoon allowing play across eight courts for the full three hours. Over 70 students played across the two competitions and as always, the standard of play was excellent but the sportsmanship between the schools was lovely to see as well.

The under 14's main draw was dominated this year by Sandringham's two pairs on the opposite side of the draw. They met in the final and Sandringham's first pair came away victorious. The plate competition was very healthy and allowed teams knocked out earlier in the main draw to play more games throughout the afternoon. Some of these games were very close and some excellent tennis was played by all. Some schools once they had been knocked out of both competitions played some more friendlies which was great to see. The plate competition was won in the end by Verulam.

The under 18s draw was very busy and eventually saw St Columba's and Haberdashers in the final. This year Haberdashers came out on top - congratulations Haberdashers. The plate was closely contested with many entertaining games to watch. Watford boys prevented Haberdashers taking both the main and plate titles by beating them in the final. Many thanks again to all the teachers who brought the boys along, Welwyn Tennis Club for allowing us to use their facilities and eight of their courts. I would also like to thank the boys personally as they left the clubhouse and courts looking as if no one had been there!

Pam Burrage

Thanks to all the partners of Herts Tennis