



HERTS TENNIS

Super 6! Herts Ladies do it again



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President's Report 2025-26



Bridie Amos

I'm writing this report with a mixture of gratitude, disbelief, and just a hint of "how on earth did we get here so quickly?" Because, after nine years on the Management Committee of Herts Tennis and succeeding Lee as President last year, it's time to hand the baton on. I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been another remarkable year for tennis (and padel!) in Hertfordshire, and what it has meant to be part of this wonderful community.

A Year of Sporting Excellence

Let's start where so much of our pride comes from: the tennis itself. Once again, our players – from the tiniest 8U competitors to our seasoned seniors – have delivered performances that would make any county beam.

Our Ladies Summer County Cup team achieved something truly extraordinary this year: a record equalling sixth consecutive national title. Six. In a row. It's hard to overstate what an achievement that is. Five days of gruelling matches, three rounds a day, the best teams in the country – and our women rose to the challenge with their trademark blend of grit, grace, and good humour. Amanda, Kat and the whole squad: you have been nothing short of inspirational.

Our Men's team battled valiantly in group 2 at Roehampton in their push for promotion and although the tennis gods didn't quite smile on them this time, their determination and unity were clear for all to see. And at the Winter County Cup, both our Men and Ladies competed in Group 1 – a testament to the strength of our pathway and the depth of talent across the county.

Our juniors have been equally impressive. The 14U girls reached the national finals and finished a brilliant second. Our Lionel Cox teams lifted the trophy once again.

The 12 Counties squads secured second place in Division 1, maintaining our position among the very best. And across the age groups – 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U – we saw performances full of determination, teamwork and pride in wearing the Herts Tennis shirt.

Our senior teams too have been pulling out all the stops to make this a fantastic year for seniors' tennis in Herts, including the ladies 55s team being crowned national champions and the men's 55s coming a close second. You can read all about all the age group achievements later on in the newsletter.

One of my favourite Herts Facebook posts this year (24/11/25) highlighted the story that of two of our 18U boys, James and Brandon, joining the 10U squad for a training session. The younger boys were thrilled, the older boys were brilliant role models and the whole thing summed up what Herts Tennis is all about: community, connection and giving back.

County Championships & Padel Progress

The County Championships at Rickmansworth were, as ever, a highlight of the summer. The numbers alone tell the story: 558 junior matches, 9,431 games, 1,074 sets and over 24,000 minutes of tennis. It's a logistical marathon, and once again Jamie Broomfield and the team delivered it with calm professionalism and good humour. My thanks to everyone involved – referees, players, volunteers, parents, coaches and of course Rickmansworth LTC for being such generous hosts.

Padel continues to grow at pace and the Padel County Championships, with the finals held at Broxbourne, demonstrated just how much enthusiasm there is for this fastpaced, sociable sport. For the first time a junior event was included showcasing some amazingly talented players! All the finals were fiercely contested, brilliantly supported, and expertly run. Thank you again to Jamie and also to Stuart Foster, who heads up Padel on behalf of Herts and his team for helping padel find such a strong foothold in the county. As I write this, we now have 33 padel courts in the county with many more in the pipeline. If you want to find somewhere to play padel just have a look at our website for your nearest court! <https://hertstennis.co.uk/padel/>

Club and venue competitions

Our Herts clubs and venues have had their share of sporting success too. In the Herts main summer leagues Letchworth ladies returned to winning ways to take the title ahead of Gosling. Welwyn and Harpenden have been see-sawing in

Herts Management Committee

Bridie Amos	President, Chair
Toby Bentall	Honorary Treasurer
Jamie Broomfield	Competition Lead
Kirstie Caneparo	Governance Lead
Carole Draper	EDI Lead, Office and Community Manager
Helen Elliott	Honorary Secretary and Awards Lead
Stuart Foster	Community Lead
Mark George	Performance Lead
Darren Hopkins	Partnership Lead
Matt Willcocks	Participation & Communications Lead

Front cover:

The Lionel Cox team.
Ladies Summer
County Cup team.

A big thank you to all the partners of Herts LTA and associated events

AVN Holdings Ltd	Padel Pass
AVN Solutions (UK) Ltd	Soflat Ltd
 Chiltern Sports Contractors	StoneX
CJS Consultants Partnership	TP ICAP Broking Ltd
Capitolis UK Ltd	TP ICAP E&C Ltd
I-media Advertising Ltd	TP ICAP Group Services Ltd
C. J. O'Shea & Company Ltd	TP ICAP Markets Ltd

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

recent years for the men's title and it was to be Welwyn who clinched it in 2025. The Harris Cup finals were generously hosted by Moor Park in October and it was Townsend Ladies who triumphed for the fourth successive year in a row, beating rivals St Albans by the slimmest of margins and becoming the most successful team in the competition's history. The Men's showpiece saw a Welwyn team fresh from wrapping up this year's Herts League take on Rickmansworth. After some incredibly close matches Welwyn were the eventual winners and in so doing became the first club to do the Herts League/Harris Cup double. You can read more about all the competitions later on in the newsletter.

Coaching, Workforce & Development

Our coaching workforce remains one of our greatest strengths. This year saw a series of excellent development opportunities, including workshops delivered by UCoach and bespoke CPD organised by our volunteer Herts Tennis Coaches Forum team led by Alison Allard. These sessions not only enhance coaching skills but also strengthen the sense of community and shared learning among our workforce so many thanks to Alison as well as Sam Ranger, Tom Dyball and the HCTCF team. We said goodbye to UCoach this year as the LTA approved provider for managing coaching qualification and education in the county passes to our new 'Workforce Development Centre' WimX. UCoach have delivered CPD and supported countless Herts coaches for many years and my thanks go to Nigel, Liz and the whole UCoach team who have contributed so much. We look forward to working with WimX in the future to continue to provide excellent learning opportunities for our workforce of coaches and officials in both tennis and padel.

We also continued our commitment to supporting coaches to open tennis up to neurodivergent players and families, with a well received ADHD and Autism workshop organised by the Herts Tennis Foundation team led by Phil Martin and delivered in partnership with ADDvance. This sits alongside our broader work to ensure tennis in Hertfordshire is welcoming, inclusive and accessible to all.

Inclusion & Community Impact

One of the most inspiring aspects of this year has been the continued growth of inclusive tennis across the county. The work in this area has been driven by Phil Martin and the Herts Tennis Foundation team, who focus on igniting programmes in clubs, schools and communities. We were delighted to see Phil Martin (Herts Tennis Foundation) and Gerry Bloohn (Potters Bar) recognised for their outstanding service to disability tennis – an honour richly deserved.



Lee Evans



Martin Corrie

Visits to venues such as Get Set for Tennis reinforced how much good work is happening at club level – from sensory boards to community post boxes, from young volunteers to inclusive programming. These are the stories that remind us why we do what we do.

2026 has been named as the Year of Disability, Sport and Physical Activity in Hertfordshire, with the programme name "No Limits" and I'm sure our activity in this area will go from strength to strength – watch this space!

Celebration & Recognition

Our annual Awards Evening was once again a highlight of the year, bringing together volunteers, coaches, officials, players, clubs and the Herts Tennis team to celebrate the achievements and contributions that make Hertfordshire such a special tennis community. Whether on court, in clubhouses or behind the scenes, the dedication of our people continues to inspire. Thank you to everyone who contributes and also to those who nominate others – it really doesn't take long and is a great way to recognise and say thank you to amazing people.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues on the management committee for their incredible hard work this year, including ongoing and retiring members, in what has been a year of considerable change in the team. At our AGM in March, we were delighted to welcome new committee members - Toby Bentall (Treasurer), Jamie Broomfield (Competition lead), Kirstie Caneparo (Governance lead) and Darren Hopkins (Partnership lead). Darren has also just been appointed as my successor in the LTA Councillor role and we wish him all the best for that. The newbies joined me, Carole Draper, Helen Elliott, Stuart Foster, Mark George, Tessa Terry and Matt Willcocks.

Two people stepped down from the management committee at the AGM – Martin Corrie and Lee Evans. Both Martin and Lee have made an immense contribution to Herts Tennis over the years. Martin's tennis journey began as a teenager at Sun Sports in Cassiobury, Watford and over the years, he has played at Rickmansworth, the Civil Service Club in Chiswick, and Harpenden LTC. His contributions to our county have been nothing short of monumental. As a player, he represented Hertfordshire across every age group – junior, open and seniors.

His dedication over 30 years on the management committee has been instrumental in shaping the thriving, high-performing and welcoming tennis community that we're so proud of today. Martin has taken on numerous pivotal roles: performance lead, treasurer, LTA councillor, and beyond – and contributed at a

President's Report 2025-26

national level on LTA committees and as LTA President as well as making a mark internationally through the ITF.

While his leadership and accomplishments are outstanding, it's Martin's wise counsel, passion and unwavering commitment to Hertfordshire that truly sets him apart. We owe him immense gratitude for his vision, dedication and energy that have left an indelible mark on our community.

Lee Evans has volunteered his services at both West Herts and Watford LTC and Herts Tennis for over 30 years. As Competition Lead Lee will be known to a great number of players in the county as the person who was responsible for the Herts league and was hugely diligent and dedicated in managing these competitions for many years. He has encouraged wider participation from venues and grown our competition offering over the years including introducing the Harris Cup competition.

Lee represented the county as LTA Councillor and was our President for three years guiding us through a period of significant change including the incorporation of Herts LTA and compliance with the LTA Governance Framework. However, his real strengths are as a people person, always encouraging new volunteers to join the team effort, motivating his colleagues and making them feel valued and appreciated. He raised the profile of Herts Tennis by a concerted effort to visit as many venues as possible and establishing a new Venue Engagement Team to embed this work. Thank you, Lee, for your many years

of dedicated service to Herts Tennis.

Tessa Terry, who served as our County Safeguarding Officer, also stepped down from the Management committee at the end of the year and I want to take this opportunity to thank Tessa for her years of service to Herts Tennis, including five on the management committee. Her work as County Safeguarding Officer has been of an exceptionally high standard and raised the bar in this area nationally and her commitment to the welfare of all involved in the sport has been much appreciated.

Tessa continues to volunteer with our venue engagement and EDI working groups and has moved us on considerably in these areas.

A big thank you also goes to our partners. Their wonderful support means we can continue to grow tennis and padel in the county, opening the sport up to new audiences as well as developing the initiatives, pathways and programmes that lead to achieving excellence on the court.

Finally, as I prepare to step down from the role of President at the AGM, I want to express my deepest thanks to everyone I have had the privilege of working with. I love being part of the Herts Tennis family and I leave the role confident in the strength, stability, and future of Herts Tennis. The county is in excellent hands, and I look forward to supporting the next chapter from a different vantage point.

Bridie Amos, President, Herts Tennis

Herts Safeguarding

County Safeguarding Officer Recruitment

Tessa Terry, our County Safeguarding Officer, stepped down at the end of 2025 and we are currently recruiting to fill this role. We are indebted to Tessa for working so hard to establish a strong culture of safeguarding in Herts, building and championing a network of venue welfare officers to share learnings, keeping information up to date and to a high standard, and supporting Herts Tennis events to ensure they operate in a safe and inclusive way for all. Thank you, Tessa. We will update venues as and when a new CSO is in post.

Young Person's Welfare Ambassador (YPWA)

Young volunteers can play an important role in raising awareness of safeguarding at LTA registered venues. This year we have been extremely fortunate that 3 young people from Hertfordshire clubs have been appointed Young Persons Welfare ambassadors – two from Moor Park Tennis Club and one from Elliswick Tennis Club. Congratulations to them and thank you! If you know a young person aged between 14-24 at your venue who would like to be involved please do let us know so that they can be put forward at the next round of recruitment. More details are available here: [Become a Young Person's Welfare Ambassador/LTA](#)

Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership

Our partnership with the Herts Sport & Physical Activity Partnership during 'Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Week' highlighted the importance of positive environments for

young people. The launch of the Positive Pledge Cards was a simple but powerful initiative, reminding spectators of the role they play in shaping children's experiences.

Resources and support

All the key safeguarding policy and procedure documents are available on our website here: [Safeguarding & Policies - Herts Tennis](#)

Additionally, the annual LTA safeguarding conference which took place in October 2025 included many useful and insightful sessions, including a welfare officer induction session. You can watch recordings of the sessions by logging into your LTA account and navigating to the safeguarding page on the LTA website here: [LTA Safe to Play National Safeguarding Conference 2025 | LTA](#)

The Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership

runs regular multi-sport workshops, webinars and networking events designed to share best practice. You may sign up to the free HSP welfare newsletter here: [Sport Welfare](#)

Bridie Amos





The victorious Ladies Summer County Cup Team

Herts Ladies Summer County Cup 2025, Eastbourne

We arrived at County Week 2025 as defending champions once again and knowing that every other county wanted to be the one to stop us getting another title. Five titles in a row already achieved, and we were looking to secure a record equalling six titles in a row – something Surrey Ladies achieved in the 1980s.

Day 1 – Surrey (8-1 Win)

County Week always begins with nerves, no matter how experienced the squad, and our opening match was all about settling in and looking to set the tone for the week.

Whenever we play Surrey, there is a great history between the two counties and both sides are up for the battle. The girls started out strongly with 3 straight sets wins to take a 3-0 lead in round 1. We then built on this (despite a bit of a rain delay) with a couple of tight victories in round 2 with 2 tiebreak 3rd set wins to go 6-0 up after lunch. In the final round, with victory already sewn up we brought in a sub for some fresh legs and county week experience, and the team secured an 8-1-win v Surrey. The perfect start to the week and a great statement to send out to the other counties.

Day 2 – Yorkshire (5-4 Win)

On day 2 we were off-site against Yorkshire, who are always a challenging team to beat. In round 1, we took a 2-1 lead, with our 2nd pair losing an incredibly tight match 15-13 in the third set breaker. At the end of round two, it was 3-3, as Yorkshire's 1st pair won another tight tiebreak to beat our first pair,

meaning that we were locked into a battle right from the first day and we needed 2 out of the final 3 matches to secure victory. We made a substitution, bringing in Hannah to play with Erin against Yorkshire's so far undefeated first pair and they secured a fantastic straight sets win. We managed to fight hard for a 5-4 victory on the day, and I was so proud of the team for such a great win that felt like a turning point in the week.

Day 3 – Somerset (9-0 Win)

By day three, the confidence was flowing. The atmosphere around the squad was relaxed but totally on it – exactly where you want to be midweek.

The weather however was not good with lots of rain, so we played about 30 minutes on grass before a long rain delay involving playing cards and eating a long lunch, before we moved to the local school to play on their hockey/tennis courts. Due to the length of the rain delay we finished our first round of matches with normal scoring, before moving to short sets for the rest of the day so that we could finish. The girls dealt with the conditions amazingly well (despite not particularly enjoying playing the rain in between the thunderstorms) and we secured a fantastic 9-0 victory, with just two of those matches going to a third set tiebreak. As we finished so late, we decided to order pizza and eat this as a team by the courts. Ending the day with boxes of pizza and being the only team left after a busy and frantic day is a great memory that I have of the week.

Day 4 – Cheshire (7-2 Win)

The penultimate day is always dangerous—fatigue sets in and

Team Reports

expectations grow, but the team put in another great performance.

We started strong with another 3-0 lead after round one, with Marelle and Erin winning a great 3rd set tiebreak to put the pressure on early in the day. In the second round, Erin / Marelle and Georgie / Indi put in clinical performances to win in straight sets, and Emily and I lost out in a close 10-8 defeat in a tiebreaker third. Nevertheless, we went into the final round having already won the day at 5-1, and we finished off the day strong with all 3 rubbers and another great tiebreak clincher from Georgie and Hannah.

Day 5 – Middlesex (7-2 Win)

Going into the final day, we knew exactly what was required. One last push to secure that record equalling 6 in a row.

For the first time that week, we finished the first round of matches 2-1 down, with Emily and I winning our only rubber that morning. Things never run totally smoothly and we expected Middlesex to put up a good fight on the final day. We refocused and set out to put in a strong second round, and the team fully delivered on that by winning all three matches to go into the final round needing just one match to secure the victory. In the end, we kept the heat on right until the end and actually secured all three matches to win the day 7-2 and the title for the sixth time in a row! I can't remember the point that won it for us, but that feeling of winning with such great teammates is something that you cannot take for granted. This achievement is down to commitment, resilience, and a fantastic team culture. Every player contributed – on court and off it – and the support for each other was unwavering all week. We also had incredible support from the sidelines from our Herts supporters which we are so grateful for – thank you!

This is an incredibly special era for Herts Ladies and one that

we will never forget. Of course, we will be trying to go one better in 2026 and go for an outright record of 7 in a row.

Team: Emily Arbuthnott, Georgie Axon, Amanda Elliott (Captain), Georgiana, Erin Pearce, Hannah Read, Marelle Raath, Indi Spink, Kat Whiteaway (Vice-captain).

Herts Ladies Winter County Cup 2025, Bath

Having had a fantastic Winter County Cup in 2024 where we comfortably gained promotion to group 1, we knew that the competition and standard in group 1 would be a step up in level. With many of our 2025 team away at US College or unavailable, we formed a young team to take on the challenge in Bath.

Day 1 – Kent (8-1 Loss)

Kent had a really strong line up and with 6 singles and 3 doubles to play we were up for the challenge. Kent however started really strongly and took a 5-1 lead against us after the singles, with our only victory coming in at number 6 with Lilia taking a comprehensive victory against her opponent. In the doubles that followed, Emily and Georgiana lost out in a tight tiebreak third set along with the other two doubles not going our way, so we ended the day with an 8-1 loss.

Day 2 – Yorkshire (7-2 Loss)

On day 2, we took on Yorkshire who are a familiar opponent for us having played them a lot in Summer County Weeks in recent years. There were some really competitive singles matches, with a stand out match of Emily Arbuthnott against Eleanor Dean which took nearly 3 hours and was really high quality,



Ladies Winter County Cup Team

with Emily losing out in a tight third set. Lilia picked up another singles win along with Georgiana, meaning we finished the singles 4-2 down. Still in the match and fighting for the doubles, Arabella and Scarlett-May lost out in a very tight third set tiebreak and with the other matches not going our way either, we finished the day with a 7-2 loss.

Day 3 – Avon (5-1 Loss)

Having had a tough couple of days, we were playing for pride on Sunday, and the girls were up for the challenge. As the matches were fairly clear cut, Avon needed to get to 5 rubbers to secure their weekend victory.

After some courageous play and some great points all round,

Emily was the only team member able to pick up a win meaning we lost the singles (and the day) 5-1. Avon's 5 rubbers meant that they had won County Cup for the first time ever and on home soil – huge congratulations to them!

Unfortunately, it seems that this will be the last Winter County Cup due to changes in the LTA calendar and County team events, so we will not have the opportunity to go again next year! Now our focus will turn to Summer County Week in 2026 and look to retain our title there!

Team: Emily Arbuthnott, Arabella, Gabby, Georgiana, Scarlett-May, Lilia, Michaela, Amanda Elliott (non-playing Captain).

Amanda Elliott, Herts ladies captain.



Men's Summer County Cup Team

Herts Men's Summer County Cup 2025, Roehampton

Summer county week saw us in Roehampton competing in division 2 with strong hopes of promotion.

Although we had a few last-minute withdrawals, we had a fantastic team with the following players: **Charlie Broom, Finn Bass, Ryan Storrie, Ed Corrie, Neil Bamford, Oliver Foran, Joel Pierlioni, Enrico Franchi and James Wilkinson.**

The week saw some amazing tennis and fantastic wins but the highlight was undoubtedly seeing Neil Bamford back on court having battled with cancer 12 months prior to the event. Herts tennis is a big family and the health and wellbeing of every player and person involved is everything with tennis results fading into insignificance in comparison. Seeing Neil still able to compete at that level was an inspiration to all of us.

The whole team fought so hard and gave their all but sadly we didn't quite manage promotion and will be battling it out in division 2 again in 2026.

Herts Men's Winter County Cup 2025, Bath

Winter county cup saw us arrive in Bath as Division 1 defending champions.

The team consisted of: Oliver Tarvet, Charlie Broom, David Stevenson, Oliver Foran, Enrico Franchi, Albert Calin, James Wilkinson and Matt Carol.

We had been told a few weeks prior to the event that this year's Winter County Cup would be the last. Everyone was sad to hear this news but also wanted to go out on high. The competition was strong and the level of tennis was very high but unfortunately we weren't quite good enough.

Knowing the event is no more and once it was mathematically impossible to win the event, all teams shook hands and Surrey were crowned champions. Congratulations to them.

I can't wait for 2026 Summer County Cup where the Herts men will go again.

Hamid Hejazi, Herts men's captain.

Herts Tennis Awards 2025



Charlie Broom



Martin Corrie



Ivan Rodriguez Deb



Jamie Broomfield

The annual Herts Tennis Awards Dinner took place on Saturday 26th April at Harpenden Golf Club.

The annual dinner is a chance to express our thanks to the clubs, players, coaches and volunteers who work so hard to make tennis happen in Hertfordshire. This year we were honoured to have LTA President Sandi Proctor to join us for the evening and present several of the awards.

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.

We also presented the Herts Tennis Awards which are specific county and team competition awards. Special mentions went to two of our Management Committee members who stepped down from the committee in March this year – Lee Evans who retired as President and Martin Corrie who retired as Treasurer. For many years both Lee and Martin have dedicated themselves to tennis within the county and their work has been outstanding.

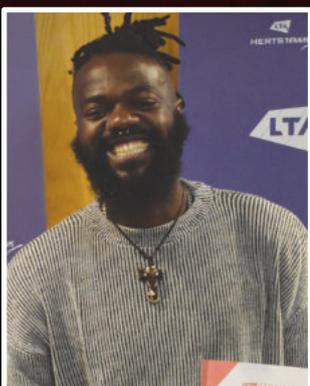
Outstanding Achievement Awards were also presented to Charlie Broom, Martin Corrie, Ivan Rodriguez Deb and the Herts Ladies Team for their five consecutive wins at the Summer County Cup.



Townsend Ladies



Welwyn Men



Tatenda Makoni



Dan Clegg



Herts Ladies Team



Lee Evans



Oliver See



Georgie Axon

LTA County Awards

Club of the Year –	Salisbury Tennis Club
Development Coach of the Year –	Dan Clegg
Tennis Opened Up –	Tatenda Makoni
Lifetime Achievement –	Lee Evans
Official of the Year –	Jamie Broomfield
Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year –	Clare Smith
Young Person of the Year –	Darcey

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Charlie Broom
 Martin Corrie
 Ivan Rodriguez Deb
 Hertfordshire Ladies Team



Gosling Ladies

Herts Tennis Awards

Mark Seymour Award –	Oliver See
The Laing Award –	Erin Pearce
County Colours –	Georgie Axon, Finn Bass
Harris Cup Winners 2024 Ladies –	Townsend
Harris Cup Winners 2024 Men –	Welwyn
Herts League Winners 2024 Ladies –	Gosling
Herts League Winners 2024 Men –	Harpenden



Harpenden Men



Salisbury Tennis Club



Clare Smith



Darcey

Herts Junior County Team Report 2025



Under 8 Boys

2025 has been another busy year for the Hertfordshire junior county teams. Our young players, supported by their dedicated coaches and parents have travelled the length and breadth of the country to represent Hertfordshire. The teams have achieved impressive results across the age groups and the quality of tennis displayed throughout the year has been consistently high, reflecting the Herts values, abilities and hard work of our young players and coaches.

JUNIOR TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Lionel Cox Trophy - 9U, 10U, 12U – Winners
 12 Counties Championships Division 1 - 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U – Runners-up
 14U Girls County Cup National Finals – Runners-up
 8U Girls x 2 Teams County Cup – Winners & Runners-up
 8U Boys x 2 Teams County Cup – Winners & Runners-up
 8U Inter-Regional Competition – Bronze Medallists
 14U Boys County Cup Division 2 – Winners

COUNTY CUP 2025 – RESULTS & TEAMS

Boys 18U - Division 2 – 3rd
 Brandon, James, Ace, Daniel, Samual, Noah, Kevin, Stefan.
 Captains: Chris Martin, Scott Lawrence
Girls 18U - Division 1 - 4th
 Sophia, Dina, Georgiana, Gabby, Lilia, Grace, Catherine, Scarlett-May.
 Captains: Sammie Williams & Jamie Fallis



County Cup Under 14 Boys



Lionel Cox winners

Boys 14U Play-Off 2 – Group Winners

Rafi, Leo, Jet, William, Finlay.
 Captains: Chris Martin, Support: Lewis King

Girls 14U National Finalists – Runners-up

Lilia, Adaugo, Macy, Amaya, Mylie.
 Captain: Teresa Lilley, Support: Chloe Hughes

Boys 12U Qualifying Group – 2nd

Travelling Team: Thomas, Andrian, Riyan, Alfie, Freddie, James.

Captain: Jordan Miles, Support: Teresa Lilley

Girls 12U Qualifying Group – 5th

Ivy, Theresa, Yoyo, Natalia, Sophie.
 Captain: Sammie Williams, Support: Ben Feltham

Boys 11U Qualifying Group – 4th

Roc, Eric, Joe, Thomas, James, Albie.
 Captain: Fran Ruiz-Lopez, Support: Jaime Cotton & Teresa Lilley

Girls 11U Qualifying Group – 2nd

Yoyo, Natalia, Annabelle, Mya, Kim.
 Captain: Sammie Williams, Support: Ben Feltham

Boys 10U Qualifying Group – 4th

Jacob, Eric, Hayden, Seth, Andrew.
 Captain: Craig Blythe, Support: Matt Sands & Tommy Simpson

Girls 10U Qualifying Group – 2nd

Girls = Natalia, Lucinda, Amelie, Chloe, Sophie.
 Captain: Sarah Jackson, Support: Ben Feltham

Boys 9U - Qualifying Round – 3rd

Mateos, Sebastian, George, Shakil, Hugo.
 Captains: Ben Stockley, Rob McDowell, Teresa Lilley

Girls 9U – Qualifying Round – 4th

Olive, Grace, Tamara, Mika, Annabelle.

8U Boys x 2 Teams County Cup – 1st & 2nd place

Casper, Jasper, George, Yani, Edward, Alessandro, Maxsim, Daniel.



County Cup Under 14 Girls



Under 8 Girls

8U Girls x 2 Teams County Cup – 1st & 2nd place (Herts fielded two girls and two boys teams)

Mia-May, Evelyn, Danisha, Sosei, Ella, Reyna, Sara, Poppy.
 Captain: Monica Becerra / Assistants: Ben Feltham Herts
 Future Participant: Max, Thomas, Stanley, Ellie, India, Amber.

LTA COUNTY CUP RACE

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 and 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. For the 2025 season Herts Tennis finished tenth nationally – A big thank you and well done to everyone who contributed to our county cup teams both on and off court.

County Cup Race - www.lta.org.uk/4af872/siteassets/compete/junior/image/2025-county-cup-race---as-of-18.12.2025.pdf

LIONEL COX TROPHY 2025

WINNERS

In 2024 the Lionel Cox's Trophy trialled as a doubles format, the event was great fun and very well received by players, coaches and parents; after consultation the unanimous decision was to continue the Lionel Cox Trophy as a doubles event. 2025 saw our 10U and 12Us travel to Wycombe Abbey School and the 9Us to Hills Road, Cambridge. We were very fortunate with the May bank holiday weather and as ever it was great to see players from ten counties across the East region come together to enjoy competing alongside their tennis friends. The level of tennis from all involved was excellent and the players worked very hard to accumulate points for their county... after a tallying of points Herts retained the LIONEL COX TROPHY!

AGE GROUP FINISHING POSITIONS & TEAMS

9U Boys – 3rd

George, Shakil, Hugo, Sebastian.
 Captain: Ben Stockley

9U Girls – 2nd

Annabelle, Mika, Grace, Olive.
 Captain: Rob McDowell

10U Boys – 1st

Jacob, Eric, Hayden, Seth.



12 Counties Under 12 Boys

Captain: Craig Blythe

10U Girls – 1st

Lucinda, Natalia, Chloe, Amelie.

Captain: Sarah Jackson

12U Boys – 3rd

Roc, Andrian, Noah, Alfie.

Captain: Jordan Miles

12U Girls – 1st

Sophie, Ivy, Yoyo, Theresa.

Captain: Ian Zellner

10U & 12U Events - <https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=ea84dd52-11df-4a0c-8b4f-c113d1853883>

9U Events - <https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=e674a26b-6cc8-4732-a7b4-a2dab5ca1b81>

12 COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 - 2025

DIVISION 1 - RUNNERS-UP

The 2024 – 2025 12 Counties Championship saw close to 640 children play 720 matches between October to March at the Corby Tennis Centre. The event has 12 counties participating in 3 divisions with teams of four boys and four girls in the 10U through to 18U age groups. Each player plays 3 singles matches with the results and finishing positions of each age group determining their counties placing in their division. Herts competed in Division 1 with Middlesex, Essex and Buckinghamshire. Herts finished in second place to maintain their position in Division 1 for 2025 – 2026 along with Middlesex and newly promoted Cambridgeshire and Berkshire.

AGE GROUP FINISHING POSITIONS & TEAMS

10 & Under Teams – Boys – 4th / Girls – 2nd

Boys: Eric, Andrew, Hayden, Jacob.

Captain: Craig Blythe

Girls: Natalia, Lucinda, Amelie, Chloe.

Captain: Sarah Jackson

12 & Under Teams – Boys – 2nd / Girls – 2nd

Boys: Noah, Andrain, Thomas, Rufus. Captain: Christian Colvin

Girls: Ivy, Theresa, Sophie, Yoyo. Captain: Ian Zellner

14 & Under Teams – Boys – 2nd / Girls – 3rd

Boys: Leo, Finlay, William, Jet. Captain: Chris Martin

Girls: Anne-Marie, Amaya, Theresa, Romy. Captain: Teresa Lilley



16 & Under Teams - Boys – 1st / Girls – 1st

Boys: Brandon, Ace, Noah, Stefan. Captain: Chris Martin
Girls: Rose, Katie, Lilia, Catherine. Captain: Teresa Lilley

18 & Under Teams - Boys – 4th / Girls – 1st

Boys: James, Samuel, Daniel, Ace. Captain: Jamie Fallis
Girls: Sophia, Rose, Gabby, Scarlett May.
Captain: Sammie Williams

LTA Results link - <https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=b9be2afa-3c22-4641-a757-be1819d9cb2d>

MINI-RED EAST REGION INTER-COUNTY COMPETITION – Bronze Medallists

The annual inter-county competition is a popular and action packed day of red tennis matches for 8U players from 10 counties across the East Region. The 2025 event was very competitive, with lots of close and exciting matches. Our young players competed with great enthusiasm, teamwork and determination and were cheered on brilliantly by our coaches, parents and supporters - all involved can be very proud!

Girls Team: Danisha, Mia-May, Sosei, Evelyn, Ella, Reyna. – placed 3rd

Boys Team: Shahil, Daniel, Jasper, Casper, Maxsim, Edward. – placed 5th

Captain: Monica Becerra

Assistants: Ben Feltham & Jessie Hopkins

LTA Results link - <https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/tournament.aspx?id=3fff299a-3ab5-4058-af19-b00f4eb4e5b2>

Alongside our travelling players, we would also like to say a BIG thank you to parents/players who travelled as a reserve or were listed as reserve for team events, we fully appreciate your commitment to being available to play – you are all a highly valued part of the Herts Tennis family.

The links can be accessed on our digital version which is available at <https://hertstennis.co.uk/newsletters-reports/>

Note: Teams are not necessarily listed in playing order.

FURTHER HERTS JUNIOR COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Junior County Training

Alongside our team activities Hertfordshire Tennis organises frequent county training sessions for 8Us to 18Us. County training sessions are designed to assist players 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.

In 2025 we introduced extended training sessions for the 8U, 9U, 10U age groups to include athletic activities, tennis specific drills and match play training plus off court guidance and support for parents. Through 2026 we are looking to further strengthen delivery for the 11U to 14U age groups.

Herts Tennis Potential Sessions – 8 & Under Reds

The **Herts Tennis Potential** sessions are a first introduction to Herts activities and a great way for Herts County coaches to meet new tennis players. The sessions are for children in the 8U age category who are showing enthusiasm for tennis, high levels of athletic & tennis ability and are motivated by competition. The sessions take place throughout the year and involve a variety of fun activities in a friendly environment - Please contact us if you are interested in your child being involved.

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 along with opportunities to be involved in a variety of Herts Tennis events.

Through 2025 we have seen Herts Futures participants gain LTA coaching qualifications, support county coaches and young players at county training and competitions, attend Wimbledon qualifying and access on- court workshops including training on grass courts which for many was their first experience of this surface.

We have more activities planned for 2026 including further education guidance, sports psychology and tennis statistics workshops, involvement in county training sessions and more!

We would like to thank you to the collective efforts of the team players and reserves, coaches, parents and supporters, who have contributed to the success of our activities and Hertfordshire teams!

If you would like to know more or are interested in getting involved in Herts Junior activities, please contact us at hertstennis@gmail.com

GO HERTS!

Teresa Lilley. Herts County Performance Manager

Honesty - Excellence – Resilience – Teamwork – Sportsmanship

Herts Players Impress On The International Stage

Oliver Tarvet, 22, created great excitement when he qualified for the Wimbledon Gentleman's singles main draw, where he won his first-round match to earn a second round match on Centre Court versus defending champion Carlos Alcaraz.

Ollie gave it his all and despite losing out to the five-time Grand Slam champion, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 he performed brilliantly and it was a day to remember for Ollie and all his Hertfordshire supporters. Ollie also clinched two ITF singles Tour titles in 2025.

Joanna Garland, 23, has impressed on the ITF World Tennis Tour, to date winning 17 singles and three doubles titles. In 2025 she won four ITF singles Tour titles and qualified for her first Grand Slam at Roland Garros, where she reached the second round. Her impressive performances have seen her

reach a new career-high singles WTA ranking of 117!

Ivan Rodriguez Deb, 20, has had a fantastic 2025 – Ivan is a visually impaired tennis player from Watford whose ongoing achievements highlight him as a leading young talent in the sport. 2025 saw Ivan win 10 titles including his first international where he claimed singles gold for GB at the European Championships, he also defended his Wimbledon title and finished the year as World Number 2 and GB number 1 for the 6th consecutive year!

David Stevenson and Charlie Broom, both 27, competed in Wimbledon main draw doubles events; 2025 also saw David break into the top 100 achieving a career high of 98 ATP Doubles Ranking and Charlie claimed three ITF M25 titles.

Hertfordshire Tennis are hugely proud of the individual achievements of all our players and we look forward to keeping track of their future progress.

Teresa Lilley

Adults	GB Ranking (At time of writing Jan 2026)			Tour Ranking	2025 Highlights - Titles
Ivan Deb	GB No. 1		World No. 2	B4 Global Rankings	Wimbledon Singles Winner, 10 titles inc 2 international titles, European Champs claimed gold for GB, Retained National singles & doubles titles.
Charles Broom	35	M	304 / 243	ATP Singles / Doubles	3 x Singles ITF M25 Titles, Main Draw Wimbledon Mens Doubles R1
David Stevenson	48	M	131	ATP Doubles	1 x Doubles Challenger Title, Main Draw Wimbledon Men Doubles R1 & Mixed R2
Finn Bass	69	M	948 / 312	ATP Singles / Doubles	3x ITF Doubles M25 & 2 x M15 titles
Oliver Tarvet	47	M	333 / 2366	ATP Singles / Doubles	2 x Singles ITF 1 x M25 & 1 x M15 Titles , Qualified for Wimbledon MD R2 vs Carlos Alcaraz!
Rhys	68	M	1940 / 2207	ATP Singles / Doubles	
Ryan Storrie	141	M	1308 / 887	ATP Singles / Doubles	

Juniors	GB Ranking (At time of writing Jan 2026)		Junior ITF Ranking		2025 Highlights - ITF, TE, G1 (Winner & Runner-Up)
Rhys	3	18U	85	ITF Junior	ITF u18 2x J100 Singles Titles & 1 x Runner-Up J100, ITF u18 Doubles 3 Titles 2 x J100 & 1xJ60 & 1 x Runner-Up J100, Played Wimbledon Junior Singles & Doubles
Enrico		18U	551	ITF Junior	ITF u18 Doubles 2 x Runner-Up J60/J100
Brandon	37	18U	840	ITF Junior	ITF u18 Doubles 1 x J60 & 5 x J30 Titles, ITF u18 Singles Runner-Up J30
Samuel	13	16U			
Noah	46	16U			
Roc	17	12U			G1 11U Singles Semi Finalist Bournemouth Clay, 12U TE Doubles R-UP Limassol,
Thomas	40	12U			
James	41	12U			
Eric	5	11U			G1 10U Singles National Tour Winner, represented GB in LTA invitational v Belgium
Mateos	2	10U			
US University Oliver Tarvet	San Diego				

Individual Successes

Adults	GB Ranking (At time of writing Jan 2026)		Tour Ranking		2025 Highlights - Titles
Joanna Garland	8	W	117	WTA Singles	4 x singles ITF W35 Titles. Won through French Open qualis reaching R2, Played US Open & Wimbledon Qualis, Represented Chinese Taipei in the BJK Cup,
Hepzibah Oluwadare	77	W	1392	WTA Singles	Played Junior Singles & Doubles Wimbledon
Katy Dunne	62	W	676	WTA Singles	Played Wimbledon Qualifying
Indianna Spink	130	W	919	WTA Singles	

Juniors	GB Ranking (At time of writing Jan 2026)		Junior ITF Ranking		2025 Highlights - ITF, TE, G1 (Winner & Runner-Up)
Sophia	6	18U	318	ITF Junior	ITF x 2 Singles Titles J30/J60. 3 x Doubles Titles J30, J60, J100, played Junior Wimbledon Qualifying
Georgiana	13	18U	1109	ITF Junior	ITF x 3 Doubles Runner-Up J60, J100, J30,
Scarlett-May	49	18U	2426	ITF Junior	ITF x 1 Doubles Runner-Up J30
Grace	286	18U	1010	ITF Junior	ITF x 1 Singles Runner-Up J60 & 1 x Doubles Title J60
Lilia	23	16U	1771	ITF Junior	14U TE 3 x Singles Titles, 1 x Runner-Up, 1 x Doubles Title, G1 Indoor Nationals 14U Doubles Runner-Up
Adaugo	44	16U	1796	ITF Junior	ITF x 1 Doubles Runner-Up J30, G1 National Championships 14U Doubles Runner-Up
Macy	53	16U	3336	ITF Junior	14U TE 1 x Singles Title, 1 x Doubles Title & 2 x Runner-Up, ITF x 1 Doubles Runner-up J30, G1 Indoor Nationals 14U Doubles Runner-Up
Ivy	110	14U			12U TE 1 x Doubles Runner-Up
Theresa	112	14U			12U TE 1 x Doubles Runner-Up
Yoyo	14	12U			11U G1 Indoor Nationals - Doubles Winner
Natalia	5	11U			10U G1 National Championship - Singles Winner, represented GB in LTA invitational on 2 occasions
Amelie	34	11U			
US University					
Erin Pearce	141	W	1547	WTA Doubles	Vanderbilt Uni
Marelle Raath	96	W	1220	WTA Doubles	Northwestern Uni
Hannah Read	790	W			San Diego Uni
Dina Lipovski	176	W			Tyler Texas Uni
Jessica Matthews	233	W			Idaho Uni
Francesca Franchi	263	W	1547	WTA Doubles	



Junior County Closed

A busy and successful week at the 2025 County Tennis Championships

In late August players of all ages from all across the county congregated at Rickmansworth Tennis Club for the 2025 County Champs.

This week is one of the busiest in the Herts Tennis calendar, in the junior event alone there were 558 matches played with 9431 games and 1074 sets in a total of 25453 minutes! That's a whole lot of tennis played for our 248 juniors! Suffice to say, it was a fabulous week of tennis and everyone played so well.

A big thank you to Rickmansworth Tennis Club for allowing us to use their courts and for making us so welcome and to the team of officials and volunteers who helped make the event run so smoothly.

2025 Junior County Championship Winners

	SINGLES			DOUBLES		
	Position	Boys	Girls	Position	Boys	Girls
8U	W	Maxim	Danisha			
	R/U	Wilfred	Sosei			
9U	W	Hugo	Tamara	W	George & Sebastian	Olive & Grace
	R/U	Balvan	Mikaela	R/U	Thomas & Alessio	Tamara & Mikaela
10U	W	Mateos	Marie	W	Seth & Hayden	Lucinda & Zoe
	R/U	Seth	Emily	R/U	Andrew & Yohan	Marie & Ruby
11U	W	James	Annabelle	W	Roc & Eric	Natalia & Annabelle
	R/U	Eric	Lucinda	R/U	Leonardo & Thomas	Mya & Helena
12U	W	Roc	Sophie	W	Roc & Thomas	Sophie & Amelie
	R/U	James	Yoyo	R/U	James & Ari	Zara & Lilia
14U	W	Jet	Ivy	W	Jet & Charles	Alexandra & Tamara
	R/U	Samuel	Daenerys	R/U	Vihaan & Rafi	Gabriella & Evie
16U	W	James	Gabby	W	James & Kaaviyan	Rose & Erika
	R/U	Kaaviyan	Catherine	R/U	Leo & William	Fern & Elena
18U	W	Ace	Gabby	W	Daniel & Ace	Gabby & Michaela
	R/U	Oscar	Erika	R/U	Charlie & Vincent	Rose & Erika

The Herts National Summer League

The National League Summer Competition saw 148 teams take part with 686 players taking to the court.

Congratulations to all teams who took part and thank you to all the captains for all your hard work. There was close competition in many of the divisions with Gosling winning the Men's Competition and Leverstock Green winning the Ladies, with both teams achieving 100% records.

Men's Division 1: Gosling

Men's Division 2: 2.1 Welwyn & 2.2 Codicote

Women's Division 1: Leverstock Green

8U Division 1: Harpenden

8U Division 2: 2.1: Royston & 2.2 Rickmansworth

9U Division 1: Harpenden

9U Division 2: 2.1 Gosling & 2.2 Bishops Stortford

10U Division 1: Gosling

10U Division 2: 2.1 Townsend & 2.2 Welwyn

GIRLS

12U Division 2: Rickmansworth

14U Division 1: Rickmansworth

14U Division 2: Cassiobury

16U Division 1: Rickmansworth

16U Division 2: St Albans

18U Division 1: Rickmansworth

BOYS

11U Division 2: Royston

12U Division 1: Harpenden

12U Division 2: 2.1 ACE & Townsend

14U Division 1: Berkhamsted

14U Division 2: 2.1 Welwyn, 2.2 Royston & 2.3 Elliswick

16U Division 1: St Albans

16U Division 2: 2.1 Welwyn & 2.2 Rickmansworth

18U Division 2: Letchworth

Jamie Broomfield

People and Clubs

Orchard and Dellcott Tennis Clubs Helping Hertfordshire Mind Network

Orchard Tennis Club was delighted to recently hold its 14th Annual Charity Tournament in memory of popular member Stuart West. This year the club's nominated charity was Hertfordshire Mind Network.

A number of members from nearby Dellcott Tennis Club also took part in the event, having been invited to do so whilst their own courts were being resurfaced. It made the day even better, with members from both clubs mixing together and contributing to the same cause.

Orchard was pleased to welcome several local dignitaries including the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Lynn Chesterman, and her husband Consort Councillor Alan Chesterman who came along to support the event. The club also enjoyed the company of Carole Draper from Herts Tennis who came to give her support.

Despite the very wet and windy conditions on the day, each of the four teams, captained by Stuart's widow Sue and their children James and Danielle, and by Adam Reid, competed enthusiastically for the Stuart West Trophy in a

mixed doubles handicap event. Each team played a total of 14 matches. At the end of the competition, James West's team proved victorious by the narrowest of margins, winning the tournament by just one game. The refreshment stalls and a barbecue successfully served their dual purpose of sustaining players' energy and raising money.

Club President Dave Wesson commented "Despite the rainy weather, members of Orchard and Dellcott Tennis Clubs had a very enjoyable day of tennis. We are extremely grateful to the players who took part, our guests and everyone who came along to support. Their generous donations enabled our Charity Day to raise a club record and very gratefully received sum of £1,000 for Hertfordshire Mind Network".



Orchard and Dellcott Tennis Clubs supporting MIND Network

Centenary Clubs Day at Wimbledon – RLTC Joins the Celebration

On 20th August, Rickmansworth Lawn Tennis Club was honoured to take part in the Centenary Clubs Day at the All England Lawn Tennis Club, a long-awaited celebration of club heritage and community spirit, postponed since COVID and finally realised in spectacular style.

RLTC joined fifteen other clubs for a day steeped in tradition and warmth, with 16 of our members representing the club, eight of whom took to the courts in friendly matches that embodied the joy of the game. From the guided tour and Centre Court display to the official photographs and evening cocktail party, every moment was thoughtfully curated.

A special highlight was Rufus the Hawk's majestic appearance, reminding us of Wimbledon's unique charm. Though attended by committee members, the day was a tribute to all RLTC members, past and present, whose passion continues to shape our club's legacy. We're proud to display the official group photo in our clubhouse as a symbol of our place within the wider tennis family.



Small Facilities Grant

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

Clubs that benefited this year were:

Codicote Tennis Club for a new memorial bench

Watton at Stone Tennis Club for new scoreboards and a leaf blower

Dellcott Family Tennis Club for new scoreboards



Watton-at-Stone's scoreboard



Codicote's memorial bench

In Memoriam

Sadly, we have said goodbye to several long-standing friends from the Herts Tennis family in the last year. Our thoughts and sympathies are with their families and friends:

Susan Brandon

Vivienne Russell Strong

Maureen Thomas

Welwyn Tennis Club Centenary

On 5th September 2025, Welwyn Tennis Club proudly celebrated the Centenary of tennis in Welwyn with a day of sport and celebration. The leadership team organised fun games for all members, each built around a “100” theme to mark the milestone. Later in the day, players donned traditional 1920s tennis attire and took to the court with wooden racquets for a spirited exhibition match, bringing the club’s earliest days vividly back to life. In the evening, more than 100 members gathered to enjoy entertainment and delicious food, capping off a truly memorable occasion.



Inter-Club Competition

Townsend and Welwyn retain Harris Cups at glorious Moor Park

Magnificent Moor Park was the setting for this year’s Harris Cup finals on a gorgeous mid-October Autumn day and the tennis served up was similarly stunning.

Named in honour of two of the County’s greatest ever servants to tennis, John and Val Harris and now in its 6th year, the Harris Cup is the county’s prestigious 2 pair knockout cup event.

The final of the Ladies competition was a repeat of the last two finals and just like in 2023 and 2024 it was Townsend who came out on top in what was another nail-biting clash with St Albans. The Jersey Lane club held the narrowest of leads after the first round of rubbers but helped by superb support from their large group of travelling fans Townsend managed to turn the advantage in their favour to win by just 2 games. The win means the club has now won the competition for the last four years and cements their place as the most successful team in Harris Cup history.

The Men’s showpiece, also a repeat of the 2024 final, saw a Welwyn team fresh from wrapping up this year’s Herts League take on Rickmansworth in what was a battle of the county’s two in form Men’s teams. An incredibly close first round could have gone either way but Welwyn’s ability to get over the line saw them win both match tie-breaks and take what proved to be a decisive two-rubbers-to-nil lead. Rickmansworth’s own huge band of supporters played their part beautifully but despite some brilliant tennis from their young team, they weren’t quite able to turn the tide and it was Welwyn who ran out deserved winners and in so doing became the first club to do the Herts League/Harris Cup double.

A very big thank you to all four teams, their magnificent supporters and Moor Park’s welcoming hosts for making the day so enjoyable.

Lee Evans



Harris Cup - Townsend Ladies



Harris Cup - Welwyn Men

The Herts League 2025: Familiar Names, Fresh Chapters

The 2025 Herts League season delivered a compelling blend of history, resurgence and promise for the future, with new champions crowned in both competitions and an exciting reshaping of the top divisions ahead.

In the Ladies’ Championship, Letchworth were once again the team to beat, lifting the title for the first time since 2019. For those with long memories of the competition, this marked a significant return to the top. Letchworth famously dominated the Ladies’ League for a decade, winning the title ten consecutive times between 2008 and 2017, and their success this season underlined that their place among the elite of Hertfordshire tennis remains firmly intact.

The Men’s Championship saw Welwyn reclaim the title, finishing ahead of last year’s champions Harpenden in second place. This was Welwyn’s fifth Herts League Men’s title and a satisfying return to the top following their previous success in 2023. As in recent seasons, the margins were fine and the standard exceptionally high, reinforcing Welwyn’s reputation as one of the most consistent forces in the competition.

Beyond the champions, there was plenty to celebrate across the divisions, with promotion once again highlighting the depth and strength of tennis throughout the county. In the Men’s League, Townsend and Leverstock Green will both step up to the top division in 2026 after impressive campaigns. In the Ladies’ competition, West Herts & Watford and Bishops Stortford earned their places in the Championship, ensuring that next season’s line-ups will be as competitive as ever.

As always, the Herts League continues to thrive thanks to the dedication of players, captains, match secretaries and organisers across all divisions. The 2025 season once again showcased not just excellence at the top, but commitment and quality throughout the league – a combination that bodes extremely well for the years ahead.

Jamie Broomfield



Herts Padel 2025

Padel venues and opportunities have grown throughout the year, with courts popping up in the county with more planned to be open in 2026. Please check out Herts LTA website for the padel locations in Herts. <https://hertstennis.co.uk/padel/> Currently, there are over 33 courts in Herts and growing. Most venues are very popular with high usage rates in peak times.

The 2025 County Padel Championships Finals were held successfully at Broxbourne Sports Club in late August and the 2026 County Padel Champs will be held at a similar time. Currently, we are running a Winter Open County Padel Champs, with the finals to be played at Batchwood on 15th March 2026.

There has been a huge increase in the number of Herts padel players listed on the LTA Padel Ranking over the last year with over 120 players listed in the open category. Plus, we have two boys listed in the U18s top ten in the UK.

The Over 50s and Open Padel County Teams competed in the UK Padel Inter-Counties competitions held in Bristol during 2025 with mixed results. The County is looking to increase its team entry for more age groups for 2026. If anyone would like to be considered for a county team or to assist with any padel opportunities, please contact Stuart Foster at hertstennis@gmail.com.

Stuart Foster, Padel Lead

Herts County Mens Seniors

Herts Men's Seniors Winter League

The 2024-25 Men's Seniors Winter League once again delivered a highly competitive and well-supported season across all age groups. With strong participation from clubs across the county and a healthy spread of divisions, the league continues to demonstrate both depth and quality, from Championship level through to the lower divisions.

Across the season there were several standout performances, dominant title runs, and examples of clubs showing real strength through multiple teams

and age groups. The consistency of fixtures completed and the standard of results underline the continued success of the league format.

Over 45s winning teams
Championship Division: Harpenden 1
Division 1A: Townsend 1
Division 1B: Harpenden 3
Division 2A: Townsend 2
Division 2B: Rickmansworth 2
Division 3A: Townsend 3
Division 3B: Northwood
Division 4A: Totteridge

Over 55s winning teams
Championship Division:
Leverstock Green 1

Division 1A: West Herts 1
Division 1B: DL Bushey
Division 2A: Codicote 1
Division 2B: Potters Bar 1
Division 3A: Welwyn 3
Division 3B: Radlett 2

Over 65s winning teams
Division 1: Townsend 1
Division 2: Townsend 2
Division 3: Rickmansworth 1

Over 70s winners
Harpenden 70s

Jamie Broomfield, Organiser

Men's Seniors Overview

Firstly, I would like to thank Malcolm Fraser, (from whom I took over the role of Seniors Co-Ordinator part way through the season) for all the hard work he has done in this role in recent years.

In addition, Martin Corrie (over 70s) and Colin Davis (over 60s) are stepping down as captains and I would like to thank them for all their hard work in running their respective teams.

Overall, it was a reasonably successful season with most teams

staying put in their divisions. Special mention must go to the over 55s team who made it through to the end of season finals. Well Done!

I would also like to thank all the captains for their efforts during the season. It is not an easy job organising teams from across the County with matches spread far and wide. Anyone who would like to be considered for any of the county teams please get in contact via the County Office hertstennis@gmail.com and we can put you in touch with the relevant captain.

Peter Godfrey-Evans, Seniors Men's Coordinator

Men's 35s

In August it was a pleasure to be heading down to Devonshire Park once again, but for the first time as captain of the Men's O35s team. This year, the team once again included me, Tom Corrie, Dave Corrie, Neil Roskilly and Jordan Miles, a repeat of the 2024 squad.

With lessons learnt of pairings and tactics from last year, we fancied our chances in a competitive group with Cheshire, South Wales and Middlesex.

Day 1 saw a tough 3-2 defeat to Cheshire with tight matches throughout and a crucial 10-8 match tie break loss in the middle doubles. Day 2 against South Wales did not start well, with Jordan suffering a pulled hamstring in a tight first set of his singles. He soldiered on admirably but eventually had to retire and rule himself out for the remainder of the weekend. We fought hard throughout the match but were outplayed in the final two doubles rubbers, suffering a 4-1 defeat. In an even group it was still all to play for on Day 3, but despite picking up a win against Middlesex, results did not go our way and we were relegated to division 3.

Everyone gave their all and as all good veteran players do, vowed to come back fitter and better prepared next year! We will see, but we will be back to battle again, optimistic of promotion!

Ed Corrie, Captain

Men's 45s

The 2025 season was tough for Herts having been surprisingly promoted alongside Essex to division 1. We encountered some tough opponents, in Kent, Surrey, Bucks, Middlesex and Essex. Although we lost all matches, all of them were competitive and with a few championship tie-breaks going the other way, could have had a different outcome to the overall result. The team played well and stepped up to the challenge.

Injuries did play a part and kept winning results out of reach throughout the year.

Overall, a committed and hard-fought season against seasoned county players. We go again in 2026!

Match results:

Herts vs Kent – Lost 5-0

Herts vs Essex – Lost 4-1

Herts vs Bucks – Lost 4-1

Herts vs Surrey – Lost 3-2

Herts vs Middlesex – Lost 4-1

Players: Richard Blakey, Jamie Buckling-Wade, Jonathan Downes, Peter Harris, Stephen Jones, Eaton Mak, Nik Meagor-Connelly and Venki Sundaram

Jonathan Downes, Captain

Men's 50s

After an injury strewn season, the Men's 50s team fought hard and kept their place in the top division, Group 1.

An impressive opening win v Lancashire (the County tipped to win - whose team included Roger Draper - father of Jack) kicked off the season and all was looking promising for

promotion.

Injuries then hit David King and early on Stephen Jones so the squad reached out to David Gray, Paco Reyes, Mick Hooker, Neil Grassick, Graham Kirk, Paul Smart and Andy Parks who stepped in to bolster the team and after losses against Leicestershire and Warwickshire we had to beat Durham away to stay up.

Despite Durham being on home soil gritty performances by Stephen Jones and debutant Paco Reyes brought home invaluable singles wins. Robert Slack and David Reed both hampered by injuries (Rob serving underarm yes underarm!!!) won the deciding doubles to get Herts over the line 3-2.

A fantastic squad effort and a big thanks from the captain to all those that stepped up and wore the shirt.

Bring on 2026.

Players: Neil Grassick, David Gray, Mick Hooker, Stephen Jones, David King, Graham Kirk, Andrew Parkes, David Reed, Paco Reyes, Robert Slack and Paul Smart.

David Reed, Captain

Men's 55s

The Herts Men's 55s team enjoyed a fantastic 2025 County Cup campaign, producing some great performances along the way. Victories over Northamptonshire (5-0), Leicestershire (4-1) and Staffordshire (5-0) put us top of the league and set us up for what promised to be our toughest tests. A long trip and overnight stay in Yorkshire were fortunately avoided when they were forced to withdraw from the league due to issues with their captains, leaving a decisive, winner-takes-all match against Cambridgeshire, with a place in the County Cup Final at stake.

Cambridgeshire arrived with a very strong side, and after the first round we held a narrow 2-1 lead, highlighted by a huge win from Greg Krashaur in a match lasting almost three hours. Going into the final round, both Herts pairs were a set up, knowing that just one more set from either pair would secure our place in the final.

Then drama struck. With time running out and Batchwood closing, play was halted and the outcome was left in the hands of the County Cup officials. Thankfully, the decision went our way and Herts were through to the County Cup Final. The final saw us face a very strong Buckinghamshire team, the defending champions, featuring two GB players and an ex-



Men's 55s Team

Herts County Men's Seniors

professional. We gave it our absolute best in a competitive match, but Buckinghamshire ultimately retained the title to become the

2025 County Cup Champions. I would like to thank everyone at the Herts LTA for their continued support, and all the players who represented the team this year. Your time, commitment, and effort have been hugely appreciated. It is a real privilege to captain such a great team and such great people.

Players: Mick Hooker (Captain), Greg Krashaur, Graham Kirk, Tony Illingworth, Matt Foster, Neil Grassick and David Gray.

Mick Hooker, Captain

Men's 60s

Playing in division 3A the team were in a very competitive division with 8 of the 10 matches in the division ending up with a 3-2 scoreline. Unfortunately, we were on the wrong side of too many close matches and in particular championship tie breaks! Andrew Cosgrove and Mike Seymour were ever present members of the team playing all the singles matches between them. Colin Davis was ably assisted in the doubles matches by Mike Clegg, Derek Walker and Bob Parker.

Players: Michael Clegg, Andrew Cosgrove, Colin Davis, Bob Parker, Michael Seymour, Derek Walker.

Colin Davis, Captain

Men's 65s

The season started encouragingly with a 4-1 win against Somerset with Paul Thompson and David Smith winning both singles and doubles with Paul Ware and Brendan Carey also winning a doubles.

Unfortunately, though the next two matches resulted in 4-1 defeats against strong teams from Avon and Hereford & Worcester. Against Avon, Paul Thompson lost a close first singles match while Derek Walker won his well. Unfortunately, we lost all three doubles with Clive Bedwell and John Bennett playing as doubles pair. In the Hereford match we were well beaten with Derek Walker and David Smith losing their

singles and Peter Godfrey-Evans and Richard Clarke losing both doubles. Derek and Dave won a close doubles as a consolation.

The final match of the season away at Cambridge resulted in a 3-2 win to leave us mid-table in third place. In that match Terry Johnston and Derek Walker both won their singles and doubles with Peter Godfrey-Evans and Mike Sarson losing two very close doubles both in championship tie-breaks.

I'd like to thank all team members for their participation this season, eleven players were used this year showing the strength in depth available. Looking forward to a push for promotion next year.

Players: Clive Bedwell, John Bennett, Brendan Carey, Richard Clarke, Peter Godfrey-Evans, Terry Johnston, Mike Sarson, David Smith, Paul Thompson, Derek Walker, Paul Ware.

David Smith, Captain

Men's 70s

The 2025 season was a difficult one for the team. My thanks go to Neagle Cathcart, David Stanton, Paul Ware and John Conway who played in four out of the five matches. Special thanks go to Peter Ormrod for standing in and making the journey to Warwickshire where he picked up a vital rubber in a final set doubles tie break meaning that we came away with a 3-2 win.

We won both our home matches 3-2 against Yorkshire and Lincolnshire however we did not travel well against Cheshire and Staffordshire losing each of those matches 4-1 so at the end of the season we had three wins and two losses and ended up 3rd in the division. My thanks to John Conway for taking over as captain next year where we remain in Division One.

Players: Neagle Cathcart, John Conway, Peter Ormrod, David Stanton and Paul Ware.

Martin Corrie, Captain

Men's 80s

The season started with a trip to Bournemouth to play Dorset. They were very weak and we only lost 16 games in 8 sets. The team was Malcolm Fraser and Peter Morton, Barry Skelding and Darryl Tant. The second match was again away to Cornwall with a long trip to Newquay, which necessitated an overnight stay. The match was played in a two-court air hall, it being the only indoor facility in the county. They proved too strong for us as we only managed to win one rubber. The team was Malcolm Fraser and Peter Morton, Barry Skelding and Rex Poulter.

The remaining three matches were all at home and played in the indoor centre at Batchwood.

Against Kent we again were not strong enough and only won one rubber. Players were Malcolm Fraser and Rex Poulter, Gary Sharp and Peter Morton.

In the second round Peter Morton played with Barry Skelding and won against the Kent second pair.

Match four was against Hampshire and we managed to win by 3 rubbers to one. Malcolm Fraser played with Gary Sharpe in the first rubber and Peter Morton in the second round winning both matches. Barry Skelding and Rex Poulter played together and won in three sets against the Hampshire second pair.

The final match was against Essex and it created a unique situation. Malcolm Fraser and Peter Morton won both rubbers. Rex Poulter played with Philip Levi and lost their two.

However, after countback both teams had won the same number of rubbers, sets and games. In that situation the rules dictate that the result of the match is decided by the rubber played between the two first pairs. This being won by Herts. gave the win to us.

Despite a slow start, Herts managed to finish 3 rd in the group, behind Kent and Cornwall. All but the Dorset match were close and could have gone either way but the end result was probably a fair reflection of the standard of all the teams.

Players: Malcolm Fraser, Phillip Levi, Peter Morton, Rex Poulter, Gary Sharpe, Barry Skelding, Darryl Tant.

Malcolm Fraser, Captain

Herts Ladies Seniors Winter League 2024-25

We had a good number of teams again in this season and a real mix of clubs winning their divisions and groups resulting in another successful Winter League.

40s had 5 divisions with 43 entries
50s had 4 divisions with 46 entries
60s had 3 divisions with 34 entries

LEAGUE WINNERS

40s+

Div 1	Berkhamsted
Div 2A	West Herts
Div 2B	St. Albans A

Div 3A
Div 3B
Div 4A
Div 4B
Div 5

50s+

Div 1
Div 2A
Div 2B
Div 3A
Div 3B
Div 4A
Div 4B

60s+

Div 1
Div 2A

Hertford A
Hitchin 1
Bushey
Northaw & Cuffley 2
Gosling

St. Albans A
Rickmansworth A
Moor Park
St. Albans B
Letchworth B.
St. Albans C
Berkhamsted B

Letchworth A
Welwyn A

Div 2B
Div 3A
Div 3B

Winners

40s
50s
60s

Elliswick A
Letchworth B
Radlett B

Berkhamsted
St Albans A
Letchworth A

Congratulations to the winners, St Albans have done very well... 3 winners in the 50's league and one in the 40's.

Let's not forget the 70's Summer League - 6 entries with the Fit/Fab ladies from Rickmansworth Tennis Club winning the league this time.

Patricia Rayner



Over 35s County Cup - Devonshire Park - August 2025

In August the Hertfordshire Ladies over 35s team took our annual trip to Devonshire Park to try and gain promotion to group 1, having narrowly missed out in 2023 and 2024.

Our opposition for the weekend were Kent, Sussex and Leicestershire. Whilst Leicestershire had come down from group 1 the previous summer and would typically be our strongest match, we felt Kent would be our toughest test, and we played them first on the Saturday.

Amanda Elliott started off the weekend for us strongly with a convincing 6-2 6-0 win against the Kent number 2, before I struggled against an in-form Kent number 1, going down 6-1 6-3. We knew we were in for a fight and needed to win 2 of the doubles for a first day victory to keep our promotion hopes alive. Kat Dearing and Caroline Lacy lost a tough battle against the Kent doubles pair to put us 2-1 down - work to do! Amanda and I then came back from a set down to force a match tie-break but went 8-2 down and things were not looking good - but we managed to claw our way back to 8-8, save a match point at 8-9, and win the tie-break 11-9 - all to

play for! In the deciding rubber, Kat and Caroline also went to a third set tie-break, which went down to the wire yet again, and they dug in to secure an epic 12-10 tie-break win and a 3-2 win for us on day 1. We headed back to the hotel for a very well deserved dinner and glass of wine to toast our victory.

Luckily the rest of the weekend was considerably more straightforward, with a 4-1 win over Sussex on Sunday meaning that a victory over Leicestershire on Monday would send us up to Group 1 with a shot at the title in 2026.

The weather, having been grey and chilly all weekend, deteriorated further on Monday, and the delayed start meant that matches were reduced to Fast 4 format, and best of 3 rubbers. A fast start was key, and in typical Eastbourne wind which made the tennis something of a lottery, Amanda secured a 4-0 win, meaning we just needed one more victory. Finding it considerably harder to hit through the wind than Amanda did, I battled to a 4-3 win meaning the tie was won and we could celebrate - Group 1 here we come!

This is always a favourite weekend of the year, and huge thanks to Amanda, Kat, Caroline, Louise Storey and Sian Southwell-Sander for all the support on and off the court. These weekends always remind us how fortunate we are to be a part of Hertfordshire tennis, we have decades of friendship between us and it is a privilege to still be able to represent our county and continue making great memories.

Kate Elliott, Captain

Over 40s

It was a disappointing season for Herts 40+ ladies as we were relegated from our group after finishing without a win. With the usual challenges with availability, even more injuries than the last couple of seasons and two instances of injury and illness during matches forcing us to concede rubbers on the day, the odds felt against us this year!

In our first match against Oxfordshire Alice Eggleston won a tight no 1 singles rubber and her subsequent doubles, but an injury to one of our doubles pair suffered early on meant we

Herts County Ladies Seniors

had to concede two rubbers costing us the match. A tight 3-2 match against Essex turned on a tie break that we didn't manage to win. And against Bedfordshire illness struck on the day again leading to 2 conceded rubbers.

There were some excellent individual rubber wins (including a very convincing singles win in Essex for Kelly McHugh and a number of great doubles performances through the season) and a lot of very enjoyable tennis but we will be looking for some different outcomes next year.

Thank you to everyone who played for the 40s this year (including a few play downs from older age groups - you are always welcome): Caitrin Roskilly, Alice Eggleston, Rachel Sheridan, Claire Morrison, Kelly McHugh, Katie Hill, Rebecca Gates, Alison Felton, Jenny Stokes, Louise Grubb.

Rachel Sheridan, Captain

Over 50s

We just managed to stay in our league, despite the -3 points for conceding the Wales away match due to injury and lack of availability. Gloucester away was very close. Kirstie and Jenny played singles and narrowly both lost. Louise Grubb and I won both our doubles matches which we were pleased about. Kirstie and Jenny didn't manage to win their doubles but had a good fight. We lost that match 3-2.

Wiltshire at home was a very different standard and we won the match 5-0. Myself and Jenny had easy wins in the singles and an easy win in the doubles. Alison Felton and Louise Grubb won both their doubles also fairly easily.

Hereford at home was also a lower standard and we won 5-0. Myself and Jenny again won easily in under an hour and won our doubles too. Miranda and Rebecca won both their doubles.

Thank you to all the players who played in the team. Pippa Parkes, Kirstie Caneparo, Alison Felton, Rebecca Gates, Louise Grubb, Miranda Hosking, Jenny Webster.

Pippa Parkes, Captain

Over 55s

National Champions

The team had an exceptional season winning group 1B, winning 17 out of 20 rubbers. It was Surrey, the reigning champions, they faced in the finals in Southampton, with the format the same, with play stopping when one team wins three matches. Jenny Stokes won her singles at number one having been a set and 2-4 down. With outstanding resilience, she came back and won 3-6, 7-6, 1-0, playing a superb championship tiebreak. Kirstie Caneparo, having been unbeaten all season, won the number two singles. In an intense match with long rallies, Kirstie showed remarkable tenacity and fighting spirit using her tremendous top-spin backhand to win 6-4, 7-5. Miranda Hosking and Bridie Amos delivered a standout performance to take the third match, 6-4 7-5. After 15 deuces at 4-4 in the 2nd set, Miranda won her serve to go 5-4 up with Bridie's decisive forehand volleys proving pivotal to the pair's win. In a close, high-quality contest, their composure and teamwork gave them the upper hand, clinching the match and the Over 55 County Cup



Herts Over 55s

National Title. Final score 3-0 to Herts.

A big thank you to all the team who played this season, all of whom won all their matches.

A special note of appreciation goes to our Herts Coordinator Judith Allnutt for her unwavering support throughout the season. The Win caps a season defined by depth, resilience, teamwork and enjoyment, from hard fought singles comebacks to pressure filled doubles. The team has set a superb benchmark for the season ahead.

In recognition of their achievement, the team has been invited to play a match at the All England Club, celebrating a season of team spirit and excellence. **Congratulations!**

Team players: Bridie Amos, Kirstie Caneparo, Tara Drexler, Miranda Hosking, Hazel Lupton, Janet Lynch, Jenny Stokes, Patricia Watson-Miller.

Patricia Watson-Miller, Captain

Over 60s

A huge thank you to all of my team this year who supported me and were unbelievably willing to play singles and doubles in our attempts to beat the odds and stay up in Division 1 for another year. We started away at Avon, a 0-5 loss despite 2 10-point tie breaks and a 2nd set tie break which was a slight set back! **Ali, Jane, Claire and Annie.**

Next, we were away to Sussex, where we drafted in Jude so claimed an epic 1-4 win. This time winning one of the 10-point tie breaks and losing one! **Jude, Jane, Ali and Margi.**

Match 3 was away to South Wales - unfortunately, on arrival Claire's back went and she couldn't even get her shoes on so, that meant we were immediately 2-0 down before playing a point - a quick reshuffle of the pairings and our doubles team did the business and got us 2 rubbers, so a 3-2 loss. **Claire, Jane, Annie and Margi.**

On to the home fixtures, which were both played at West

Herts & Watford LTC (thanks to them for letting us use the courts).

Hampshire/IOW were our opponents and they turned up with 2 excellent singles players, so it was, as usual, down to the doubles pairs to pull out all the stops and we managed a 3-2 win – another 10-point tie break win. **Ali, Jane, Claire and Margi.**

On to the final match vs Surrey, always a tough one – they turned up with their top team, so again we were relying on our doubles teams and it was nail biting... Surrey were very worried and scraped a 2-3 win, yet more 10-point tie breakers, one won and one lost, and obviously that reliable formula of pairing 2 people who have never played together before! **Jane, Annie, Ali, Margi and Hazel.**

Somehow, we managed to stay up as we had the same number of points as Hampshire but stayed up because we beat them! An epic season. Some great days out and lots of laughter and even a spot of magnificent tennis! Thank you to everyone.

Team: Jane Walker, Jude Allnut, Claire Booth, Margi Edge, Annie Hems, Hazel Lupton, Ali Williams.

Jane Walker, Captain

Over 65s

The ladies must be congratulated on a very successful season. Playing in Division 2 we won all of our matches beating Essex, Devon, Bucks, Suffolk and Oxfordshire so gaining promotion back to Division 1. The team to beat was Suffolk and after a tough 4½ hrs of play rubbers were 2-2, games were 40-40 but Hertfordshire won 6 sets to 5! This was despite being 2 rubbers down after the first round having lost 2 Championship tie-breaks!! So, we silenced the supporters, drove home with smiles on our faces and won the league!

Playing back in Division 1 next year there will be singles to play so some winter training is needed. The only disappointment was the fact our matches didn't warrant a night away as we played Suffolk, Bucks and Oxfordshire away. Once again, we certainly missed a hotel stay and dinner out.

So many thanks to a wonderful team of ladies with particular thanks to Wendy Randall who stepped in for the Suffolk match having not played tennis all year!

Players: Alison Allard, Judith Allnut, Joy Allsopp, Wendy Cottenden, Wendy Randall, Margaret Shahmir.

Alison Allard, Captain

Over 70s

Congratulations to the squad for an incredible summer of tennis and total commitment to the team.

We have gained promotion to Division 1!

The degree of determination and tactical awareness was a credit to the whole team and a big thank you to Debbie and Margi for giving us depth in our squad.



4-0 win v Hereford and Worcestershire
Draw 2-2 rubbers, but won 5-4 in sets v Somerset
3-1 win v Hampshire and Isle of Wight
3-1 win v Buckinghamshire.
Looking forward to a challenging 2026.

The team consisted of 6 x 70s and 2 x 75s: Patricia Raynor, Jenny Davis, Gill Logan, Penny Kent, Jenny Sheridan, Sue Mcfayden, Debbie Walker, Margi Defriez.

Sue Mcfayden, Captain

Over 75s

Our first foray into Ladies 75+ county tennis was a voyage of discovery.

Our competition started with a home match against Buckinghamshire with a 3-1 win then away to Cambridgeshire and another 3-1 win.

Next was our toughest match against Hampshire... opponents we knew well from 70s. We lost this match by 3 games!

We then set off to Newcastle to play Northumberland and came away with another 3-1 win and really enjoyed our trip up North. Our star first pair of Margi DeFriez and Lorraine Oliver played in all four matches and won all 8 of their rubbers. This meant that I myself played second pair with Chris Robinson for 2 matches and Alison Saunders for 2 matches - both are Rickmansworth members. I started the season with 8 ladies but 3 suffered injuries and became unavailable.

However I sincerely hope we can all be fit for 2026 when we may find ourselves in the 1st Division.

Team players: Margi DeFriez, Lorraine Oliver, Christine Robinson, Alison Saunders, Debbie Walker.

Debbie Walker, Captain

Herts Tennis Foundation

Celebrating a Year of Progress in Inclusion and Community Engagement

Overview

The Herts Tennis Foundation is delighted to reflect on a successful and productive year, marked by meaningful progress across our 4 key areas of focus which are disability/inclusion, education, inactive people and people who are not members of clubs.

We have continued as a county to increase our impact within disability, inclusive and schools' community engagement across Hertfordshire. We have supported over 35 clubs and venues throughout the county, helping them to develop and strengthen their programmes and by putting more bats in hands hitting balls and being active.

Supporting Clubs and Venues

Throughout the past year, the Foundation has worked in partnership with our clubs and venues in Hertfordshire. These clubs have made significant strides in creating welcoming environments for all, embracing both groups and individuals with a range of impairments. The growth in engagement has been brilliant, with more clubs than ever opening their doors to new members and fostering a culture of inclusivity and acceptance.

Hertfordshire has once again demonstrated its leadership in disability engagement within tennis. Our initiatives have enabled clubs to tailor their activities and facilities to better suit the needs of players with disabilities, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to enjoy and participate in tennis. The Foundation's support has empowered clubs to expand their reach, offering sessions and resources for individuals with a wide range of impairments.

Community and Schools Outreach

In addition to supporting disability engagement, the Foundation has strengthened its outreach efforts within local schools and the wider community. By working in partnership with educators and the School Games Network, we have helped introduce tennis to a diverse audience, inspiring the next generation of players and promoting the values of teamwork, respect, and healthy living.

Among our successful initiatives this year:

- We have proudly partnered with Headway, a leading brain injury organisation, enabling four clubs, Batchwood, Cassiobury, Gosling and Leverstock Green to deliver tailored walking tennis sessions.
- Our work with Give It Your Max now sees nine SEND schools benefitting from weekly tennis activities, ensuring children of all abilities can participate. Our clubs and venues delivering on this are Batchwood, Get Set 4 Tennis, Gosling, Hertford, Independent Tennis and Redbourn.

- A county project within SEND schools enabled seven schools to receive teacher training, a tennis festival at Letchworth and follow on tennis at their schools funded by the Graham Rowlandson Foundation which allowed over 80 children to experience regular tennis activity.

- Through collaboration with the School Games team, tennis has been prioritised in the county's delivery plan, reaching even more young people.

- Additionally, our link with HACRO has given two clubs - Batchwood and Bovingdon & Flaunden - a programme which offers ex-offenders the chance to get active within a supportive club environment. We have two more venues planned for 2026.

- We also teamed up with Great Ormond Street Hospital, attending two amazing events and introducing over 600 children to the joy of tennis. A team from Dellcott tennis club lead this delivery.

- Clubs across Hertfordshire are increasingly welcoming neurodiverse players and building clear, inclusive pathways for their involvement in the sport.

These are just some examples of the great work that has been done in collaboration with our clubs, venues and coaches throughout last year.

We have exciting plans for 2026 linking into the Hertfordshire Year of Disability Sport and Physical Activity by supporting their No Limits campaign and continuing to support our clubs and venues be inclusive in their communities. We also have planned several walking tennis health pilots working with the county's Primary Care Networks (PCN). These will target the inactive members in our community and people with long term health conditions.

We will also be supporting Padel venues across the county to engage with our 4 key target groups and become a central part of local communities as more venues open in Hertfordshire.

As always, we are here to support in any community engagement and would love to hear from any clubs, venues and coaches who would like to explore this further.

Please email us at pywherts@gmail.com

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our clubs, venues, volunteers, and community partners for their dedication and enthusiasm in creating welcoming clubs across the county.

Phil Martin

2025 has been a very successful year for Herts schools. We have run competitions for every age group and every level of tennis player from Year 3 to Year 13.

Our events have been dispersed throughout Hertfordshire and we have been pleased to welcome a new Welwyn Garden City organiser for mini red. This is the first year in my years as Chair that we have cancelled an event for excess heat (rather than the usual rain!) The safety of our competitors, and their enjoyment of the game, are the key considerations so running a tournament during a heatwave is impossible. This summer there were three heatwaves!

Mini Red

Our mini red programme began in Welwyn Garden City at Dellcott Tennis Club. We were unfortunate that one school withdrew on the day, but it did not spoil the happy faces and the very good play and development during the afternoon. Our thanks to Dan Kennedy and his team of volunteers for a great afternoon of tennis. On their return to school one team was so excited that they rushed in to see the head and tell him all about the afternoon.

Winners: St Marys Welwyn R/Up Applecroft School.

Our second mini red event was at Chorleywood Tennis Club. It was a huge success! 37 children from 5 schools competed in bright sunshine and while the adults were greeted with Pimms the players were given homemade shortcake biscuits. The tennis was of a good standard and it was pleasing to see the player development during the afternoon. The whole event was reported in the Watford Observer.

Winners: Rickmansworth Park R/up: Berkhamsted

Our county final was held at Welwyn Tennis Club. 16 players had earned places through the competitions at Dellcott and Chorleywood. After almost two hours of competition on a bright sunny afternoon, **Aldwickbury won the Shield for the first time.**

Mini Orange

Our mini orange event was held on a bright and sunny day at Potters Bar Tennis Club. 16 teams with 32 players from 5 schools took part in the tournament. Competition was fierce but played in good spirit with the spectators commenting on the excellent behaviour of the players taking part. Many thanks to Potters Bar Tennis Club for providing a team of helpers and for giving up the courts for an afternoon.

Results:

Experienced Players Winner: Haberdashers 1 R/Up: Aldwickbury 1

Less Experienced Players: Winner: Haberdashers 4: R/Up: Aldwickbury 3

Team Points Competition: Haberdashers: 106



Year 6 Tournament

Mini Green

On Monday 16th June, one of the hottest days of the year, 19 pairs from 5 schools: 5 from Aldwickbury; 5 from Berkhamsted; 2 from Cassiobury Juniors; 6 from Habs Boys and 1 from Nascot Wood Juniors competed on the many courts at Haberdashers' Boys' School in this year's Mini Green Doubles Competition. Five more pairs than last year although the same number of schools entered. Six girls took part all from Berkhamsted.

The teams were divided into Experienced and Less Experienced boxes (two boxes per level). The children then played Round Robin FAST4s resulting in a full afternoon of tennis with some very close matches. Sadly, due to the late start of the event there wasn't enough time to have a playoff between the boxes, plus the children and the spectators had all had enough of the hot conditions. This resulted in placing the children per box, with the winners of each box receiving medals.

The results were as follows:

Experienced Box 1: 1st Habs Boys, 2nd Cassiobury,

Experienced Box 2: 1st Habs Boys, 2nd Aldwickbury,

Less Experienced: Box 1: 1st Habs Boys, 2nd Aldwickbury, 3rd Berkhamsted, 4th Berkhamsted, 5th Cassiobury.

Less Experienced Box 2: 1st Habs Boys, 2nd Habs Boys

Certificates and little prizes were presented to all the children and medals were awarded to the winners of each box. My thanks to Haberdashers' Boys' School for lending us their courts and for the catering that was provided – biscuits/ juice/tea & coffee.

The Year 6 Tournament was held at the Royal Masonic School on Monday 9th June. We have held this tournament for many years and we always experience extremes of weather - wet, very hot and this time windy - but it kept the rain away! It was encouraging to have 9 boys' pairs, but disappointing that only 5 girls' pairs had entered - three of these from Royal Masonic School. This was despite contacting many local schools and those who have entered in the past. The following Schools took part: Aldwickbury, Beechwood Park, Berkhamsted Prep, Nascot Wood and Royal Masonic. It was wonderful to welcome Beechwood Park and Nascot Wood to this tournament for the first time. We are considering a 1pm start next year which might make it may easier for schools to attend.

The Boys were divided into 2 round-robin sections - experienced and less experienced, all playing timed matches. Thank you to Mr Gilyead from Aldwickbury for organising the less experienced boys' section - who were a smaller section so played longer matches. All the players did amazingly well in



Chorleywood Mini Red

the windy conditions and there were lots of exciting and extremely close games. All the Year 6s played competitively and in very good spirit, bringing the results to the table responsibly and getting ready for the next match in good time - all important details to learn to make a tennis tournament run smoothly.

Results:

Girls: Winners: Royal Masonic 1 Runners up: Berkhamsted 1
Boys Experienced: Winners: Beechwood Park 1
Runners up: Nascot Wood
Boys Less Experienced: Winners: Aldwickbury 3
Runners up: Aldwickbury 4

Thank you to Mrs Booth for hosting the Tournament at the Royal Masonic School. And thank you to the teachers, parents and Year 6 players who made it a most enjoyable afternoon with good tennis.

Year 7 Boys Doubles Tournament

On Wednesday 21st May 60 boys from a mix of state and independent schools competed in the annual Hertfordshire Year 7 Boys Doubles Tournament in the late afternoon sunshine. Aldenham topped Group A after dominant displays against Dame Alice Owens and Verulam. Parmiters edged first place in Group B after overcoming a strong challenge from Sandringham. Aldwickbury were the winners of Group C after performing very well against Berkhamsted and Rickmansworth, and Habs Boys finished top of Group D. Aldwickbury and Habs Boys emerged victorious from their respective semi-finals against Parmiters and Aldenham to set up a high-quality final with a large crowd of parents, teachers

and participants watching on. Aldwickbury started well and eased to a 4-2 win after some superb shot-making and real determination, with Parmiters winning the 3rd/4th place play-off. In the less experienced competition, there were fine performances from Chancellors, Verulam and Berkhamsted, but in the end Beaumont 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. We look forward to next year's tournament!

County Schools Championships - Girls

There was a record entry for the County Schools Championships in 2025, with 16 pairs from 10 schools in the Under 14 competition and 9 pairs from 5 schools in the Under 18. Almost half the entries in each age group came from state schools. On a sunny, busy afternoon the competition used a compass draw format.

The U18 winners were Queenswood with St Albans High School as Runners Up. The U18 Plate was won by Chancellors. Haberdashers won the U14s with Dame Alice Owen as Runners Up. Berkhamsted won the plate.

County Schools Championships - Boys

Welwyn Tennis Club kindly agreed to host the County Boys Tennis this year. The boys were very respectful of the club and used 8 courts for a solid three hours of tournament tennis. There were enough teams from across the county for knockouts and plate competitions for both the age categories. We welcomed Sandringham, Richard Hale, Ridgeway Academy, Haberdashers, Dame Alice Owen's, Chancellors, Broxbourne, Berkhamsted, Parmiters, Verulam,



Marlborough, St. Columba's and Beaumont across the two competitions.

Our winners in the main draws were:

U18 Haberdashers and U14 Verulam

Our plate competitions were won by:

U18 Richard Hale and U14 Sandringham

The whole afternoon was played in good spirits with great skill, athleticism and sportsmanship on display throughout. It was especially nice to see so many schools take the opportunity to play some friendly tennis after they had been knocked out of the main draws. Thank you to all of the teachers who enabled their students to be there. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026.

The Nicola Mabbitt District League Finals

We had a new venue this year with Radlett Tennis Club kindly giving up their courts for the whole day. Winners from District Leagues that had been played over the summer came through to the finals. A total of 136 players from 6 District Leagues

played in Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 finals. The standard of tennis and sportsmanship was very good with many closely fought matches.

Results:

Year 8 Girls Winners Watford

(Watford Girls Grammar School)

R/Up East Herts (Simon Balle School)

Year 9 Girls Winners St. Albans (St. Albans High School)

R/Up Watford (Parmiters School)

Year 10 Girls Winners Watford (Haberdashers Girls)

R/Up St. Albans, (St Albans High School)

Year 8 Boys Dacorum, (Ashlyns School)

R/Up Watford (St. Clement Danes School)

Year 9 Boys Watford (St. Clement Danes School)

R/Up East Herts (Richard Hale School)

Year 10 Boys St. Albans (Sir John Lawes School)

R/Up Watford (St. Clement Danes School)

Pam Burrage



Nicola Mabbitt 2025

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